

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

## DEI-LY LIGHT



## SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dear Gloria Dei family,

Many wonderful happenings are taking place in September. I'll mention two:

**Molly Healey** will be the new Children's Ministry Director - that's an amazing gift! She will do a tremendous job for the children of our church and community, not only leading Sunday school, but other young kid's events. Please join me in welcoming and thanking her.

And if you would like to be a part of planting seeds of faith in young children, speak with Molly. Grace changes everything! What an important message to share with kids. ([childrensministry@mygloriadei.org](mailto:childrensministry@mygloriadei.org))

Sunday school teachers and helpers will be recognized on Sunday, September 7. (Sunday school officially begins at morning services on September 14).

And, we're celebrating our **60th anniversary**. The details of which are on another page, but one thing that I want to emphasize (besides great food, fun, and entertainment, Bishop Dave Nagler) - There will be no charge for the evening - the catered meal, the band, the fun - it's all free. But I hope people will make a donation for a special offering for Community United Methodist Church of Pacific Palisades. We're thrilled to support people who have lost everything in the fires. What a wonderful thing to not only celebrate 60 years of ministry, but help another important ministry. That's - "Grace changes everything! - in action.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David R. Mattson".

Pastor David R. Mattson

P.S. We will unveil a new logo at the 60th Anniversary and on Rally Sunday.



## MINISTER OF ART & MUSIC

Well it's September and that means a lot of things are starting back up in our church, including many of our art and music groups! I'm looking forward to this new season with all of you.

If you are new to our church or have yet to explore the art and music ministries at Gloria Dei, here are some places you can plug in:

**Art Ministry** - This is our ministry for creatives who work in visual mediums. There are many ways to be involved in our art ministry, including: monthly gatherings during the school year, Christmas and Easter art projects, workshops and events. You'll see these events out on the welcome table and bulletin, but the best way to keep up with our art ministry (especially when we do projects) is to join the art email newsletter.

**Sanctuary Choir** - rehearses weekly on Thursdays 7:15-8:45pm and sings at our Sunday morning services through the school year. Auditions/vocal placement for the 2025-2026 year will be on September 25, and rehearsals begin October 9. See the welcome table or contact Michelle for more details.

**Handbell Choir** - rehearses weekly on Thursdays 6:00-7:00pm and plays at select services throughout the year, including Christmas Eve, Easter, and other Sunday services. Our handbell choir is looking for a couple new members this year. Rehearsals begin October 9.

**Gloria Dei Chorale (new)** - This new vocal ensemble is housed within our Sanctuary Choir and will sing more advanced music for select worship services. Chorale rehearses periodically during the end of our Sanctuary Choir's rehearsal time. Auditions for the 2025-2026 year will be on September 25.

### ART & MUSIC EVENTS:

**September Art Gathering** - Our monthly art gatherings are resuming, this year we are meeting on the 2nd Wednesdays of each month. These meetings are for artists and anyone interested in visual arts to meet, fellowship, and learn together. This year we are focusing on our own artistic growth through discussion groups and looking at still lifes. Join our first gathering back on September 10, 6:30pm in Bankson Hall.

**Andy Degan Concert** - Our wonderful vocalist, Andy Degan, is having a concert on September 14, 5:00pm in the sanctuary. Come out for an evening of good music and fellowship!

Interested in joining the art ministry email, newsletter or a choir? Email [michellelum@mygloriadei.org](mailto:michellelum@mygloriadei.org)



## GLORIA DEI SPIRITUAL CARE

Prime Time Seniors attended a day of food, fellowship, and fun at Los Alamitos Race Track in July. I have a new meaning for the symbol "L"--normally means loser, but I think it means "Lucky I didn't lose all my money." It was fun to see others winning. My thanks to David Warneke for arranging our reservations and the great seats. A photo of the group is located on the photo page. Watch for details in the bulletin and a signup sheet at the Welcome table for our next outing to the South Coast Butterfly & Botanical Gardens Friday, September 12 at 10:30 am. They are located in Palos Verdes Peninsula. Even if you are not a senior, you are always welcome to join us. Future suggestions for Prime Time Seniors are bowling, miniature golfing, Pageant of the Masters, ax throwing, a movie and early dinner. If you have any suggestions for any other recreational activities or community outreach programs, please let me know.

### OTHER MINISTRIES:

- **Laundry Love:** at Sparklean Laundry, San Juan Capistrano is the first Friday of each month from 2 pm -5:30 pm. Gloria Dei will provide a laundry card that you can swipe, so folks in need can wash & dry their clothes for FREE. All are welcome! Questions: contact me at [deacondaneen@mygloriadei.org](mailto:deacondaneen@mygloriadei.org).
- **C.A.R.E. (Comfort Appreciate Remember Empathize):** sending birthday greetings and get well cards to members.
- **Flower Power:** Making bouquets from Sunday's altar flowers on Monday or Tuesday to give to shut-ins, etc. More volunteers are needed. Speak with Deacon Daneen if interested.
- **Eucharistic Ministry** - Thanks to those who are involved in meeting with shut-ins, homebound, hospitalized and bringing the Lord's Supper and/or conversations and prayer. If interested in helping in this area, please call the office at 949-493-3414 or, reach out to Deacon Daneen.
- **Prayer Partners** - Need extra prayers? Join Deacon Daneen or other prayer partners before and after each service by the candle station.

## THE BIG NEWS

**DENIM AND DIAMONDS JUBILEE** - 60th Anniversary of Gloria Dei! - Celebration Dinner - Friday, Sept. 19, 5pm, upper circle and Bankson Hall. Music, BBQ, games, kids' activities - Bubbleologist, childcare offered, photo booth, and more. Bring the whole family! There is no cost for the meal/entertainment, but we are receiving donations for a church in Pacific Palisades that was burned down during the LA fires. Sign-up at the Welcome Table.

**MEMBERSHIP AT GLORIA DEI** - See the sign-up at the Welcome Table for details or speak with Pastor David. (New members will be received on Rally Sunday - September 21.)

**RALLY SUNDAY** - September 21 is the day we kickoff fall programming! Join in. You are needed and would be very welcomed. Also, we receive our new members. We are blessed with wonderful leaders and teachers!

# FELLOWSHIP/FRIENDSHIP (Congregation-wide Social and Friendship Events)

**PRIMETIMERS** (Seniors) - This is a group of seniors who meet for such things as fellowship, learning, service, and more. All seniors are welcome! Our next event is at the South Coast Butterfly & Botanical Gardens Friday, September 12 at 10:30 am, located in Palos Verdes Peninsula. Watch for details at the Welcome Table. Everyone is welcome.

**WOMEN'S BOARD** - This group meets on the second Saturday of the month at 9am in the conference room. *The next board meeting is September 13.*

**WOMEN'S BUNCO NIGHT** - Friday, September 5, 6pm - Come join the Women's Group for a fun night! \$5. Bring an appetizer to share. No experience needed. See sign-up.

- Women's Upcoming Events:
  - Women's Fall Retreat (October 3-5, 2025)
  - Women's Christmas Event (December 13, 2pm)

## OTHER FELLOWSHIP EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Blessing of the Animals (October 5)
- Oktoberfest (Saturday, October 11)
- Trick or Trunk (Sunday, October 26)

## MOLLY HEALEY, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR:** We want to Welcome Molly as our new director of Children's Ministry. Molly and her husband, Chris, have 3 beautiful boys and they have been members at Gloria Dei for about 8 years. Molly has been a Sunday School teacher for the last 2 years and we are excited to have her take on this new role!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** will return from summer break on September 14. Class is offered during the 8:30am and 10:00am services for children 4 years old through 5th grade. If you are interested in being a Sunday School teacher, there is a sign-up at the Welcome Table.

We will have our first **Teacher's Meeting** on Sunday, September 7 (at 9:30 in the Sunday School room) to go over all you need to know for teaching Sunday School (how to sign up, curriculum, crafts, substitutes, and more!).

**NURSERY** is available for babies to preschool age during morning worship services. The nursery is located in the preschool classroom directly across from the elevator. Please pick up a pager when signing in with your child. The nursery is open during summer.



PAIGE GULCK, YOUTH DIRECTOR



## YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES COMMENCE** - Classes are open to 6th - 8th grade students. We have a three year program here at GD but kids can join at any time. Please reach out to Pastor David or Youth Director Paige Gulck for more info. Mark your calendar for some important dates:

- September 21 - between morning services - Parent Information meeting.
- October 5 - 11:15 am - Confirmation classes commence

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP** - September 21 - 11:30 am - Let's plan activities for the upcoming year with a pizza planning party after the 10:00 am service. We'll meet at Truly Pizza in Dana Point.

**SENIOR HIGH SERVERS** - Some dates for your kids to help out and get their community service hours:

- September 19 - Help serve for Diamonds and Denim Jubilee
- October 26 - Set up, games, and take down for Trick or Trunk

SHELLI PARAJECKAS, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR



## PRESCHOOL

*Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!*

Preschool is back in session. We have 5 new teachers joining us this year with 70 students enrolled; 35 new to Gloria Dei. The first week we had lots of tears, but our students have adapted to their schedules and teachers. We will celebrate our grandparents ,September 16, with a morning dedicated just to them. There will be coffee, of course, a special treat, a gift, and Chapel for everyone with Pastor David. This month our students will dive deep into apples, the color red, and learning the value of friendships. We are "planting" seeds of faith one day at a time.



# THANKS

Thank you to our members and friends that drove down and shared their “vintage” autos!



## GROWING TOGETHER!

(All things related to learning, Bible study, small groups, G.I.F.T. groups, education, Table Talk, etc.)

**HEART LIFTERS WOMEN'S STUDY** - The Fall schedule begins on **September 23**. For all interested women, evening study is offered on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday monthly at 6:30pm, social time & 7pm - 8pm, study time. For more information, contact the church office 949-493-3414 or [gloriadei@mygloriadei.org](mailto:gloriadei@mygloriadei.org).

**WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY** - Every Wednesday, 10am (September - May) - Gloria Dei women (and friends) meet in Knudson Hall. Study led by Pastor David or another staff person. All women are invited to join in! **The first meeting is September 10.**

**WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP** - RIOT (Reading Is Our Thing) meets the *third Monday of each month, year round, at 2pm*. The group meets in Knudson Hall & **next meeting is September 15**. They are reading Tunnel 29 Helena Merriman. If interested in the book club, contact Diane Kelly or contact the office at 949-493-3414.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY** - Pastor David and others lead this study, held on the 2nd Saturday each month, September - May. Men volunteer to bring food (Let Pastor David know if you would like to help out.) All men are welcome. This group will meet again on September 13.

**MEN'S BOOK GROUP** - Meets the *last Tuesday of the month, 7pm* at members' homes. Their next meeting is on June 24 at 6pm & the book is *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver. The meeting will be held at Hal Scott's home. For information, contact the office.

**G.I.F.T. (GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER) BIBLE STUDY** led by David & Susan Warneke, typically on the first Monday each month, 6:30pm, conference room. On September 8, G.I.F.T. will be studying 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus from the New Testament. To join, call the office 949-493-3414 or [gloriadei@mygloriadei.org](mailto:gloriadei@mygloriadei.org).

**G.I.F.T. (GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER) BIBLE STUDY** led by Deacon Daneen & Dennis Pysz is held on the first & third Tuesday/month, 10am, Knudson Hall. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 2. We are using The Gospel of John with the supplement, "John: Jesus-the-Word, The Messiah, The Son of God." All are welcome!



# JULY/AUGUST IN PICTURES



# DEI-LY SERVICE

(All things related to service, ministry, helping others, compassion, caring, loving, serving "the least of these", etc.)

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** - People of all ages are invited to join in - *The first Saturday of the month, 9am, Knudson Hall. Next meeting - September 6. They are in need of experienced knitters to help with this wonderful ministry.* If you know of someone in need of a shawl or would like more information, call Peggy Johnson.

**SERRA'S PANTRY** - Volunteer opportunity in San Juan Capistrano provides food to those in need. Gloria Dei members serve at Serra's Pantry *every third Saturday of the month at 8:30am, year round.* September 20 is the next volunteer opportunity. Please join in to help with this important outreach.

**THE QUILTING GROUP** continues preparing all the quilts from home. The quilts made by this group are provided to our newly baptized infants & children. If interested in helping, please call the office or Donna Combe.

**SOUTH COAST LITERACY COUNCIL** - All-volunteer, nonprofit organization whose mission is to assist adults to acquire English language skills. *Knudson Hall on Mondays, 10am - 12pm.* Interested in volunteering, contact For information, email Sharon Miller at [esldanapoint@mygloriadei.org](mailto:esldanapoint@mygloriadei.org).

## LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE MINISTRY -

Remaining 2025 visitation dates at the Orphanage are:

- September 27, 2025
- December 6, 2025

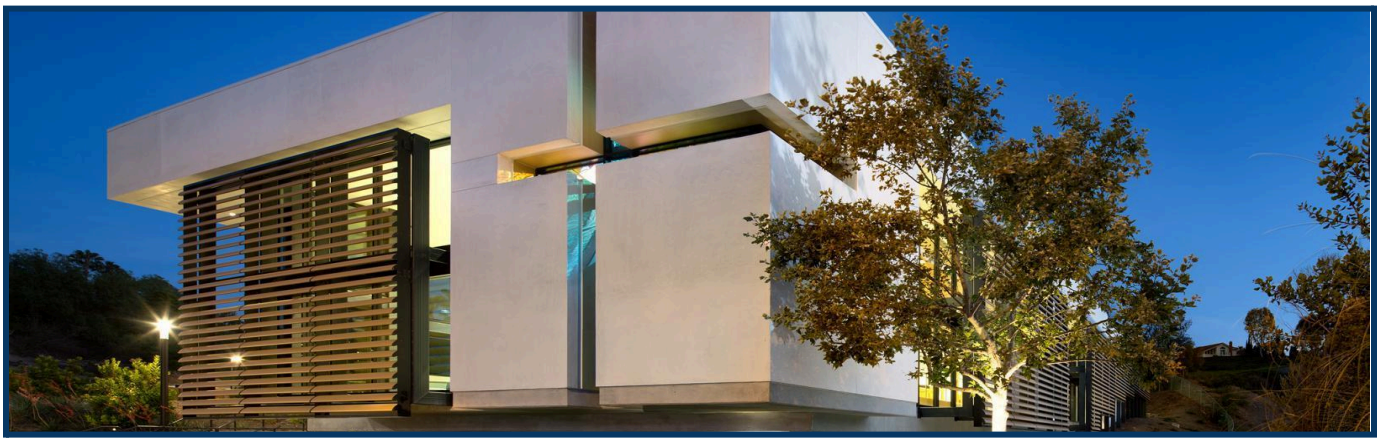
Twenty members and friends of Gloria Dei enjoyed their mission trip to the Los Angelitos Orphanage in Tijuana Mexico on June 28, 2025. We brought so many staples, food, toys, games, and clothes for the children that most of it had to be stored at the Orphanage. The Los Angelitos children emptying our two large vans was a highlight of the trip. Our Gloria Dei team included six minors who were able

to relate to, talk with and play with the Los Angelitos children along with us adults. The Warneke Piñata turned out to be a big hit with the kids. We went through 80 hot dogs and 25 raisin bread, honey, and peanut butter sandwiches along with fruit, chips, drinks, and sweets.

We hope you enjoy the pictures including Stefany's new braces paid for by Gloria Dei. Ivanna is next. The love and warmth from the kids and the staff at Los Angelitos is always touching. Our next trip to Orphanage is set for September 27, 2025. In the meantime, if you are interested in learning more about Los Angelitos and/or donating to the Orphanage, please feel free to contact Eric Houser. Please keep the kids and the staff at Los Angelitos in your prayers. Thanks! Eric







## DEI-LY DETAILS

### ATTENDANCE (In-Person/Livestream)

7/6: 293    7/13: 277    7/20: 247    7/27: 271  
 8/3: 276    8/10: 264    8/17: 272    8/24: 302    8/31: TBA

**“SIMPLY GIVING”** - Gloria Dei offers electronic giving on our website ([mygloriadei.org](http://mygloriadei.org)), which allows you to make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis. You can also make “one-time” special donations electronically. Choose to donate from your checking account or by using your credit card, etc. Applications are available at the Welcome Table or contact the church office at 949-493-3414 or [gloriadei@mygloriadei.org](mailto:gloriadei@mygloriadei.org).

**ELECTRONIC GIVING THROUGH VENMO** - Download the app on your phone and make your donation to **@GloriaDei-DanaPoint** (with a picture of our stained glass window overlooking the altar). Add where you want it applied in the Venmo required “memo” section.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING THROUGH ZELLE** - [gloriadei@mygloriadei.org](mailto:gloriadei@mygloriadei.org). We have added ZELLE as another secure giving option at Gloria Dei.

**TEXT YOUR OFFERING** - It is simple and safe (“text to give”, through Vanco) - text \$ amount you want to give to 949-356-5326. You will receive instructions on how to complete registration via a return text.

**SANDSTONE BENCHES** have now been etched with the names (and scripture) of people who gave gifts of over \$10,000. Thanks to these eleven families. If you would like to be a part of this fund (which goes to reducing our mortgage), please contact Pastor David about details.

**GLORIA DEI ENDOWMENT FUND** - More people are requesting information about the Endowment Fund. Call the office and speak with Pastor David for details or visit our website: [www.mygloriadei.org/donate](http://www.mygloriadei.org/donate). There, you will find the brochure. *“What legacy will you leave?”* Have you considered putting Gloria Dei in your will? If you would like to leave a lasting gift to your church, please consider doing so.

**THE COLUMBARIUM** - The Columbarium is located in the upper canyon area in the Memorial Garden. Please stop by to see it at your convenience. Several of our members are now interred in the Columbarium and the ceremonies were beautiful family gatherings. Each niche holds two urns. Currently, 60 niches and 4 memorial plaques have been purchased. To reserve a niche for yourself or a loved one, please contact the church office, 949-493-3414. For more information, please see our website: [mygloriadei.org/columbarium](http://mygloriadei.org/columbarium).



# DEI-LY PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*"Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs..."*

**HEALING** - Blaine Johnson, Brenda Findley, Mary Lou Walters, Jean Meinholtz, Gwen Layritz, Christina Simpson, Sue Swenson, John Knudson, Erika Mills, John Engel, Mark Lopez, Bill Jonas, Betty Prock, Linda Friend, Nancy Marcello, Dave Pozzi & Paul Dubow.

**PRAYERS OF COMFORT** - For Dianne Blanda and family as they mourn the loss of Frances McFarland.

**PEACE AND SAFETY** for all our service men and women serving around the world. We pray for peace and justice in the Middle East and Ukraine. We also pray for courage, patience, safety & peace for those affected by the California wildfires.

**FOR OUR MISSIONARY** - Please keep Dorcas in your prayers for strength and peace.

**PRAYER CHAIN REQUEST** - To place a loved one on the Prayer Chain, call the church office at 949-493-3414.

**DAILY DEVOTIONAL** - *"Christ in our Home"* (July - September 2025), is available for pick up at the Welcome Table on Sunday or at the church office. We also have copies in large print. Please call or email the church office 949-493-3414 or [gloriadei@mygloriadei.org](mailto:gloriadei@mygloriadei.org) if you would like to receive it another way.

## DEI-LY DUTIES



### SEPTEMBER 2025 VOLUNTEERS

Time & Talent assignments for August 2025- January 2026 were distributed on July 14th, based on the form you filled out in Fall 2024. They were distributed via email for most & traditional mail for those without email access. If you have questions, call Susie Boland at the office: 949-493-3414.

For other time & talent opportunities that don't happen weekly, we will reach out to you as needed. In addition, please watch for happenings in the bulletin or opportunities listed at the Welcome Table.

### GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

33501 Stonehill Drive, Dana Point, CA 92629  
Church Office: (949) 493-3414; Fax: (949) 493-6479;  
Preschool: (949) 493-3414 x209  
Website: [mygloriadei.org](http://mygloriadei.org);  
Email: [gloriadei@mygloriadei.org](mailto:gloriadei@mygloriadei.org)  
Facebook Page: [Facebook.com/GloriaDeiDanaPoint](https://www.facebook.com/GloriaDeiDanaPoint)

Pastor David R. Mattson [pastordavid@mygloriadei.org](mailto:pastordavid@mygloriadei.org)  
Minister of Art and Music Michelle Lum  
[michellelum@mygloriadei.org](mailto:michellelum@mygloriadei.org)  
Preschool Director Shelli Parajeckas [preschool@mygloriadei.org](mailto:preschool@mygloriadei.org)  
Administrative Assistant Susie Boland [gloriadei@mygloriadei.org](mailto:gloriadei@mygloriadei.org)  
Youth Director Paige Gulck [youth@mygloriadei.org](mailto:youth@mygloriadei.org)  
Children's Ministry Director Molly Healey  
[childrensministry@mygloriadei.org](mailto:childrensministry@mygloriadei.org)  
Deacon Daneen Pysz [deacondaneen@mygloriadei.org](mailto:deacondaneen@mygloriadei.org)  
Pianist/Organist Micaela Lum [pianist@mygloriadei.org](mailto:pianist@mygloriadei.org)

# SEPTEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
8:30am - Al Anon 5:30pm - Alateen 6:30pm - GIFT 7pm - AA Coed	7am - AA Men Meeting 10am - G.I.F.T. 11am - Staff Meeting 7pm - Al Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men Meeting 10am - G.I.F.T. 11am - Staff Meeting 7pm - Al Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men's 6pm - Mission Hospital 7:30pm - 12 Step	7am - AA Men Meeting 9am - Preschool 9:30am - AA Women 5:30pm - Al Anon Coed 7pm - AA Men Meeting	9am - Preschool 10am - Al Anon 11am - 60th 2pm - Laundry Love 6pm - Women's Bunco	7am - AA Men Meeting 9am - Adult Inquiry for 9am - Prayer Shawl 11:30am - ACA 1:30pm - Ukrainian
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:30am - Installation of 8:30am - Worship 10am - 11:15am - New 5pm - Worship	10am - South Coast 5:30pm - Al Anon 5:30pm - Alateen 7pm - AA Coed	7am - AA Men Meeting 9am - Surfside Quilters 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Ministry Site 8:30pm - Heart Lifters 8:30pm - VFW Auxiliary 7pm - Al Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men's 9am - Surfside Quilters 10am - Women's 11am - Saddleback 6pm - Mission Hospital 6:30pm - Art Gathering 7:30pm - 12 Step	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women 5:30pm - Al Anon Coed 7pm - AA Men Meeting	9am - Prime Time 10am - Al Anon 6pm - Kenny's Music	7am - AA Men Meeting 8:30am - Men's 9am - Women's Board 11:30am - ACA 1:30pm - Ukrainian 2pm - Brendan Feltis
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:30am - 10am - 5pm - Concert: Andy	10am - South Coast 2pm - R/O/T Book Club 5:30pm - Al Anon 5:30pm - Alateen 7pm - AA Coed	7am - AA Men Meeting 8:30am - Preschool 10am - G.I.F.T. 11am - Staff Meeting 7pm - Al Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men's 10am - Women's 1pm - Piano Tuning - 6pm - Mission Hospital 7:30pm - 12 Step	7am - AA Men Meeting 9am - Grandparents 9:30am - AA Women 5:30pm - Al Anon Coed 7pm - AA Men Meeting	10am - Al Anon 3pm - Wedding 5pm - 60th Anniversary	7am - AA Men Meeting 8:30am - Serra's Pantry 11:30am - ACA 1pm - Ukrainian 1:30pm - Ukrainian
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Rally Sunday 12am - Reception of 8:30am - 10am - 5pm - Worship	10am - South Coast 12pm - Blood Drive 5:30pm - Al Anon 5:30pm - Alateen 7pm - AA Coed	7am - AA Men Meeting 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Men's Book Club 6:30pm - Heart Lifters 7pm - Al Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men's 10am - Women's 6pm - Mission Hospital 7:30pm - 12 Step	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women 5:30pm - Al Anon Coed 6pm - Choir Auditions 7pm - AA Men Meeting	10am - Al Anon 6pm - Kenny's Music	7am - AA Men Meeting 7am - Los Angeles 11:30am - ACA 1:30pm - Ukrainian 3pm - Noah and Lucia
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
8:30am - 10am - 5pm - Worship	10am - South Coast 5:30pm - Al Anon 5:30pm - Alateen 7pm - AA Coed	7am - AA Men Meeting 10am - G.I.F.T. 11am - Staff Meeting 7pm - Al Anon Meeting				