

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

DEI-LY LIGHT



NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dear Gloria Dei family,

Do you like the game “**Scrabble?**” If not, sorry, you’re going to see a lot of little wooden letters in November. Piles and piles of letters - Help yourself. Write something. Be creative. Take a moment or two, put a word or two together that spells grace (God’s unconditional love) for you. It could be a name. It could be an event... You’ll have to walk around them to get into the Sanctuary!

For the life of our congregation, you can spell grace in three ways:

1. Fill out a 2026 PLEDGE CARD. Please pray about it, fill it out, and mail it back to the church or place it in an offering box. Pledges are an important way that we set our new budget.
2. Also, fill out a TIME AND TALENT BROCHURE. Prayerfully consider where you might plug in. We need everyone to find a place to volunteer.
3. ENDOWMENT FUND - In this packet of items is a brochure related to giving in other ways... legacy giving. There are ways to give which ensure the future of Gloria Dei, while at the same time wisely helping your family.

Thank you for helping us build the ministry of Gloria Dei and living out God’s grace!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David R. Mattson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

Pastor David R. Mattson

P.S. In November, we always emphasize thanksLIVING - with All Saints’ Sunday, Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving, Stewardship Sunday - we have so much to be thankful for. That’s especially true when so much of our world seems out of sorts and angry. It’s always a good time for the grateful to rise up!



MINISTER OF ART & MUSIC

In most years, the thanksgiving season reminds me to have gratitude, but this year I have been thinking about the other side: what gratitude does, and how powerful it is to share it with others? Can you recall a time when someone said they were thankful for you? When someone said that what you did had an impact on their lives? There are so many people that do that at Gloria Dei (just one of the reasons I love our church!). It's amazing how powerful words can be; just a few kind words can lift one's spirit. It can give people the encouragement to keep going.

If this time of year makes you think about giving, I encourage you to try giving gratitude! Mail someone a card about how much they mean to you. Send a text or an email to let someone know how their words or actions had an impact on your life. Or better yet, do it in person. You never know who might need to hear it, and what your words might inspire in others.

ART & MUSIC EVENTS:

Handbell Choir - first plays on November 2 during All Saints Sunday. Come early to the morning services to hear their prelude: *For the Beauty of the Earth* arranged by Brian Childers. Thanks to Kathy Person for playing with us on the violin.

November Art Gathering - November 12 at 6:30pm in Bankson Hall. At this month's gathering Michelle is sharing about vanitas paintings in still life. We continue with our third meeting for our Working Artist discussions. Also come to find out what we are doing for our Christmas artwork!

Sanctuary Choir - This month our choir sings at both morning services on November 2, thanks to Mallory Bacon for playing the oboe in our piece. If you are interested in joining the sanctuary choir just for the Christmas season, please join our Thursday evening rehearsals (7:15pm-8:45pm) in November!

Gloria Dei Chorale - first sings at our morning services on November 23 for Christ the King Sunday. Many thanks to our soloist Andy Degan and the growing group of instrumentalists (Micaela Lum, Kathy Person, Jeff Contestible, Mallory Bacon, and more...) for making this piece special.

Pop-up Orchestra - Do you play an instrument? We are putting together a "pop-up" orchestra for a song on the morning services of November 23. Fairly simple music, the time commitment is 7:30am-10:30am for a rehearsal and two services. If you'd like to join, email Michelle with your instrument and she'll send you the music.

Save the date - December 10, 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. We will have a special art & music event, details to come!

Interested in joining the art ministry email newsletter or a choir? Email michellelum@mygloriadei.org



GLORIA DEI SPIRITUAL CARE

Prime Time Seniors: Mark your calendars for the Moulton Museum in Laguna Niguel on Saturday, November 8, and Monday, December 29 to the Capistrano Lights at the San Juan Capistrano Mission. Watch for details in the bulletin and a signup sheet at the Welcome table. Even if you are not a senior, you are always welcome to join us.

Thanks to those who signed up for the **"Gen to Gen Storytelling"**. We are off to a good start. There will be no sign up for December, but it will resume in January, 2026. Perhaps add this ministry to your new year's resolution. No matter what age you are, please consider coming and reading a story of faith, kindness, and/or wonder to the preschool children. Together, we celebrate God's love as it is shared from generation to generation. If you would like to come read to a small group either at 9am, 10:30am or 11:30am, give Shelli Parajeckas a call at (949) 493-3414, to set up a time. If you don't have a favorite book to share, the preschool has many books to choose from. Be blessed to be a blessing as you share the gift of story time with these little ones.

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 provides a laundry card you can swipe, so folks in need can wash & dry their clothes for FREE. All are welcome! Questions: contact me at 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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW - Sara Groves in concert at Gloria Dei, Saturday, May 2, 7pm. Who is Sara Groves? She has been nominated for three Dove Awards, including New Artist of the Year and Special Event Album of the Year by the Gospel Music Association and her album, *Add to the Beauty*, was named Album of the Year for 2005 by CCM Magazine. Her latest album (2021) was *What Makes it Through*. Mark your calendars now. More information to follow.



CHILI COOKOFF - Bring a canned food item or make a donation for World Hunger and the Agape House (Campus Ministry at San Diego State U.) while enjoying chili, Wednesday, November 19, 5pm. Sign-up.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY - November 2. To have a loved one's name mentioned during service, with the tolling of the bells, pick up a card at Welcome Table and place it in an offering box or call the church office. At 9:30am, a brief service of remembrance will take place at the Columbarium for those who are interred there.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUNDAY SCHOOL is off to a great start this year! Our children are engaged each week as they explore Bible stories, grow in faith, and experience the love of God. We offer Sunday School during the 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM services for children ages 4 through 5th grade, and new friends are always welcome. With Christmas just around the corner, we are looking forward to some special events and activities!

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.

Tinsel, Trains, and Tunes (Tree Lighting Party) - December 5th at 4:00 PM - Join us for an evening full of Christmas festivities! We'll have activities, crafts, and of course, a fun train ride! After all the fun activities in Bankson Hall, we will go down to the Sanctuary for a story by Pastor David and then a countdown as we light our beautiful Christmas tree together and celebrate the joy of the season with our church family and community. All are welcome!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW: There are many wonderful upcoming events. Please join us for:

- Tinsel, Trains, and Tunes (Tree Lighting Party) - December 5, 4pm
- Sunday School Christmas Program - December 14, 10am
- Vacation Bible School - July 6-10, 2026

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

OTHER FELLOWSHIP EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Chili Cook-off and Canned Food Drive (November 19)
- Christmas Caroling (December 14, 3pm)
- Blue Christmas (December 21, 5pm)
- Prime Time Seniors - Mission in Lights (December 29, 4pm)
- Trick and Alderighi Piano Duet Concert (January 4)



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS

CONFIRMATION CLASSES - 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:

- November 1 - All day - Trip to CLU
- November 2 - Confirmation Class in Bankson Hall
- November 14 - 16 - Middle School Youth Gathering "Outside the Box" at Knott's Berry Farm. Registration needed.

SENIOR HIGH FUN TIME - Open to all 9th - 12th grade students. Friends are always welcome.

- November 1 - All day - Join the fun on a trip to Cal Lutheran University for a tour of the campus and some fun activities afterwards. Friends and parents are welcome.
- November 21 - 6:00pm - Come help make hygiene kits for those less fortunate. All kits go to FAM.



PRESCHOOL

Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!

This month our students will celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with a lunchtime "feast" with their peers and family. In preschool, we focus on the "Fruits of the Spirit" while planting those seeds of faith in our students. Through prayer, stories, music, and modeling, our students are learning about God's love for them. They are also learning that their actions and words have meaning and have an impact on their peers; they hear from their teachers, "What would Jesus do?" when conflicts arise.

We want to thank those volunteers who've been coming to read to our preschoolers; our students are truly enjoying the visitors and their stories.

THANKS

Thanks to MGD (Men of Gloria Dei) for planning, setting up and running an amazing Oktoberfest! What a great event! And congratulations to our "Cornhole Tournament Winners - Kathy Martino and Clayton Dietrich! And lastly, we thank those of you that were able to join us for a fin-filled and festive night!



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 - Evening study offered on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday/month, 6:30pm, social time & 7pm - 8pm, study time. Contact the office 949-493-3414 or gloriadei@mygloriadei.org.

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

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - RIOT (Reading Is Our Thing) meets the *third Monday/month, year round, 2pm*. The group meets in Knudson Hall & **next meeting is November 17**. They are reading *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah. If interested in the book club, contact Diane Kelly or the office at 949-493-3414.

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY - Pastor David and others lead this study, held on the 2nd Saturday, 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 November 8.

MEN'S BOOK GROUP - Meets *last Tuesday/month, 6pm* at member's homes. Next meeting - December 2 & the book is *The Paris Architect* by Charles Belfore hosted by Dave Bunic. For details, 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 November 3, G.I.F.T. will be studying 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus from the New Testament. To join, contact the office.

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. Next meeting - Tuesday, November 4. The Gospel of John with the supplement, "John: Jesus-the-Word, The Messiah, The Son of God." All are welcome!

NOVEMBER 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 - November 1. 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.* November 15 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 Sharon Miller at esldanapoint@mygloriadei.org.

LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE MINISTRY -

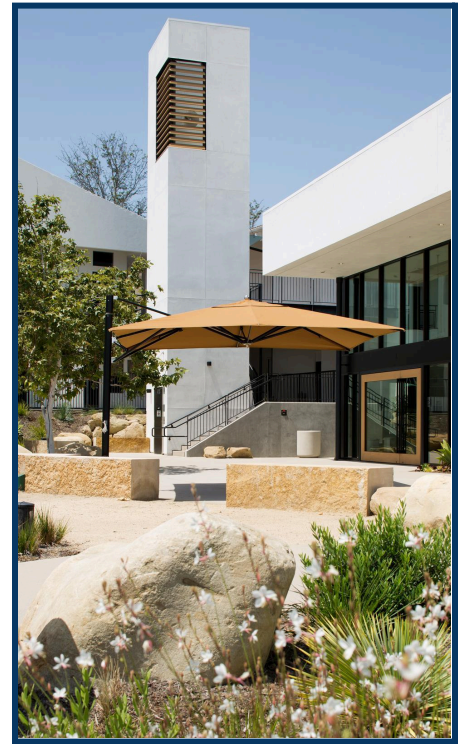
Remaining 2025 visitation date at the Orphanage is:

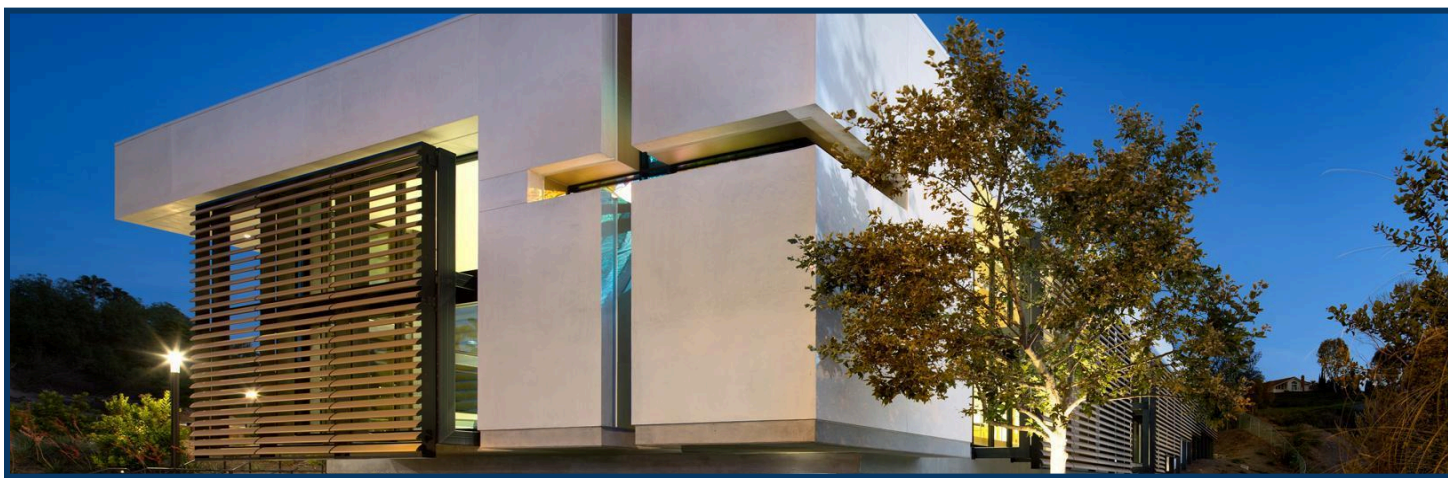
- December 13, 2025

On September 27, 2025, members of Gloria Dei and friends journeyed once again to Tijuana, Mexico to visit the children at the Los Angelitos Orphanage. We had another amazing day with the kids. We were able to fill two large vans with people and food, clothes, staple items, and even new bedsheets/pillow cases for the children. We met two new children, one who had only been there a few days. She was quiet at first, but our Gloria Dei kids were able to engage her and by the time of the Pinata she was laughing and smiling (see the picture). We got to see Ivanna's new dental work as well. The next step is for her to join Stefany and get her braces on, thanks to donations from Gloria Dei.

For those who took the tour with Vicky (who manages the Orphanage), you got to see the care and attention given to the children.

We are looking forward to our December 13, 2025, trip to the Orphanage. Our plan is to bring individualized gifts for the kids and have a Christmas Party. Hope you can join us and/or donate to the kids. Spread the good word for Los Angelitos. Thanks! - Eric





DEI-LY DETAILS

ATTENDANCE (In-Person/Livestream)

10/5: 319 10/12: 296 10/19: 258 10/26: TBA

“SIMPLY GIVING” - Gloria Dei offers electronic giving on our website (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.

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. 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. 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.

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 Finley, 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 if you would like to receive it another way.

DEI-LY DUTIES



NOVEMBER 2025 VOLUNTEERS

Time & Talent sign-ups are going out this month, at the Welcome Table. 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;
Email: gloriadei@mygloriadei.org
Facebook Page: [Facebook.com/GloriaDeiDanaPoint](https://www.facebook.com/GloriaDeiDanaPoint)

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

NOVEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
All Saints Sunday 8:30am - Worship/Sunday 10am - Worship/Sunday 11:15am - Confirmation class 5pm - Worship	10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - AI Anon Meeting 5:30pm - Alateen 6:30pm - GIFT (Growing In 7pm - AA Coed Meeting	7am - AA Men Meeting 10am - G.I.F.T. Knudson Hall- 11am - Staff Meeting 7pm - AI Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men's Meeting 10am - Women's Bible 6pm - Mission Hospital 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 2pm - Seniors & Friends (AA) 5:30pm - AI Anon Coed 6pm - Handbell Choir @ 7pm - AA Men Meeting	10am - AI Anon Meeting 2pm - Laundry Love San Juan 6pm - Kenny's Music	7am - AA Men Meeting 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 9am - Women's Board 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1pm - Prime Time Seniors 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of
Stewardship Sunday 8:30am - Worship/Sunday 10am - Fall Clothing 10am - Worship/Sunday 5pm - Worship	10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - AI Anon Meeting 5:30pm - Alateen 7pm - AA Coed Meeting	7am - AA Men Meeting 9am - Surfside Quilters Guild 6pm - Ministry Site Meeting 6:30pm - Heart Lifters 6:30pm - VFW Auxiliary 7pm - AI Anon Meeting 7pm - Church Council Meeting	Art Gathering 7am - AA Men's Meeting 10am - Women's Bible 11am - Saddleback 6pm - Mission Hospital 6:30pm - Art Gathering	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 2pm - Seniors & Friends (AA) 5:30pm - AI Anon Coed 6pm - Handbell Choir @ 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:15pm - Sanctuary Choir @	Middle School-Confirmation Gathering @ Knott's Berry Farm. 10am - AI Anon Meeting 6pm - Kenny's Music	7am - AA Men Meeting 8:30am - Serra's Pantry 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1pm - Ukrainian Worship 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of
Middle School-Confirmation 8:30am - Worship/Sunday 10am - Worship/Sunday 11am - Baby Luke Dietrich 5pm - Worship	10am - South Coast Literacy 2pm - RIOT Book Club @ 5:30pm - AI Anon Meeting 5:30pm - Alateen 7pm - AA Coed Meeting	7am - AA Men Meeting 10am - G.I.F.T. Knudson Hall- 11am - Staff Meeting 7pm - AI Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men's Meeting 9am - Preschool Thanksgiving 10am - Women's Bible 5pm - Chili Contest & Canned 6pm - Mission Hospital 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 2pm - Seniors & Friends (AA) 5:30pm - AI Anon Coed 6pm - Handbell Choir @ 7pm - AA Men Meeting	10am - AI Anon Meeting 6pm - Kenny's Music	7am - AA Men Meeting 10am - Youth (Jr & Sr High) 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of
Katherine Hernandez Foster 8:30am - Worship/Sunday 10am - Worship/Sunday	Preschool Thanksgiving Break 10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - AI Anon Meeting 5:30pm - Alateen 7pm - AA Coed Meeting	7am - AA Men Meeting 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Men's Book Club 6:30pm - Heart Lifters 7pm - AI Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men's Meeting 6pm - Mission Hospital 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 2pm - Seniors & Friends (AA) 5:30pm - AI Anon Coed 7pm - AA Men Meeting	10am - AI Anon Meeting 6pm - Kenny's Music	7am - AA Men Meeting 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of
Advent 1 8:30am - Worship/Sunday 10am - Worship/Sunday 5pm - Worship	10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - AI Anon Meeting 5:30pm - Alateen 7pm - AA Coed Meeting	7am - AA Men Meeting 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Men's Book Club 6:30pm - Heart Lifters 7pm - AI Anon Meeting	7am - AA Men's Meeting 6pm - Mission Hospital 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples	7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 2pm - Seniors & Friends (AA) 5:30pm - AI Anon Coed 7pm - AA Men Meeting	10am - AI Anon Meeting 6pm - Kenny's Music	7am - AA Men Meeting 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of