

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

DEI-LY LIGHT



JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Dear Gloria Dei family,

Happy New Year! As you think about this coming year, why not try something new? Keep growing, stretching, creating new neural pathways, or just have some fun. Here are a couple things at church to consider:

KERYGMA BIBLE OVERVIEW - I will lead this class on Thursdays, 6pm, beginning January 15. There will be 15 classes on the Old Testament and 15 on the New Testament. This class will meet in Bankson Hall. See the sign-up.

NEW G.I.F.T. GROUP (Growing in Faith Together) group meeting (50+) at Madelyn and Jim Jansma's home. They will be studying Romans and meeting on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm. Dessert served. First meeting - Jan. 20. Sign-up at the Welcome Table.

STEPHANIE TRICK AND PAOLO ALDERIGHI CONCERT - Sunday, January 4, 5pm. Jazz piano duo Stephanie Trick and Paolo Alderighi are back! They are also playing special music at the morning services. Check them out: www.youtube.com/@StephanieTrickPaoloAlderighi

MEMBERSHIP AT GLORIA DEI? If you are interested in becoming a member and for all the details, see the sign-up at the Welcome Table. New members received February 1.

Peace,

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

Pastor David R. Mattson

P.S. My thanks to all those people who volunteered, especially musicians over Christmas! There was a lot of extra work and you made the celebration so great.

P.P.S. And my thanks to all those who filled out a 2026 Pledge Card and Time & Talent form. We can do so much more together!



MINISTER OF ART & MUSIC

Happy New Year!

I don't know about you, but I love new things. A new song, new art materials, new places to explore. There's a wonderful energy that comes with things that are new. I often use that in my own creative practice to propel myself forward. A beautiful composition makes me excited to come to rehearsal. Making an art project with a new material helps me enjoy the long hours it takes to finish a work (my latest new exploration has been working with traditional kintsugi materials!). In this next year, what new things might you try?

If you'd like to try some new things with us, let me know! We are always trying new things in our art and music ministries and would love to collaborate on our upcoming projects (stay tuned for our Easter artwork...).

ART & MUSIC EVENTS:

Stephanie Trick and Paolo Alderighi Concert - Sunday, January 4 at 5pm in the sanctuary. Start the new year off with some fantastic music by this piano duo! Stephanie and Paolo are also providing special music at the Sunday services that morning.

January Art Gathering - Wednesday, January 14 at 6:30pm in Bankson Hall. We resume our regular series looking at Still Life and continuing our Working Artist Discussions. If you are an artist or are just looking for some creative encouragement, join us for a time of fellowship and conversation!

Weekly Choir Rehearsals - restart for the new year on Thursday, January 15. I hope everyone had a wonderful break! Handbell Choir practices from 6pm-7pm, and Sanctuary Choir and Gloria Dei Chorale from 7:15pm-8:45pm. All choirs are open to new members for the Spring, contact Michelle for more information on joining.

Sanctuary Choir - resumes singing for Sunday services on January 18 at the 8:30am service. We are starting this year off with a lovely piece by Joel Raney, *Come Follow Me*. 10am service will hear this piece the following week on January 25.

The Broad and MOCA Museum Trip - January 30 from 9am-3:30pm. Join the art ministry for a fun trip up to the Broad and MOCA! We are taking a big van and driving up together, sign up at the welcome table to carpool (will need to get your own tickets from the Broad & MOCA. Will arrive for the 11am entry time and leave LA at 2pm).

Save the date - Mirabell Trio Benefit Concert is coming up on February 15 at 5pm. Partnering with Music for Food, all proceeds go to FAM.

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

DEACON DANEEN PYSZ



GLORIA DEI SPIRITUAL CARE

Happy New Year! I don't know about you, but the Advent Season and Christmas seem to arrive and finish faster and faster each year. My thanks to all who volunteered for the Alzheimer's Christmas Luncheon. There were 27 of you and we brought smiles, conversation, and served 76 guests. Speaking of serving, our "Gen to Gen Storytelling" will begin this month. Look for the sign up to give a half hour of your time to read a book to the preschool children. Also, if you enjoy flower arranging, we need a couple more volunteers in our Flower Power ministry. Come speak with me.

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

LUNCH AND LEARN - Alzheimer's Assoc., Meals on Wheels, and Safety will be January 11, 11:30am in Bankson Hall.

NEW MEMBER - ADULT INQUIRY CLASS - Will be January 24, 2026 at 9am. Sign-up and information at the Welcome Table.

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 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*. [Tickets available in January.](#)



ALOHA ANNUAL MEETING will be held Sunday, February 1, immediately following the 10am service. New council members will be elected, a budget will be approved, and future ministry plans unveiled. Sign-up!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUNDAY SCHOOL continues into the new year after our Christmas break! Thank you to all our teachers who show up and love teaching our children every week! We offer Sunday School during the 8:30AM and 10:00AM services for children 4 years old through 5th grade, and new friends are always welcome.

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.

CRAFT BOX - we are putting together a "craft box" for our Sunday School kids in which they can be creative and hands on! If you have any extra craft supplies you don't want anymore, we'd be happy to take it!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW: We will be releasing the theme for our 2026 VBS in the next few weeks! We look forward to this wonderful event!

- Vacation Bible School - July 6-10, 2026

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

- Aloha Luncheon/Annual Meeting (February 1, 2026, 11am)
- Women's Winter Bunco (February 6, 2026, 6pm)
- Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and every Wednesday during Lent (Begins Feb. 18, 5pm)
- Men's Spring Training Retreat (March 6-9, 2026) - Reservations begin in January for this popular event.
- Women's 1 Day Retreat (March 14, 2026)
- Sara Groves in Concert (May 2, 2026)
- Church Campout (June 12-14, 2026)





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:

- January 4 - Confirmation Class in Bankson Hall
- January 24 - Possible Confirmation Trip to Union Rescue Mission

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

- January 16, 6:00 p.m. - Bowling night at Saddleback Lanes. Bring a friend for some gutter balls.
- February 6, 6:00 p.m. - Valentine's making in Knudsen Hall. Let's get crafty for our shut-ins.



PRESCHOOL

Gloria Dei is a place where children play and pray!

I am praying for a revival in 2026. This past year brought some challenging times both professionally and personally. It's the good things I need to focus on, and use those times to fuel change in 2026. The preschool is thriving, and will continue with great teachers, a strong belief in providing a nurturing environment which fosters learning, and an extremely long waitlist.

Our students are working hard at brain building inside and outside the classroom with lots of hands on activities. Our PreK kiddos will dive deep in kindergarten preparedness activities to get them ready for that transition into kindergarten. Our teachers will be renewing their CPR and First Aid training at the end of the month. The revival begins now with God by our side.

THANKS

Thank you to Deacon Daneen and all the helpers for the Alzheimer's Service! We had over 70 attendees and the preschoolers came in and sang Christmas songs.

And also a big thank you to Shelli Parajeckas, our preschool director, all the preschool teachers, Molly Healey, our Children's Ministry director, Michelle Lum, our Art and Ministry Director and everyone that helped to put together a fun, Tinsel, Tunes and Trains event! It was a big hit that ended with a story from Pastor David and the tree lighting! And finally to our Women's Board for hosting a beautiful concert, with Harrison Michael, and Cookie Exchange!



GROWING TOGETHER!

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

NEW G.I.F.T. GROUP (Growing in Faith Together) group meeting (50+) at Madelyn and Jim Jansma's home. They will be studying Romans and meeting on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm. Dessert served. First meeting - January 20. Sign-up at the Welcome Table.

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 February 16**. They are reading Theo of Golden by Allen Levi. 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 January 10.

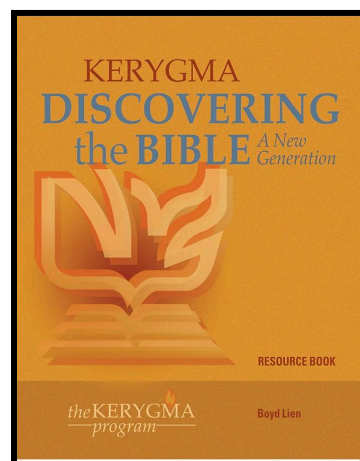
MEN'S BOOK GROUP - Meets *last Tuesday/month, 6pm* at member's homes. Next meeting - January 27 & the book is *The Paris Architect* by Charles Belfore hosted by Dave Bunic. For details, contact the office.

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 January 5 (early at 5:30pm) , G.I.F.T. will be having a potluck and playing a Bible trivia game. 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, January 6. The Gospel of John with the supplement, "John: Jesus-the-Word, The Messiah, The Son of God." All are welcome!

COMING IN JANUARY - KERYGMA! Pastor David will begin a new Bible survey class on Thursdays, beginning January 15, 2026, 6-7pm, Bankson Hall. The 30 sessions will cover both the Old and New Testament. More information will be coming soon. Click here for some of the details:

kerygma.com/collections/fndl/products/discover-bible-new-gen



DECEMBER 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 - January 3. 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.* January 17 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.

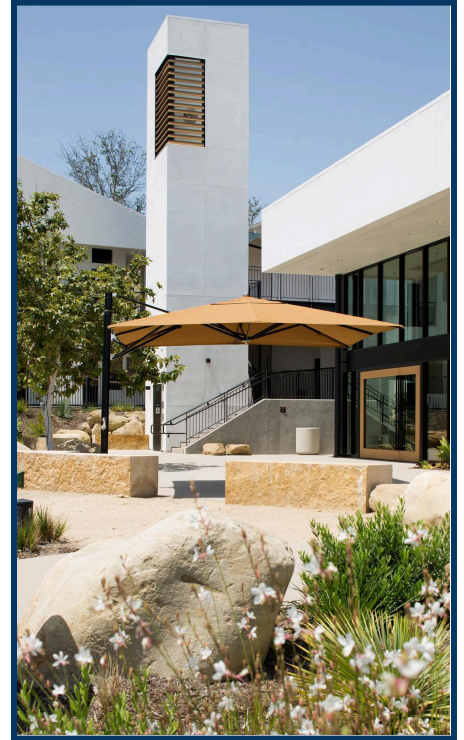
LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE MINISTRY - It was a perfect day for the missionaries from Gloria Dei to visit the children at Los Angelitos Orphanage in Tijuana Mexico. We brought two large vans with Christmas gifts and staple items for the children. We also brought holiday crafts which the kids of all ages enjoyed and outdoor speakers that played Christmas music, in Spanish of course.

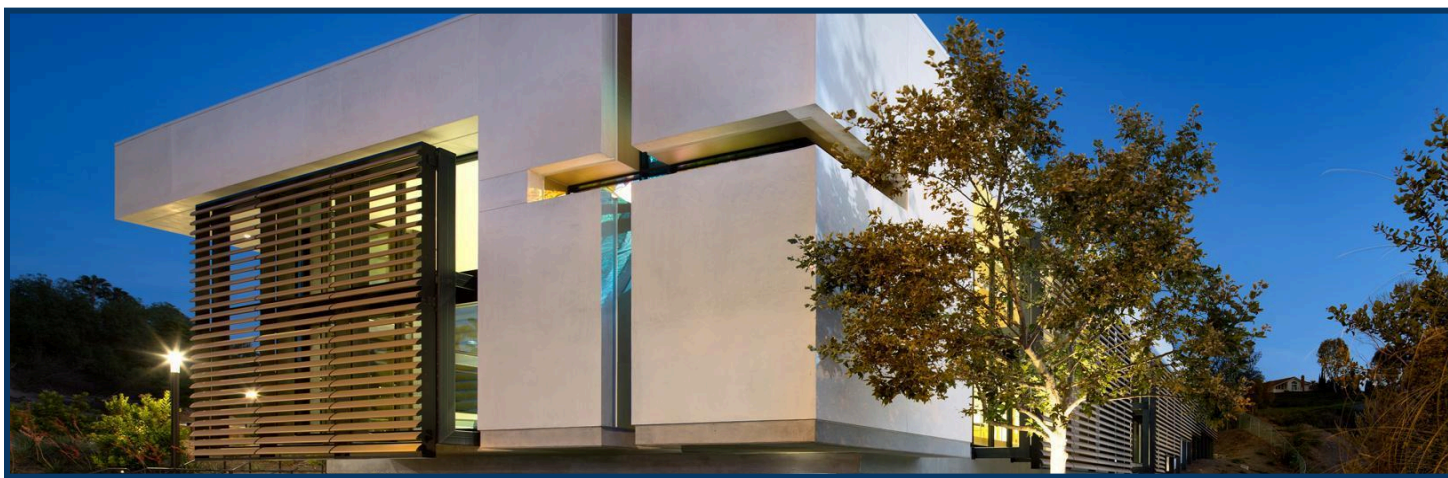
Gloria Dei members donated two gifts each for the child, which the child had requested. As we unloaded the vans, each child waited eagerly for their name to be called including Genesis who was brand new to the Orphanage and not on our list. She asked in Spanish, “Do you think they brought me a gift?” She was told, “Don’t worry, your gift will be special.” Thankfully, we brought extra gifts.

Genesis received two gifts proudly posing with one of them below. The day was perfect indeed.

Thank you to everyone that helped with our Los Angelitos Christmas party. Stay tuned for our next dates to Los Angelitos.

If you have questions about this ministry please speak with Eric Houser or call the church office.





DEI-LY DETAILS

ATTENDANCE (In-Person/Livestream)

12/7: 320

12/14: 298

12/21: 396

12/24: TBA

12/28: 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.

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"* (January - March 2026), will be 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



JANUARY 2026 VOLUNTEERS

Time & Talent sign-ups went out in November, with the Stewardship envelopes. 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 Parajekas 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

JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Preschool Christmas Vacation						
				7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 1pm - Seniors & Friends (AA) 5:30pm - AI Anon Coed	10am - AI Anon Meeting 2pm - Laundry Love San Juan 6:30pm - 12- Step Meeting	7am - AA Men Meeting 9am - Prayer Shawl Meeting 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of 2pm - Ukrainian Mass @
4 8:30am - Worship/Sunday 10am - Worship/Sunday 11:15am - Confirmation class 5pm - Trick and Alderighi	5 Preschool Begins Again 10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - AI Anon Meeting 5:30pm - Alaleen 6:30pm - GIFT (Growing In	6 7am - AA Men Meeting 11am - Staff Meeting 12:30pm - Deans' Meeting 7pm - AI Anon Meeting	7 7am - AA Men's Meeting 10am - Women's Bible 6pm - Mission Hospital 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples	8 7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 1pm - Seniors & Friends (AA) 5:30pm - AI Anon Coed 7pm - AA Men Meeting	9 10am - AI Anon Meeting 6:30pm - 12- Step Meeting	10 7am - AA Men Meeting 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 9am - Women's Board 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of
11 8:30am - Worship/Sunday 10am - Worship/Sunday 11:15am - Luke Dietrich 11:30am - Lunch & Learn 5pm - Worship	12 10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - AI Anon Meeting 5:30pm - Alaleen 7pm - AA Coed Meeting	13 Artwork Pick Up 7am - AA Men Meeting 9am - Surfside Quilters Guild 10am - G.I.F.T. Knudson Hall- 10am - OC Sheriff safety 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Church Council Meeting 6:30pm - Heart Lifters 6:30pm - VFW Auxiliary	14 Art Gathering 7am - AA Men's Meeting 9am - Surfside Quilters Guild 10am - Women's Bible 11am - Saddleback 6pm - Mission Hospital 6:30pm - Art Gathering 6:30pm - Art Gathering	15 7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 1pm - Seniors & Friends (AA) 5:30pm - AI Anon Coed 6pm - Handbell Choir @ 6pm - Kerygma Bible Study 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:15pm - Sanctuary Choir @ 8:15pm - Chorale Rehearsal	16 10am - AI Anon Meeting 8pm - Sr. High Bowling @ 6:30pm - 12- Step Meeting	17 7am - AA Men Meeting 8:30am - Serra's Pantry 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of
18 MLK weekend 8:30am - Worship/Sunday 10am - Worship/Sunday 5pm - Worship	19 OFFICE CLOSED 10am - South Coast Literacy 2pm - RIOT Book Club @ 5:30pm - AI Anon Meeting 5:30pm - Alaleen 7pm - AA Coed Meeting	20 7am - AA Men Meeting 11am - Staff Meeting 7pm - AI Anon Meeting	21 7am - AA Men's Meeting 10am - Women's Bible 6pm - Mission Hospital 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples	22 7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 1pm - Seniors & Friends (AA) 5:30pm - AI Anon Coed 6pm - Handbell Choir @ 6pm - Kerygma Bible Study	23 10am - AI Anon Meeting 6:30pm - 12- Step Meeting	24 7am - AA Men Meeting 9am - Adult inquiry 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of
25 8:30am - Worship/Sunday 10am - Worship/Sunday 11:15am - New Member 2pm - Whale Watching?	26 10am - South Coast Literacy 5:30pm - AI Anon Meeting 5:30pm - Alaleen 7pm - AA Coed Meeting	27 7am - AA Men Meeting 10am - G.I.F.T. Knudson Hall- 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Dana Hills Baja Meeting 6pm - Men's Book Club 6:30pm - Heart Lifters 7pm - AI Anon Meeting 8pm - Baja Drivers Meeting	28 7am - AA Men's Meeting 10am - Women's Bible 5pm - Dana Point Historical 6pm - Mission Hospital 7:30pm - 12 Step Couples	29 7am - AA Men Meeting 9:30am - AA Women Meeting 1pm - Seniors & Friends (AA) 5:30pm - AI Anon Coed 6pm - Handbell Choir @ 6pm - Kerygma Bible Study 7pm - AA Men Meeting 7:15pm - Sanctuary Choir @	30 9am - Museum Trip 10am - AI Anon Meeting 6:30pm - 12- Step Meeting	31 7am - AA Men Meeting 11:30am - ACA Meeting 1:30pm - Ukrainian School of