



MISSION STATEMENT

Walking with Jesus to bring new life and hope to every person

A NEW VISION FOR A NEW YEAR!

It hardly seems possible that we are at the end of the year of 2023 and entering 2024! Yet, we are right here!

I trust that you remember that during 2022, we brought in a consultant from Auxano to work with our Vision Team to study every aspect of our mission and our vision for the future. It was a very worthwhile process, and it did yield results that I will share with you.

Some results came very soon, others results took longer.

Last spring, we fulfilled our 90 day goals: We launched a new Bible study opportunity and will be adding another opportunity in January 2024...we added new ways for people to be involved in the mission by volunteering...we obtained professional help on how to improve the technical quality of our livestream...and we had a team personally contact worshippers who have not returned since covid and invite them back.

Our first-year goal is on-going, as we have Vision Team members continuing to build awareness of the congregation of a vision that will take our congregation into future ministry opportunities in our area.

We also moved forward on some larger parts of our first 3 years of goals: A Call Committee was formed and worked together to create our Mission Site Profile that is available to all pastors in the ELCA who might be interested in a call to Gloria de Cristo!

We also researched and installed a brand new and badly needed A/V system that vastly improved the quality of our hosted livestream experience to maximize outreach and year-round engagement in worship and teaching at Gloria de Cristo!

This has had a great impact, as there are people all over the country that worship with us because they cannot find a "church fit" where they live...and we are having new on-line members!

God will continue to lead us in 2024!

Pastor Bill Timm

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



It is 2024, a new year full of hope and plans for the future. We have celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ with great joy. Did you make any New Years resolutions? If so how long do you think you will keep those resolutions? A resolution is usually a promise to ourselves to make changes in our lives, lifestyles, or in our dealing with other people. I read an article the other day that said most resolutions fall by the wayside after just a few weeks. God keeps his promises to us everyday of our lives. He forgives our sins and promises us eternal life to all who believe in Him. For me and my family, we will continue to serve the Lord and try our utmost to keep our promises to Him. In this new year maybe we could all strive to hold up our end of the bargain. Make this the year to take part in more church activities either as a participant or helping as a leader.



'COMING IN JANUARY'

A new Bible Study Class, lead by Jerry Randby, will begin on Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 4 pm in the fellowship classroom. The group will be studying 'Genesis' and is open to anyone interested. Mark your calendars and come join in!!



2023 Welcome Back Bash

e·piph·a·ny

[ə'pɪfənē]

NOUN

the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1–12).

the festival commemorating the Epiphany on January 6:

"many submerge themselves in ice water to celebrate Epiphany"

a manifestation of a divine or supernatural being:

"many believe this scene to represent an epiphany of the goddess"

a moment of sudden revelation or insight:

"a few years ago, I had an epiphany"

Charles Knippel writes in *The Lutheran Witness Magazine*, "Epiphany has a remarkable "epiphanizing" splendor all of its own. Actually, it has more than one splendor. It has *splendors* like a brilliant diamond with many facets, each facet of Epiphany has its own unique splendor, and, like a diamond crafted with all its facets, it is a jewel of radiant beauty. . . . And by God's power, the Good News of God actually "epiphanizes" us."

A familiar text from the Old Testament prophet, Isaiah, sets the tone: "Arise, shine for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you" (Is. 60:1). At Christmas, we emphasize that God became man in the flesh. Epiphany changes the emphasis to the baby born in Bethlehem is also fully God. This concept that Jesus is the true light of life (John 8:12) is one of the reasons that Epiphany is also called the Festival of Lights.

Epiphany is also associated with Jesus' baptism by John when the trinity was present: Jesus was baptized, Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove, and the Father's voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son: with you I am well pleased" (Mark 3:21–22). In the Eastern Orthodox Church, this is also known as a Theophany.

Some hymns for Epiphany are: "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (ELW275), "Be Thou My Vision" (ELW793), "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" (ELW 815), "The First Noel" (ELW300), "Word of God Come Down on Earth" (ELW510), "Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies" (ELW 280).

Knippel suggested: 1) Share the splendor of Epiphany as God did by the guiding star; worship Jesus with precious gifts; 2) Draw on your baptism for comfort, confidence and courage; 3) Use your newness of life to care for others; 4) Let the words of your mouth and the meditation of your heart be acceptable to the Lord; 5) Build up the Church; 6) Live a life of love described by St. Paul; 7) Live the "blessed" life taught by Jesus; 8) Listen to Him.

YOUTH AND EDUCATION



Adult Vacation Bible School January 23, 24, 25 2024

Sign-up slips will be in the bulletin starting January 13/14



Cyndi Warner will be here January 23,24, & 25, 2024. The topic for this event will be My BE-Attitude. Bulletin inserts and posters will go out the second week of January. We will serve brunch during each session.

Diane Lee, Chairperson



GLORIOUS QUILTERS

Well here we are, welcoming 2024! I always thought that as we grew older the time in our lives would tend to slow down! Well I can't see that happening anytime soon.

Starting January 8th we will again be in our designated stations busy designing, sewing, sandwiching, turning, top stitching and finally tying.

With 2 weeks off all the Ladies will be happy to get back to their Monday schedule, so let the chattering begin. There will be so much news to tell.

Again we invite you to come visit, see what fun we have and maybe just maybe you'll decide to return.

Carol Schock

Please Text me at 503-338-9358



FELLOWSHIP

As we enter this new year, I am more appreciative of the many members who have stepped forward to help with various tasks that need to be done.

The Christmas Bazaar was a huge success, thanks to those of you who made and contributed items to sell, including all the beautiful cookies and candy and breads. We had so many good comments from people who came to our sale about the appearance of the room, the quality of our products and the friendliness of our members. I am so proud of all of you and being a part of this church.

At our Fellowship meeting the second Monday of January, I would like to have input from as many of you as possible as to what needs to be purchased to improve the quality of our Fellowship Hall. This meeting will be held at 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall, and I would like to see any of you who contributed to the Bazaar and helped make the money that we now have to spend on needed items.

Our Potluck in December was a well attended meal; in fact we had to put up extra tables and chairs to accommodate all who were there. It is such a pleasure to see so many people enjoying each others' company and food offerings.

Thank you to all who have contributed cookies and breads to serve at the Fellowship Hours. Because of you, at this time we have a pretty good assortment of cookies in the freezer. But I will definitely call any of you who have offered to bake when I need some more.

Christmas dinner is a special time for all of us who don't have family in Yuma, and we usually have a good attendance. As requested, I will be making the stuffed pork loin as well as turkeys. We have a good committee to prepare the meal and hope we have many of you to enjoy it.

As the annual meeting approaches, I am reminded of the many who perform all the duties it takes to operate our church and the many hours of work dedicated to maintain the programs and the facilities. I am proud to be a part of this group of volunteers.

May the Lord be with you all in the new year, and I look forward to seeing you in Fellowship.

Cheryl Preul, Fellowship Chairman

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

As we begin the new year, many of us reflect on facets of ourselves we can improve. New Year=New Me. We may decide on a New Year's Resolution to assist us with our self-improvement plan: make healthier food choices, exercise more are all-time favorites. Sadly, we all know what happens to those good intentions within a very short time. The deep-rooted old habits begin to take over. Out with the new, in with the old. Maybe time to change our plan?

Christian author Kristen Wetherell suggests focusing our energies on our spiritual growth using Colossians 3.

Live with eternity in mind.

Resolve to flee from sin.

Resolve to pursue holiness.

Resolve to be thankful.

Resolve to read and meditate on the Scriptures.

Resolve to commit to Gloria de Cristo church.

Resolve to worship God through song.

Resolve to aim for the glory of God, giving Him thanks.

Sounds like a lot of change?

Billy Graham helps us with a much simpler view.

“The most important resolution you can make is this: to open your heart and life to Jesus Christ, and commit your life to Him. Don't waste your time on resolutions that don't ultimately matter: resolve instead to live for Christ.”

“Start the New Year off with a sure thing- God's promise to give you a hope and future.” Jeremiah 29:11



PROPERTY



This will likely be the last article from me as Property chair. I have decided not to run for a second term. I have truly enjoyed serving our Lord and the church in this capacity over the past three years. Much has been accomplished. Many have helped and I want to thank each and every one. A good example of that help happened this week when Dave Lester and Brian Suess removed the screens from the windows all around the church and washed them windows and screens. Oh, how they sparkle and shine.

I am sure you have all noticed the yard around the property. Dave Lester sprayed all the weeds and then a week or so later came back and removed all the dead stuff and pulled a drag over the full yard.

A few weeks ago, we mopped and waxed the fellowship hall floor and the classroom thanks to Dave Steinman, Mike Corless and Eric Werner for their assistance. I especially want to thank Eric Werner. Eric started helping me in August. I can't say enough of how I appreciated his skill and dedication to serving the Lord and our church just as I do. Eric is an expert around plants and you can see the results of his work all around the property. The plants have never looked so good.

There were many more volunteers who helped over the past three years. Too many to mention. I just want you to know I appreciated you. I do hope you will give your time and talents to the next Property Chairman as I intend to do. I should now have the time to enjoy the things I planned to do when I retired like fishing, golf and visiting the grand kids while I am still healthy enough to do it.

Wishing all a blessed Christmas and a happy new year,
Dave Donaldson

Have you taken a good look at the property at 11273 E. 40th Street? Yes, this is the home of Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church and from what I see, there has been much accomplished in the past few years with the look of the shrubs, the clean entrance of blown sand on Sunday morning for worship services, improvement in the looks of the plants in the islands of the parking lot and other plant beds. Someone has worked very diligently to make the property look nice for, not only church members, but for guests that have come to participate in activities and worship here. Hats off to whomever is responsible for this!!

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Promote understanding of the human needs and social problems within our congregation, the community, and beyond

Can you believe another year is gone? It has been a busy time for our Social Concerns Committee. The GIFT of HOPE toy/clothing drive for Arizona's Children Association Foster Children Program was a resounding success. a Big THANKS to all for brightening Christmas for Yuma's foster children.

The ELCA's " GOOD GIFTS" program for missions was also very successful. Thanks to Linda Bradshaw for her moving temple talk of her personal experience in Tanzania, Africa and the importance of how a small gift can change lives and bring many blessings. Also, thanks to the volunteers who sat at the table and collected your gifts. It seems like a small project but many hands are involved.

Maybe you can make a New Year's resolution help with the food bank deliveries? You get a chance to see the food bank in action. Let one of our members know and we will be happy to provide some orientation. Your continued generosity of grocery items is a wonderful gift to the hungry of Yuma.

If you had a birthday or anniversary, you probably received a card. This is only possible because members donated cards and our coordinator, Lynette Layton, faithfully sends them. Our office secretary, Char Schomisch, prepares the address list each month. So again, even this seemingly small act is the work of many.

The collection center continues to accept pill bottles without labels, glasses, travel kits, and printer cartridges.

As the last year passes and a new year begins, let's look forward with hope and renewed strength to serve.

Blessings,

Evelyn Trone
928-210-8015

STEWARDSHIP

A friend recently gave me an “old book” entitled Lutheran Customs, published June 1946. To say the least, it was kind of strange to see where we were then and where we are now. Here are a few of the Chapter Titles: Woman’s Place in the Church (with a subparagraph; Her Place), Mixed Marriages, Naming Babies, Dancing, Card Playing, Professional Baseball, Politics, Prose-lytizing and Money.

I thought perhaps that the Money Chapter would provide material for an Evangel issue. The first paragraph of the Chapter begins; “Most of our people have some idea as to what money is. In all languages most people consider this to be the chief difficulty connected with it—it is hard to get.” Money is a gift and blessing of God the same as all other earthly blessings. When it comes to us we must act as God’s stewards.

As we enter 2024 in an ever changing social and monetary climate, we are all affected by rising costs of food, utilities, entertainment, insurances and fuel. You see it on a regular basis. Our church, Gloria de Cristo, has no exemptions from these rising costs. Please remember this, when it comes to us , we must act as God’s stewards.

Remember back in the “Dark Ages” when you started Sunday school and were given a “mite box” to fill with your “extra” pennies.

We also how to help with counting the weekly offerings. It is actually quite simple; you may either leave a message with Char 928.342.6002 in the office or call me directly 717.715.4009, if I don’t answer PLEASE leave a message and I WILL return your call

Please have a Faithful, Healthy and Happy 2024.

Gary Raasch, Stewardship

PS: Certainly not to be overlooked, I want to THANK all of those who volunteered and assisted with the “counting” responsibility in 2023:

>

> Brigitte Arnio, Joanne Ausing, Barbara Blank, Kris Brown, Niki Duffy, Dave Graham, Jan Klipfel, John Nasinec, Cheryl Pruel, Carol Schock and Char Schomisch

Stewardship Projects



800 pair of Underwear for Crossroads



550 Toothbrushes Collected for Crossroads



2000 Shoes for Crossroad Mission



Welcome 2024!! We begin a new year and hope that it is a prosperous one for Gloria de Cristo and for all of God's children.

We have survived the busy Christmas season and I would like to Thank all those that helped with decorating the Sanctuary for Advent and changing everything over to celebrate the birth of our Savior. This includes: Ted/Niki Duffy, Mike/Sandy Corless, Brian Suess, David Donaldson, Gary Raasch, Joanne Ausing (co-chair), Jan Klipfel, Cheryl Preul, Nancy Griffiths, & Kris Brown. There will be a worship assistant schedule coming in the mail shortly, if you haven't already received it and I thank each of you that so willingly help with these tasks to make our services a meaningful experience for our members and guests.

A Blessed New Year to each of you!!
Char Schomisch, Committee Co-Chair



WELCA HAPPENINGS

Typically January is a quiet month for WELCA activities. The Planning Committee met December 13th to discuss the new year's events. Since the Adult Vacation Bible School happens in January, it was decided to schedule the next "Gather" dinner and potluck on Tuesday, February 13th at 5 pm in our Fellowship Hall. More specifics will follow.

Meanwhile, Days for Girls work parties will continue every other Saturday morning beginning January 6th, from 9-1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. A WELCA planning meeting is scheduled January 10th, Wednesday, at 1 pm.

Since the women of the church are all WELCA members, all women are invited to the planning meeting. One of our members has done extensive research on Human Trafficking and how churches are involved in education, prevention and support. As a group, we will be exploring this important topic with a goal of inviting a community expert to speak. Suggestions and input are welcome and valued.

In other news, the installation of this next year's WELCA Board members is expected to take place in January. They are Donna Brown, Mary Zieman, Linda Bryant, Cheryl Preul and Emmy Ryden. I guess January isn't so quiet.

Blessings,

Donna Brown



Mens' Breakfast will meet on the first Saturday of the month at 8am at Daybreakers. Please join us for a time of food and fellowship!!

This next date is January 6, 2024

JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Worship 7:45 & 9:30	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR OFFICE CLOSED	2 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 12 pm Worship Mtg. 1:00 pm Foothills Social	3 8:00 am Staff Meeting 9:30-12 pm Stephen Ministry Class 1:00 & 2:30 pm Chair balancing & Stretching 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	4 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 4 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm TOPS	5 8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation	6 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast at Day-breakers 9AM- 1PM DAYS FOR GIRLS 4:00 pm Worship
7 Worship 7:45 & 9:30 Potluck following 9:30 Food Pantry 12:00 pm GriefShare Fellowship Classroom 1:00 pm Foothills Social	8 9:00 am Glorious Quilters 10 am GriefShare Class, FC 12:30 & 3:00 pm Bible Study, Pastor's home 2 pm Fellowship Mtg	9 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 1:00 pm Foothills Social 4:00 pm Mental Health Ministry	10 8:00 am Staff Meeting 9:30-12 pm Stephen Ministry Class 1:00 & 2:30 pm Chair balancing & Stretching 1 pm WELCA Mtg. 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	11 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 4 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm TOPS	12 8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	13 4:00 pm Worship
14 Worship 7:45 & 9:30 12:00 pm GriefShare Fellowship Classroom 1:00 pm Foothills Social	15 9:00 am Glorious Quilters 10 am GriefShare Class, FC 12:30 & 3:00 pm Bible Study, Pastor's home Fellowship Mtg, 2 pm	16 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 1:00 pm Foothills Social 4:00 pm Exec. Council 4:30 pm Council Meeting	17 8:00 am Staff Meeting 9:30-12 pm Stephen Ministry Class 10:00 am Christian Mindfulness group 1:00 & 2:30 pm Chair balancing & Stretching 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	18 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 1 pm Yard Sale Mtg 4 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm TOPS	19 8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	20 9AM- 1PM DAYS FOR GIRLS 4:00 pm Worship
21 Worship 7:45 & 9:30 12:00 pm GriefShare Fellowship Classroom 1:00 pm Foothills Social	22 9:00 am Glorious Quilters 10 am GriefShare Class, FC 12:30 & 3:00 pm Bible Study, Pastor's home	23 7:00am-9:00am TOPS Adult Vacation Bible Study 1:00 pm Foothills Social	24 8:00 am Staff Meeting Adult Vacation Bible Study 9:30-12 pm Stephen Ministry Class 1:00 & 2:30 pm Chair balancing & Stretching	25 7:00am-9:00am TOPS Adult Vacation Bible study 4 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm TOPS	26 8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	27 4:00 pm Worship
28 Worship 7:45 & 9:30 10:30 AM ANNUAL MTG 12:00 pm GriefShare Fellowship Classroom 1:00 pm Foothills Social	29 9:00 am Glorious Quilters 10 am GriefShare Class, FC 12:30 & 3:00 pm Bible Study, Pastor's home	30 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 1:00 pm Foothills Social	31 8:00 am Staff Meeting 9:30-12 pm Stephen Ministry Class 1:00 & 2:30 pm Chair balancing & Stretching 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	1 February 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 4 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm TOPS	2 8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	3 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast at Day-breakers 4:00 pm Worship

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR JANUARY

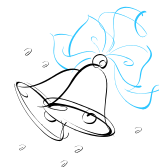
The 2024 Flower Calendar is now up on the wall in the Narthex for those who wish to purchase the Altar Flowers during the year for various reasons. You can find the envelopes to put your money in below the calendar which is located on the west wall. Cost of the flowers thus far remains at \$25.00 for one vase and \$50.00 for both vases. When adding your name to the calendar please print and also put what you would like printed in the bulletin and Evangel beside your name. Thank You for your support!!



DECEMBER JANUARY

1/2	John Gerfen	1/12	Max Jacobs	1/21	Larry Janssen
1/4	JoAnn Munson	1/16	Dave Steinman	1/21	Nancy Kisling
1/4	Delores Heil	1/17	Annie Taylor	1/22	Erik Timm
1/6	Dave Lester	1/18	Lynette Layton	1/25	Joan Olson
1/7	Donna Watkins	1/18	Brian Suess	1/29	Lynda Steinman
1/10	Jim Wehrer	1/20	Nadine Webster	1/31	Jim Hollandsworth
1/10	Rita Kowalski				

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



1/1	Jim & Sherrie Wehrer	1/18	Terry & Sunny Rodgers
1/5	Dennis & Linda Kasin	1/24	Lauren & Janice Erickson
1/8	Harry & Brenda Taylor	1/26	John & Verna Arnold

PROGRAM FOR SENIORS

If you're struggling with money in retirement, there are a few programs and services you can consider. These programs can help with food, medical bills and employment.

The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP):

Provides benefits to low-income Americans to supplement their grocery budget. You have to qualify according to your income and assets. A household with an elderly or disabled person has to meet only the net income limit, which is gross income minus allowable deductions. September 30, 2023, is \$1,215 for a household of one or \$1,644 for a household of two.

If you're eligible, you will receive SNAP benefits on an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, which works like a debit card. Benefits are automatically loaded into your account each month. You can then use your EBT card to buy groceries at authorized food stores and retailers.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture runs the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). Certain low-income people over the age of 60 are eligible for a monthly food package containing vegetables, fruits, cheeses, grains, protein, milk and more.

Medicare Savings Program:

Medicare Savings Programs can help pay your Medicare Part A and B premiums, deductibles, coinsurance and copayments to eligible recipients. You apply for Medicare Savings Programs through your state, and your state will determine which program or programs you qualify for.

To qualify, you must have income and resources below a specific limit. There are four Medicare Savings Programs: The Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) Program, the Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) Program, the Qualifying Individual (QI) Program and the Qualified Disabled and Working Individual (QDWI) Program.

Senior Community Service Employment Program:

If you're struggling with money in retirement and are not disabled, you may be able to work part time. If the cuts have impacted you, part-time work can help supplement your Social Security income. The U.S. Department of Labor runs the Senior Community Service Employment Program. It helps subsidize part-time employment and training in community service positions so older workers can move to unsubsidized, private-sector jobs.

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JANUARY 2024

PASTOR: Bill Timm
ORGANIST: Dr. Shirley Ehler
PIANISTS: Marie Ritten, Lorie Rapp
BELLS OF GLORY: Lorie Rapp
CHOIR: Dr. Shirley Ehler

GriefShare Leaders:
Ted & Nikki Duffy
Lisa Crayne
Mary Marsh
Lynette Layton

Stephen Ministry Leaders:
Pastor Timm
Michelle Cegon
Jim & Sherrie Wehrer

Church Secretary: Char Schomisch

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