



MISSION STATEMENT

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

TO ALL CALLED BY ALMIGHTY GOD TO FOLLOW JESUS INTO MISSION:

"A GOAL WITHOUT A PLAN IS JUST A WISH"

There is a lot of truth in that small sentence. All too often, congregations have wishes about their future, but they do not have a plan. Without a plan, there is no path forward.

For the last year, our 12 member Vision Team has worked for nine days with our consultant, study, pray, and seek God's vision for our ministry here through Gloria de Cristo. What resulted from such a great investment of time, talent, and treasure?

Our Vision Statement As A Congregation

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

Our Values As A Congregation

*Genuine Welcome
Authentic Community
Engaging Worship
Inspired Teaching
Compassionate Generosity*

Our Strategy As A Congregation

*We Will Gather for Weekly Worship
We Will Discover God's Word and Our Identity
We Will Care and Connect for Every Member*

What's Important Now: Action Plan for the First 90 Days of 2023

We will launch two new regular Bible Study opportunities, led by well-equipped lay teachers. Shirley Ehler & Michelle Cegon have volunteered for this!

We will create 3 new small-scale, easy entry points for serving at GdC. Char Schomisch has volunteered for this!

We will obtain professional consultation on how to improve the technical quality of our live-stream and train people how to use it. Kate Harwood has volunteered for this!

We will form a team to personally contact worshippers who have not returned since COVID, invite them back, and return to pre-COVID attendance levels. Sharon Merz has volunteered for this!
During 2023

Over the next 12 months, GdC will be focused on the systematic unveiling, unpacking, and unleashing the vision frame throughout the entire GdC culture. Leaders will meet twice a year to gauge our progress and create opportunities to orient new people to our mission, vision, values, and measures. Ted Duffy and Roger Tracey have volunteered for this!

This covers the first year of vision process. More will be done in years 2 through 5 to help GDC become a multi-generational congregation.

See you in worship!

Pastor Bill Timm

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S DESK



It is 2023 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 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 every-day 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.

-John Arnold



From Dr. Shirley...

Epiphany!! According to the Oxford Dictionary, Epiphany is the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1–12). It is also the festival commemorating the Epiphany on January 6. The word Theophany may be used instead of Epiphany when you are talking about a manifestation of a divine or supernatural being. A prime example is the birth of Jesus—God manifested in the flesh.

Many of us have used the word Epiphany to describe a moment of sudden revelation or insight (whether it is spiritual or not). I am looking for an Epiphany as I study to prepare for some confirmation classes to help Pastor Timm during the next three weeks. Your prayers are appreciated so that the students will see Christ more clearly through the confirmation lessons.

I wonder if Epiphany (a manifestation of Christ) might also be the result of confirmation classes: confirming that the infants' baptism done through the faith of the parents has indeed become a sacrament because the “children” have confirmed their individual belief in the grace offered through Jesus' death and resurrection.

May our “Walking with Jesus to provide new life and hope to every person” provide an Epiphany to our families and community!



FELLOWSHIP



As I look back on my first term as your Fellowship Chairman, I just wanted to share some of my feelings about this job. It has been a rewarding time of service to our very special church and members. It makes it easier serving with the fantastic group of members who serve on our Council. Every one of them has made me feel welcome . And working with Kate, our very efficient secretary, makes all of our jobs so much easier.

As the Fellowship Chairman, I have made so many friends, and every one of them makes me glad that I accepted the job. I feel so good when someone comes up to me and says “I will bake cookies for the freezer”, or “what can I do to help with the dinner” (whether the monthly potluck or Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner), or “I will help clean up” after morning Fellowship hour.

At our monthly Fellowship meeting, we were able to pretty much finalize the plans for the Ladies Luncheon, to be held March 18. Please put that date on your calendar; I think you will really enjoy the program, the luncheon, AND the time spent with your fellow members. We had a great crowd for the Thanksgiving dinner, and we had an equally good crowd for Christmas Day dinner. Everyone I call is more than willing to make their special dish to share, and they are also willing to change if we have too many people bringing one dish and I need something else.

I hope that each and every one of you had a blessed Christmas and an equally blessed New Year. Let’s all take care of and help each other.

Yours in Fellowship,
Cheryl Preul, Chairman

Learn to look for joy everywhere you go. When your many troubles are giving you a giant headache remember that the iron crown of suffering precedes the golden crown of glory — that’s what we’ll wear on that glorious day when we’ll be in heaven jumping for joy with our heavenly Father!

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

End of Year Financial information will be available in the Annual Report.
They will be available for pickup on Sunday January 15th.



2 options:

Sunday afternoons, beginning January 8th
From 1:30 pm-3:30 pm
in the Fellowship Hall Classroom

Monday mornings, beginning January 9th
from 10am-12 pm
in the Fellowship Hall Classroom

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR JANUARY

1/1

1/8

1/15 Dave and Lynda Steinman in honor of Dave's 80th Birthday.

1/22

1/29



MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

The Mental Health Ministry Team meets monthly on the first Tuesday at 4:00 PM via Zoom or in person in the Fellowship Hall Classroom. Members include Robin Marlatt (Team Leader), Michelle Cegon, Jean Gerfen, Erica McKissack, Mike Rosenberg, Emmy Ryden, Pastor Bill Timm, Evelyn Trone, and Jeanie Volpe (secretary). Over the past several years, we have shared Mental Health articles in the monthly *Evangel* and also as inserts in the weekly bulletin about many different types of mental health issues, how to cope with them, and where to find information, facts, myths, and societal views concerning mental health. We have a bulletin board display in the Narthex and a rolling bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. We welcome new members. Please consider joining us.

The following are **Crisis Hot Lines** in the country, Arizona, and in Yuma County.

National 24-Hour *Crisis Hotlines* · 988 Suicide & *Crisis* Lifeline: 988 (call or text)

24/7 Crisis Line - Arizona - Crisis Response Network

<https://crisis.solari-inc.org> › *Get Help*

24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year *Arizona* Statewide. 1-844-534-HOPE Central *Arizona* (TTY). 1-800-327-9254

The *NurseWise crisis line* is available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week by calling 866-495-6735.

National Substance Use and Disorder Issues Referral and Treatment Hotline: 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

The Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline (800.272. 3900) is available around the clock, 365 days a year. Through this free service, specialists and master's-level clinicians offer confidential support and information to people living with dementia, caregivers, families and the public.

[National Hotline for Mental Health Crises and Suicide ... - NAMI](https://www.nami.org)

<https://www.nami.org> › *Responding-to-Crises*

Since 2004, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (Lifeline) has been accessible nationwide by dialing 800-273-TALK (8255)

**Caregiver Support Group and Mindfulness/Cristian Mediation Group
both at Gloria de Cristo call (928) 342-6002**

Memorial for Sandy Raasch

A memorial service for Sandy Raasch will be on
Friday, January 13th at 10:00 am.

OUTREACH

There is not a lot going on at this moment but a few events have happened. We participated in the Welcome Back Bash and saw a lot of people praise God. We passed out a lot of flyers and had a great time. We have had a couple of highway cleanups over by Daybreakers and should have another one coming up on the 14th of this month at 0800 am. Lots of fun come help.

We are also getting ready for the yard sale. Should have a kickoff meeting this month also. Watch for the bulletin for schedule.

Hope everyone had a great holiday season and Happy New Year!!!

Joe Johnson



Annual Congregational Meeting Reminder

The Annual Congregational meeting will be held Sunday January 29, 2023 in the fellowship hall. As in years past a light lunch will be provided for all attendees. There will be a form in upcoming bulletins to register if you wish to attend, your choice of lunch. **Please plan on attending.**

Lunch will be served at 10:30 am and meeting will begin at 11am.



PROPERTY



By now I am sure most everyone has known that I have been recovering from surgery on my carotid artery. Glad to have that behind me. I feel fine and have reassumed normal activities. Even though I was out of service, several projects were accomplished thanks to the wonderful volunteers here at GDC. Land scaping around the pillars, light bulbs, weeds sprayed, trimming of the bushes and the dragging of the front. Thanks to Dave and Carolyn Lester and Gary Raasch for all your help. Thank you also to Brian Suess and Dave Lester for washing all the windows just in time for Christmas Eve worship! Thanks to all the volunteers who give their time and talents to serve the church. I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a blessed Happy New Year!

Dave Donaldson

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Happy New Year. Hope your Christmas was a happy and health one. For social concerns Christmas was blest with bountiful gifts. The December food donations to the food bank yielded 164 pounds of food. The toy and clothing drive for Arizona's Children Association Foster Children program filled a camper truck to the roof. December "Good Gifts" raised \$1224.00 for the purchase of animals, Bibles, and scholarships for missions. members dug deep and deserve a big THANK YOU.

Pastor announced the opportunity to prepare food to assist during the immigration crisis. At this writing details are not known but stay tuned. We have 14 volunteers so far!

The collection center continues to accept donations.

Our committee needs members please contact me, Evelyn Trone, at etrone1@msn.com or 928-210-8015. Your ideas and support are needed. We meet the first Monday of each month at 1:00 PM.

Again, thank you for your generosity.

Blessing,

Evelyn

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

As each received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied gifts.



WELCA AT GLORIA DE CRISTO LUTHERAN CHURCH

Happy New Year to you all. Blessings have rained upon Gloria De Cristo throughout 2022 with financial, fellowship and most importantly, spiritual growth. For the Women of the ELCA at Gloria De Cristo, that growth has been realized through generous donations, regular work parties, worship and prayer. Most recently, the December Gather Potluck on December 13th reflected worship in the Devotion and prayer in the Call to Dinner as well as the many Carols shared among those attending.

Most likely, WELCA Planning will include more fellowship and more work parties. For January, a couple traveling from San Diego to Sun City West, plan to stop at Gloria De Cristo on the morning of the 23rd. More details to follow in the Church Bulletin. They are involved with Days For Girls, traveling to countries presenting the kits, educating women and young girls in how to use, and helping the recipients to sew and sell Days For Girls kits to others. From what we are learning, this process of sewing and selling helps establish financial security permitting purchase of water, food, medicine and education. Our next Days For Girls work party is planned for Saturday, January 7th in the Fellowship Hall, from 9-1 pm.

The next WELCA Planning meeting will most likely be held on January 4th in the Nursery room at 3:45 pm. Please consider joining us to help plan events for 2023. All ideas and suggestions are needed and most welcome. Thank you for making 2022 one very special year,

Again, Happy New Year,

Donna Brown

WORSHIP & MUSIC



As we begin a new year let each of us live out our new mission statement... 'Walking with Jesus to bring new life and hope to every person'.

Invite those who don't know Jesus to worship with you

Consider taking part in one of the bible study's offered at Gdc

Volunteer in an area of interest for needed tasks.

Consider joining one of the committees

If media is your thing, there are areas in need of help

Pray about it and follow God's lead!

New schedules for worship assistants have been distributed. If you didn't get one and would like to be a part of making worship services a good experience for those attending, contact Char Schomisich at to volunteer.

Char Schomisich, Committee Chair

Youth and Education



Adult Vacation Bible School will be on January 24th, 25th, and 26th 2023, featuring our favorite speaker, Cyndi Warnier. The topic for this year is The Creation Station. This event is free and signup sheets will be in the bulletin the weekend of January 14th.

The Youth Book Sale is scheduled for March 10th and 11th 2023. The funds generated will go to send eligible youth members to the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering. Book donations will be accepted any time from now until the day of setup on March 9th. Please drop them off at the church office during office hours.

All Committees can use additional members as we focus on the tasks to be done and the decisions to be made that benefit the entire Gloria de Christo family and our community. Please consider volunteering your time and talents.

Diane Lee, Chairperson

PERSONAL VISITATION BY PASTOR ..

To support people at the time of illness or injury, Pastor and other members do make personal visits in the hospital, homes, and Care Centers. Hospitals and Care Centers do not notify us that you are there. Please call if you want us to know. Do not hesitate to call the church office at 342-6002, if you have not seen Pastor and would like a visit. After hours, please leave a message on the church answering machine. We ask your permission before we include your name on our printed prayer list.

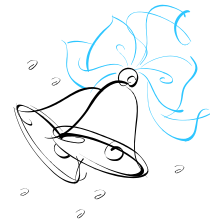
(Fellow members are also encouraged to let the church office know if someone is in the hospital!)



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	John Gerfen	10	Carol Henshaw	21	Paul Gross
4	JoAnn Munson	10	Jim Wehrer	21	Larry Janssen
5	Dee Heil	11	Rita Kowalski	21	Nancy Kisling
5	Adell Pfeifer	12	Max Jacobs	22	Erik Timm
5	John Schey	16	Dave Steinman	25	Joan Olson
6	Jim Dean	17	Jan O'Donnell	27	Carolyn Thorene
6	Dave Lester	17	Annie Taylor	29	Ed Akridge
9	Joyce Lombard	18	Lynette Layton	29	Lynda Steinman
9	Donna Watkins	18	Brian Suess	31	Jim Hollandsworth
10	Doug Harwood	20	Nadine Webster		

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



1/1	Jim & Sherrie Wehrer	1/18	Terry & Sunnee Rodgers
1/3	Fabian & Teresa Perez	1/21	Bernie & Betty House
1/5	Dennis & Linda Kasin	1/24	Lauren & Janice Erickson
1/8	Harry & Brenda Taylor	1/26	John & Verna Arnold

Welcome...New Members



Janice Erickson

Associate Member

I was born July 29, 1950, in Port Angeles, WA. I grew up in Portland, ND where I met my husband Lauren in 8th grade. We were married in 1970 and live on a farm. I worked and retired from Luther Memorial Home Medical records department. We have 4 children. My parents lived in Citrus City near Wellton for 19 years. All of my siblings are now living either full or part time in Arizona, 3 of us in Yuma.

Lauren Erickson

Associate Member

I was born July 12, 1950, in Portland, ND. I grew up in rural Portland where I met the love of my life, Janice and we have been married for 53 years on January 24, 2023. I graduated from college, NDSU, went to work for White Farm Equipment and did 6 years in the National Guard. I came back home to farm in 1976 when my father retired, and I am still farming part time with my brother. We enjoy all our time in Yuma with friends and neighbors and spend lots of time on our side by sides in the desert.

Caleb Gordy

Member

Born in Cleveland Tennessee, September 8, 1987. Born into a military family and spent the majority of life moving around from state to state and overseas. When my Father retired from the Navy, we settled outside of Nashville, Tennessee. As a teenager and young adult, I spent much time playing music, and took formal percussion lessons for several years. While living in TN, I met Heather Halbert. We were teenagers but would eventually marry. During these years, my family started a granite business, and I worked as a contractor fabricating and installing granite for homes and businesses. In 2010 I joined the Marine Corps and worked in Aviation Maintenance. Altogether throughout the years have lived in California, Illinois, Maryland, South Carolina, Italy, Japan. Have worked in the Philippines and South Korea. In 2012 I married Heather, soon after we were sent to Okinawa. After 3 years we went back to TN, and I began my college studies in Aviation Maintenance Management. I continued my career with the military which brought us to Yuma in 2020. I have an older brother who lives in North Carolina and an older sister who lives in Illinois. The rest of our family currently lives in Tennessee, Georgia, Texas, West Virginia, and DC. We have 4 nephews and 3 nieces.

Heather Gordy

Member

Born in West Virginia, March 31, 1989. Lived there in a small town along the Ohio river until about age 11. I have 2 sisters, one older and one younger. Around 2001, my father moved us to just outside Nashville, TN. While in high school I met Caleb Gordy and we married later on. After graduating high school and beginning college, I moved back to West Virginia to live with my Grandparents. By that time Caleb was in the Marine Corps, I was working on college classes and working as a Pharmacy Technician. We married in 2012 and right away were sent to Okinawa. While there I joined the Christian faith for the first time in my adulthood. I was baptized in 2015 in the East China Sea. When it was time to move, we went back to TN. At that time Caleb worked on his college studies and I began working in Property Management. Caleb continued his career in the military which brought us to Yuma in 2020. I went back to school in 2021 for Early Childhood Education and enjoy work as a preschool teacher at a faith-based school here in the foothills. The rest of our family currently lives in Tennessee, Illinois, North Carolina, Georgia, Texas, West Virginia, and DC. We have 4 nephews and 3 nieces, all between the ages of 11 months and 15 years.

Bob Hall**Member**

I was born on February 18, 1947. I was baptized and raised a Lutheran in Wisconsin. In 1980 I relocated and lived in Colorado for 7 years. I then relocated and lived in Arizona for a total of 20 years in the Phoenix area. I retired as a OTR truck driver in 2011. I married my wife, Mary, on November 24, 2017. We were RVing fulltime until last October when we settled in Yuma. We have a blended family of 5 children 5 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter.

Bill Kowalski**Member**

Born in Bowmont, ID in 1940. Moved to Chester, OK with my mother and younger brother in 1943. Then to Sioux City, Iowa. I was in the Army during the Vietnam era, stationed at the East German border as a master tank mechanic. Lived in Omaha, NE until 1978. Discovered I had 4 younger half brothers and 2 half-sisters, so I moved back to Boise, ID. I worked Refrigeration and HVAC from 1964 to 2002, when I retired. I have 5 children, 3 girls and 2 boys with my first wife and in 1986 married Rita who also has 5 children. Moved to Yuma in 2011 after being winter visitors since 2002. My favorite sports are fishing and motorcycles, I've done both my whole life.

Rita Kowalski**Member**

I was born in Whitefish, MT in 1944. My sister and I were raised in the Presbyterian church. I started dancing as a child, ballet, tap and acrobatics. Moved to Seattle after graduating taught Ballroom dancing at Fred Astaire Studios until I married. I have 5 children, 3 girls and 2 boys. I married Bill, who also has 5 children, in 1986 and moved to Boise. I worked as a budget accountant for City of Boise other and then MicronTech for 18 years and retired in 2003. I learned to ride motorcycles from Bill. We've spent many years traveling all over the country. We've been in all 50 states; 49 of them on our motorcycles. Also, across Canada and into Mexico. Started coming to Yuma in 2002, bought property in the Foothills in 2006 and moved here permanently in 2011. We have 24 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.

Leith Patnaude**Member**

I was born in Marblehead Massachusetts on April 12, 1947. Marblehead is the birthplace of the American Navy and was founded in the early 1600's. I grew up with the ocean in my back yard and I still listen for the sound of the foghorn. My paternal grandparents were Orthodox Jewish immigrants from Lithuania; my maternal grandparents were Roman Catholic immigrants from Nova Scotia. I grew up going to the church and synagogue as a child. I was finally baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran church when I was 16. I graduated from the University of California with a dual degree in economics and philosophy and have done post graduate work at Harvard. I have had the opportunity to travel and work extensively throughout the US, Mexico, and Europe. I settled in Yuma with my life partner a little over a year ago and I love the warmth and graciousness extended to me by members of Gloria de Cristo.

Lorie Rapp**Member**

Lorie was born on July 31, 1951, in Sumner, Iowa. She lived in the tiny town of Tripoli, Iowa from her birth till April 2005 when she and her 1st husband Jerry moved to Niniichik, Alaska. She lived there until July 2011, when Jerry passed away. A new adventure brought her to Yuma. In October 2017 a mutual friend introduced Lorie to her 2nd husband, Jerry. They married on January 19, 2019. Sadly, it was his passing on November 15, 2021 that led her to GriefShare and Gloria de Cristo. She has attended 4 sessions of GriefShare and through her facilitators has found a wonderful friendly, loving family at Gloria de Cristo. She has joined the choir and assisted Dr. Shirley at the piano. She would enjoy learning more about the bible. She has 3 children, 1 stepdaughter, 9 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, and 1 more great grandchild on the way.

Emmy Ryden**Member**

Emmy was born September 29, 1953, in a suburb of Minneapolis, "Minnesnowta." She was baptized at Gethsemane Lutheran Church and confirmed there in 1969. Her family was involved in church and volunteerism in their community. She went off to college in Claremont, California. She returned to Minnesota to graduate with a master's degree in clinical psychology. She enjoyed her career as both a counselor and a teacher for 40 years at Metropolitan State University. She married and attended Episcopal church with her "dyed in the wool" Episcopalian husband. In 2004, they moved to Port Ludlow, WA where her husband served as county commissioner for 8 years. She's been single since 2015 and blissfully retired since 2016. About a year ago she came to Yuma as a "snowbird," but has happily become a resident of AZ.

Linda Strand**Associate Member**

I was born and raised in the Fargo, ND area. I spent 37 years working in the medical field in ophthalmology. I have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. I moved to Yuma after I retired where I now live full time and each winter, I am blessed to be joined by my 2 sisters and 1 brother.

Sandy Timm**Member**

I was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, the third of six children. I have two children and five grandchildren. I have been coming to Yuma to visit my brother and his wife since June 2020. After visiting for many times over the past two years, I decided to make Yuma my home. Pastor Timm and I were married July 31 this year. We feel blessed to be together after many years of being single and are enjoying our new life together

Donna Watkins**Member**

I was born in Blythe, Ca and have spent all my life living in the southwestern states. I have 2 children, a daughter, and a son. My son encouraged me to find a nice local church to lift me up. I have worked most of my life in the medical field and am currently retired but work from home as a medical coder to supplement my income. I am single/divorced and happy with my new life. I love animals and am currently looking for a new dog since I recently lost my longtime companion dog. Even though my life's work has been in the traditional medical arena, I have an interest in Natural healing, herbs and medicinal plants and gardening. I make my own herbal tea blends and even some of my own medicinal tinctures and salves as my hobby. I was baptized in the Church of Christ in my thirties and have explored many religions out of curiosity, however, I never found what I was searching for until now. I am so grateful that God never gives up on you. I am so happy to have found my church family at Gloria de Cristo. I feel so welcomed and encouraged here with so many ways to give back and to socialize with other Christians.

Keith Whitmore**Member**

I was born in Portland, OR on May 26, 1950. I lived in Oregon until 2010 and then moved to Idaho. I have 2 children, a daughter who lives in Phoenix and a son that lives in Oregon. They have blessed me with 5 grandchildren. I was a general contractor most of my career until I retired in 2010. I have been coming south since 2001 to enjoy the sun. I also go to San Felipe for a couple of months every year. I have now made Yuma my full time home, other than a few months when it gets too hot and I head for cooler places.

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JANUARY 2023

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ORGANIST: Dr. Shirley Ehler
PIANISTS: Marie Ritten & Jean Abel
BELLS OF GLORY: Kay Lee Grunst

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

Church Secretary: Kate Harwood
A/V Technician: Brennen Harwood

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VICE PRESIDENT: John Arnold
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OUTREACH: Joe Johnson
PROPERTY: Dave Donaldson
SOCIAL CONCERNS: Evelyn Trone
STEWARDSHIP: Gary Raasch
WORSHIP & MUSIC: Char Schomisch