



MISSION STATEMENT

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

TO ALL CALLED TO FOLLOW JESUS:

***The Power of the Pew* (Portions/quotes from an article from *THE ECONOMIST*, March 4, 2-23)**

Places with high religious participation suffer fewer deaths of despair.

"In 2015 Ann Case and Angus Deaton published a landmark paper on death rates in America. The economists found that mortality had been rising among middle-aged whites, thanks to a surge in drug overdoses, alcohol-related illness, and suicides—causes they deemed "deaths of despair".

"Another paper bolsters the case that deaths of despair stem in part from weakening social ties. It shows that the mortality from these causes... stopped falling around 1990—well before the rise of opioid use."

"What changed at that time? The authors studied attendance at worship services. They found that states with more participation had fewer deaths of despair, and that the faster religious attendance fell in a state, the more such death."

"A paper in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 2020 also showed that of 110,000 health workers, those who went to services were less likely to die from these causes."

"Strikingly, the study that private prayer was not linked to lower deaths of despair. This suggests that the risk reduction comes not from belief, but rather from the inter-personal connections that organized religion provides."

"Although secular groups like charities or labor unions also produce such 'social capital', the Journal of the American Medical Association authors say that faith-based networks provide unusually potent protections."

(con't.)

Pastor's Discretionary Fund Expenditures

Gas Vouchers \$500; Frys Cards \$550; Crossroads Mission Emergency Appeal \$3,000; Lutheran World Relief to resettle Ukrainian Farmers in reclaimed areas \$2,000.

Quote from a member who came for aid for a non-member: "Thank you for your help today. He was so grateful to receive the gift cards. I am glad to belong to a healthy and giving church. Thank you!"

God has blessed others through your Generosity!

A/V System Update (Installation scheduled in September)

Because of your generosity, \$ 126,101 has been given. The project cost is \$136,000. Yet needed: \$ 9,899.00

May God continue to bless your generosity for all gifts small and great!

See you in worship!

Pastor Bill Timm



FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

It is hard to believe that it's already September and soon Yuma will once again become the winter home for many people escaping the cold weather in the north. Our church is a welcoming place to worship, make friends and hear God's Word.

We need to be mindful of new neighbors and invite them to worship and be part of our family at Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church. I am sure that is how many of us came to be members and associate members of this congregation. It only takes a moment to ask if someone attends a local church and if not then ask if they would like to attend worship with you at our church. Many will not ask about a church but if you extend your hand it breaks the ice and good things will happen. It only takes a few kind words to share your faith with others.

"I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the House of the Lord' " (Psalm 122:1, KJV).

Hello, Friends! What a topsy-turvy world surrounds us, but we at Gloria de Cristo know that when we gather for corporate worship we are blessed with the beauty, correction, and grace of God in word, song, and sacrament.

"What happened this week?" you may ask. We had a wonderful blessing and opportunity to learn! I very much appreciate the congregational spirit of willingness to try "I Can Only Imagine" as the hymn of the day. Thank you to Pastor Jack for changing directions and thank you to whomever suggested "Away In a Manger." Once again, God was honored with praise, and we were blessed to be in His presence.

Summer here in Yuma has been hot and windy, but meeting with you in Gloria de Cristo each week is refreshing and encouraging. Those of you who have traveled away are missed, and we look forward to your return. Then, together, we can say "Let us go into the House of the Lord."

PERSONAL VISITATION BY PASTOR ..

To support people at the time of illness or injury, Pastor and Stephen Ministers 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!)

YOUTH AND EDUCATION



Very soon it will be fall and the Youth and Education Committee will be ramping up for another season of events. Please consider serving on this committee or any other committee that can use your God given time and talents.

Diane Lee, Chairperson

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	Year to date		2023 Budget
	2022	2023	
Revenue	\$196,403	\$198,837	\$395,928
Expense	<u>\$190,811</u>	<u>\$193,716</u>	
Net Increase	\$ 5,592	\$ 5,121	
IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE	5214	5582	
ON-LINE CONNECTIONS	3187	3535	
ADDITONAL PERSONS	751	864	

FELLOWSHIP



Despite the intense heat, things are going well with Fellowship after church on Sunday. We still have people who wish to spend time together, and they have also been helpful in taking on some of the clean up activities. We had so much sand in the Fellowship Hall on Monday morning after the Sunday winds that the quilting ladies spent a couple of hours cleaning it up.

The cookie supply is dwindling and we will soon need to have some more cookies; hopefully the weather will cool down some so we are comfortable turning the oven on.

Our work parties on Thursday mornings continue, and we have been working on various projects for the Bazaar. We still welcome anyone who has some ideas for projects and would be willing to come and share them with us. We meet the second and fourth Thursday morning from 9 to noon.

I am looking forward to the potluck on the first Sunday in September. Can't believe it is already September. We had a great turnout for the August potluck, and the dessert table was laden with goodies.

Looking forward to our members returning soon. My prayers are for all of you who are traveling.

Cheryl Preul, Fellowship Chairman



GLORIOUS QUILTERS

September is upon us and not much has changed.

The Glorious Quilting Ladies are hard at it getting more and more quilts finished so that they can be distributed to those who need. Speaking of those who need, if you know of someone who is struggling in their life or just needs a little lift up give me a text and we'll do our best to get them a quilt. It's just nice to know someone cares about you and you're not alone.

I, we, do have a request of any of you that may have a Thrivent grant. The quilters could sure use you help. Yes most of our fabric is donated but it seems there is always fabric to purchase, not to mention the batting that is sandwiched between the fabrics. So in advance let us Thank You for your help. Any questions give me a text.

So I let the Ladies know that from Jan to July 31st they had made 399 quilts and given away 328. These 399 quilts do not include the 40 Christmas quilts made for the Foster Children. They took the month of May off to make 48 Pillowcase Dresses for the little girls in Africa. So actually that's 439 quilts in 5 months!!!

I'm so very PROUD of each and every one of these Ladies

Hot at home, need someone to talk to? Come join us in all the fun -and it's cool in the Fellowship hall!

In God's holy name we play

Carol Schock 503-338-9358

Please text



MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

The current members of the Mental Health Ministry Team are: *Leader Robin Marlatt, Michelle Cegon, Jean Gerfen, Mike Rosenberg, Emmy Ryden, Pastor Bill Timm, Evelyn Trone, and MHM secretary, Jeanie Volpe.* The purpose of this team is to give information and guidance in the well-being of one's mental health. Over the last few months our articles have shared information regarding how your physical health is connected to your mental health.

We are fortunate that we can offer classes here at Gloria de Cristo that teach ***Mindfulness Techniques, Support for Caregivers,*** and ***Stretching and Balance*** movements that strengthen your body which then aids in the calming of mental stress. When your body is healthy, your mind is healthier.

Mindfulness Class will resume this fall on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall Classroom. This class uses bible scriptures and relaxation techniques to calm the mind. (Start date will be announced in church bulletins.)

Caregiver Support Group will resume on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall classroom. This class gives kind and caring support to people who are living with or working with a loved one who needs special care. It is helpful to share with others who can relate to your situation. (Start date will be announced in church bulletins.)

Stretch/Balance Chair Class meets every Wednesday at 2:30 in the Fellowship Hall. More classes may be added this fall. This class uses chairs to give you support while learning movements that teach balance. **Stretch Bands are used during the activity so please remember to bring them to class.** As we age our bodies tend to weaken and we lose balance which causes dangerous falls. Being stronger physically will aid in less fear and mental stress when walking, climbing stairways, and navigating unfamiliar walkways.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

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

The Social Concerns committee is planning to celebrate birthdays at Rose Garden Assisted Living. Rose Garden has 8 residents. There are 2 birthdays in September. We also would like to offer a monthly game day. We invite members who are interested in participating in this ongoing project to contact Evelyn Trone, Barb Blank, or Carol Shock.

September 10 is the 10th anniversary of "Gods Work Or Hands" an ELCA Synod day of service. This year we are going to ask for donations to the Pediatric Cancer Fund sponsored by the Foundation of YRMC. YRMC does not provide pediatric cancer treatment but does help families with travel, food and lodging for families with children who need to travel for cancer treatment. Please write your check to Gloria de Cristo and on the bottom of the check designate you're offering for the Pediatric Cancer Fund. This way we can write 1 check and you will get a tax-deductible donation from GDC.

In August we collected 151 lbs. of food for the food bank. Thank you for your continued help.

We're continuing to collect pill bottles, printer cartridges, travel kits, and greeting cards. We no longer collect magazines or aluminum tabs.

Convoy Of Hope will be hosting a community event in November. They are asking for the participation of community churches to help with : packing and distributing groceries, overseeing activities for kids, guiding guests to available resources to non-profits, preparing and serving food, praying with and guiding guests, connecting them to local churches. Stay tuned for more information and if you are interested in participating contact me at 928-210-8015.

Blessings,

Evelyn Trone

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

As each received a gift, use it to serve one another, as stewards of Gods varied gifts



STEPHEN MINISTRY

WHAT IS STEPHEN MINISTRY? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Stephen Ministry has been a key part of Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church since the fall of 2003.

Stephen Ministry brings 50 hours of training in Christian caregiving to you so that you can better care for people in need in the congregation and in the community.

Gloria de Cristo covers the cost of the training material.

HOW CAN GOD USE STEPHEN MINISTRY IN MY LIFE?

Stephen Ministers add to the pastor's ministry in the church and community and provides even more care to those who need it.

You will personally benefit from being trained as a Stephen Minister. You will learn many skills that will be valuable in your personal life as well as in your Stephen Ministry.

You will have the satisfaction of helping another person and that is a wonderful blessing.

IS IT NORMAL TO WONDER IF GOD CAN REALLY USE ME AS A STEPHEN MINISTER?

It is completely normal! Our experiential training will eliminate much of this fear and questioning because you will not only learn what to say but also, and more importantly, how to listen.

No one is too old to be trained as a Stephen Minister. It is a life changing experience!

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Call the office at 928-342-6002.

You are wanted and needed!



PROPERTY



Even though it has been very hot here in Yuma and we try to work inside as much as we can, there is still outdoor issues that seem to pop up that need repair.

The wind always seems to be a problem. The silt fence that we installed has been a God send. I have far less sand to move than before. The wind has been so strong that it ripped the fabric in a couple places. I will repair if I can.

I have been battling sand blowing in under the doors in the fellowship hall and the narthex. Char ordered special sweeps, and I installed them on the doors. We will see if that helps to stop the sand blowing

Hope you are all having a safe and pleasant summer and return to us this fall safely.

Dave Donaldson



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 month– September 2nd



People who are experiencing mourning, sorrow and grief due to the death of a person close to them need tools to help them find their way back to their less painful life.

GriefShare is a 13 week program that can equip group members with those tools through the faith based, professionally produced material that is presented by our team, who are experienced, both in grief and in relating with the grieving.

We are preparing to start the fall cycle of weekly meetings with two groups. One will meet each Sunday at noon for about 2 hours for 13 weeks, beginning September 17th and the other will meet on Mondays at 10am, again for about 2 hours, beginning September 18th. Both classes will be in the Fellowship Hall Classroom. The meetings consist of a short video that was created by professionals, with excellent information and suggestions related to understanding one's grief and how to navigate through it. There is group discussion, which provides much needed and very valuable mutual support among members. There is also a workbook which helps guide folks through activities the rest of the week to help handle daily processing of grief.

There is a \$25 fee for the workbook, with some scholarships available.

We need not feel like we are alone in grief and this program is a way to assist folks to return to a fulfilling life. With the help of God and others who care, we can walk the path of grief and emerge with a new perspective.

Go online to griefshare.org click on find a group and register, or contact the church office to register.

GriefShare Leaders:

Mary Marsh
Ted and Niki Duffy



WELCA HAPPENINGS

Through the summer months at Gloria de Cristo, the congregation, a variety of activities are offered including Quilters, Craft Days, Foothills Social, Days for Girls and Committee meetings.

For the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church or WELCA, the continued summer focus is on Days For Girls Work Parties occurring every other Saturday morning. Some of the fun involves establishing and meeting our own goals. Gloria de Cristo's Days for Girls serves as a provider of all components to the "kit." The components then go to our sponsor church, Lord of Life Lutheran in Sun City West where they are assembled and shipped to the national organization for distribution to many countries. Those of us who attended last October's conference in Carefree, AZ, were able to participate in assembling the kits and witnessing their Blessing. The experience inspired us to continue the work and to continue to invite all our WELCA women to help. (Men, too).

During this month, WELCA has the opportunity to attend the National WELCA Triennial held in Phoenix this year. The Theme is "JUST LOVE" and the dates are September 21-24, 2023 Check the Grand Canyon Synod's WELCA link to register.

Soon, our beloved winter visitors will return filling our pews and various activities. Remember Mom and Dad saying, "the older you get, the faster time goes by." Seems to be the truth. And so saying, please consider joining us every other Saturday morning – you are needed.

Blessings to you all,

Donna Brown



Labor Day already? Where has the year gone? The good part of that is that our church family will expand in the coming months as those that jump ship for the hot months in Yuma will be heading back our way! Hallelujah!

I have sent out the fall/winter schedule to those that are here and will get the rest out as I see their faces in worship. Thank you so much for being a part of the worship experience at Gloria de Cristo. You are very much appreciated!

Char Schomisch, Worship Co-Chair

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR SEPTEMBER



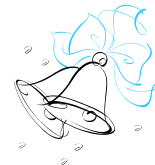
- 3 Jim & Margie Hollandsworth in celebration of their 54th Anniversary
- 10 Brigette Arnio in memory of Arnie's 82nd birthday
Shirley Ehler in memory of John's 59th birthday
- 17 Dave & Lynda Steinman in celebration of their 59th Anniversary
- 24 Marijan & Judy Petrovic in memory of family



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Calvin Bakke | 8 Gloria Bishop | 20 Joanne Ausing |
| 2 Sandra Corless | 8 Jerry Randby | 21 George Alcaraz |
| 2 David Olson | 10 Jan Pfundheller | 22 Sally White |
| 2 Linda Strand | 11 Mary Hall | 25 Marge Jones |
| 5 Danielle Johnson | 12 Earl Marlatt | 25 Sharon Peterson |
| 6 Bonnie Doll | 12 Sharon Merz | 29 Brennen Harwood |
| 6 William Thomas | 14 Joann Larsen | 29 Emmy Ryden |
| 7 Lanna Gosage | 16 Shirley Schafter | 30 Bob Eggert |
| 7 Mary Zieman | 18 Mary Ann Chroninger | 30 Paul Ehler |

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 Byron & Camille Oliver | 17 Ian & Eliza Johnson |
| 5 Jim & Margie Hollandsworth | 21 Darus & Sally White |
| 9 Rick & Bev Theroux | 23 Brian & Janis Suess |
| 10 Brent & Jan Pfundheller | 26 Dave & Lynda Steinman |
| 12 Roland & Linda Anderson | 28 Roger & Joanne Friz |
| 14 Doug & Kate Harwood | |

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 8:00 am- Men's Breakfast at Daybreakers 9AM- 1PM DAYS FOR GIRLS
3 Worship 9:30 POTLUCK & FOOD COL-LECTION 1:00 pm Foothills Social	4 Labor Day OFFICE IS CLOSED	5 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 1:00 pm Foothills Social 4:00 pm Mental Health Ministry	6 8:00 am Staff Meeting 2:30 pm Chair balancing & Stretching 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	7 7:00am-9:00am TOPS	8 8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	9
10 Worship 9:30 1:00 pm Foothills Social	11 9:00 am Glorious Quilters 1:30 pm Fellowship Meeting	12 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 1:00 pm Foothills Social	13 8:00 am Staff Meeting 2:30 pm Chair balancing & Stretching 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	14 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 9-1 Bazaar Workshop	15 8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	16 9AM- 1PM DAYS FOR GIRLS
17 Worship 9:30 12:00 pm GriefShare Class Begins, Fellowship Classroom 1:00 pm Foothills Social	18 9:00 am Glorious Quilters 10 am GriefShare Class Begins, FC	19 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 1:00 pm Foothills Social 4:00 pm Executive Council 4:30 pm Council Meeting	20 8:00 am Staff Meeting 2:30 pm Chair balancing & Stretching 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	21 7:00am-9:00am TOPS	22 8:00am TOPS 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	23
24 Worship 9:30 12:00 pm GriefShare, Fellowship Classroom 1:00 pm Foothills Social	25 9:00 am Glorious Quilters 10 am GriefShare, Fellowship Classroom	26 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 1:00 pm Foothills Social	27 8:00 am Staff Meeting 2:30 pm Chair balancing & Stretching 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	28 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 9-1 Bazaar Workshop	29 8:00am TOPS 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	30 9AM- 1PM DAYS FOR GIRLS

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SEPTEMBER 2023

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

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

Church Secretary: Char Schomisch
A/V Technician: Michelle Cegon

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Sharon Merz
VICE PRESIDENT: John Arnold
SECRETARY: Jackie Tracey
TREASURER: Terre Munk

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS:

EDUCATION: Diane Lee
FELLOWSHIP: Cheryl Preul
OUTREACH: Joe Johnson
PROPERTY: Dave Donaldson
SOCIAL CONCERNS: Evelyn Trone
STEWARDSHIP: Gary Raasch
WORSHIP & MUSIC: Char Schomisch