



MISSION STATEMENT

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

TO FELLOW FOLLOWERS OF JESUS!


4 Things to Remember as We Close Out 2024

- 1) *The last New Member Class of 2024*** for people wanting to become **members or associate members will begin on Sunday, December 1st** after the 9:30 am worship service in the Fellowship Hall Classroom. The class will meet for 3 Sundays, and New Members will be received on December 22nd at the 9:30 am worship
- 2) *Worship Service Time Change begins Sunday, January 5th, 2025.*** Our Sunday morning worship services will be at 8:30 am and 10:15 am. This will allow more people to attend worship on Sunday morning. There will still be the Saturday 4:00 pm worship service.
- 3) *Generosity at the End-of-the-Year.*** As we come to the last month of the year, please prayerfully consider your best "over and above" gift to the life-changing ministry and mission work of God through Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church.
- 4) *Christmas Eve Worship Invitations.*** Over 60% of people currently worshipping at GdC are here because a member or friend invited them! Perhaps you were personally invited to Christmas Eve worship!

Over 5,450 mail invitations are being sent into the new housing areas! Your personal invitation is the most important one, because you give that invitation to those that you know. We will hand out some extra invitations for you to personally share with others.

Please allow God to work through your invitation for Christmas Eve worship on December 24th at 2 pm, 4 pm, 6 pm & 8 pm!

See you in worship!
Pastor Bill Timm



From the Desk of Dr. Shirley . . . Walking with Jesus to bring new life and hope to every person.

As we continue into this season of change, God reminds me to “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *And* into His courts with praise. **Be thankful** to Him, *and* bless His name,” (Psalm 100:4, NKJV). Little did I know how much my life would change when I began the Lay-Ministry training through the Faith+Lead program at Luther Seminary in May 2024 along with Judy Zeiss and Char Schomisch.

Before we knew about this program of formal training, Pastor Timm had begun training members of our church family to minister to each other, first as Stephen Ministers and then additionally with ministering the Word from the pulpit. **Now we know that Luther Seminary has a program of formal training, and new classes start in January, May, and October. The training is mostly done independently from on-line resources with a Zoom class discussion one Saturday morning a month. Discussion and questions are encouraged.**

In the church, as most of us knew it while growing up, it was a pastor-led, lay-minister supported congregation. According to research done at Luther Seminary and confirmed by others, the church congregation today is changing to a lay-minister led, pastor supported family. This change makes sense since there are few pastors available to fill pulpit vacancies. Trained lay-ministers can, with pastoral support and supervision, minister the Word and Sacraments; thereby ensuring that the Lord’s Table is open to the congregation.

Yes, change is upon us in many areas of our lives. Our Lord God speaks into these changes: “**Fear not**, for I *am* with you; Be **not** dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’ (Isaiah 41:10, NKJV)

Every service we remind ourselves and each other that “God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good!” While we are walking with Jesus to bring new life and home to **every** person, let us “let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and **be thankful**,” (Colossians 3:15)

What a wonderful way to continue into this season!



FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is a season of so many exciting events, both now and future, we just need to hang on and let God deliver on His promises. The coming of Christ, fulfilling the promise of a Savior is literally our gift of eternal life. Our life together at Gloria de Cristo is full of new opportunities. Every weekend we have new people walking through our front door, because YOU invited them, the newspaper, the welcoming front of our church, a mailing, soon a new website and our reputation of being a place to worship, to know and meet Jesus.

As we know Pastor Timm is retiring the end of March 2025. The ELCA has realized the value and need for more lay leaders in congregations. We have three ladies in the last year accepting the opportunity to study through Luther Seminary. They are Char Schomisch, Dr. Shirley Ehler and Judy Zeiss. It is not meant to be a temporary fix, it is a developing program in the church. This is not to say we will not have a new Pastor, we will! With our Mission Field changing and growing every month, we need to accept the opportunity to change and grow as well. These are two things that some of us find challenging, I know! We were not sent to sit in a beautiful sanctuary on Sunday, singing the old hymns, drinking coffee and seeing our friends...we are not kept people, we are people with a call...and as some would say time to deliver on the prayers, creeds, sermons and love others have shown us here at Gloria de Cristo.

Sharon Merz

CARE MINISTRES

Grief Share Ministry

The program has 4 weeks left to finish the current one, however there will be another program commencing on January 5, 2025 in Fellowship Hall Classroom. To sign up for this session please contact the Office at 928-342-6002.

The Surviving The Holiday was held on November 23, in the Fellowship Hall.

Stephen Ministry

Currently there are 8 students signed up for December 4th class to begin at 9:30 - 12:00pm for the 2024 -2025 session. To enroll in the class please sign up with the office 928-342-6002.

Care Ministry Chair,
Mary Marsh

FINANCIALS

OCTOBER 2024	Year to Date		2024 Budget
	2023	2024	
Revenue	239,953	260,141	259,018
Expense	<u>279,621</u>	<u>275,593</u>	296,326
Difference	(39668)	(15452)	(37308)
In-Person Attendance	580	579	
On-Line Connection	525	1229	

Hello to Everyone



It has been a very busy six weeks for me and I'm glad to be back.

First, I want to give a BIG THANK YOU to all the people that helped when I was away. Again, I say Thank You All!

Now I would like to say thanks to everyone who has helped throughout the year. We do not say that often enough. I will try to do better. To help means that we would like to know everyone, not just because we need help. It is also a way for you to get to know us. Times when we do not know someone, we tend to walk by them and not say a cheerful 'hello'.

Thanksgiving dinner will have passed by the time you read this. I hope that everyone enjoyed the meal.

Now we are making items for our Christmas Bazaar. It will be held on Saturday, December 7th from 8 am to 12 pm in Fellowship Hall. Come and enjoy all of our talents. You will be surprised at what you see.

Bye for now,
Merrilee, Fellowship Chair



*First Saturday of every month, 8:00 am
JimmyK's on Foothills Blvd.*

All are invited.

The next date is: December 7, 2024



GLORIOUS QUILTERS

December is upon us and we're anxiously waiting for the birth of the Christ child. The year is coming to an end, things are slowing down but NOT for the Ladies of the Glorious QUILTERS! It amazes me what they come up with. Several of our ladies have gone to garage sales with LOTS of fabric. Upon talking to the person in charge, we received from that sale all that remained. It was to go to the Church we were told. Not only bolts of fabric but books, projects that were started but not finished, just to name a few. We are so blessed!

You can come any Monday morning and hear the humming of the sewing machines and the laughter from the ladies... is contagious!

Best time of all is 10'o clock when we sit for a few and have a cup of well deserved coffee/tea along with someone's baked goodies.

We've branched out a little with the use of fleece for our larger blankets and this is an area that requires NO SEWING. So if you need to have a little fun on a Monday, PLEASE join us.

Any questions send me a text: Carol Schock 503-338-9358



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

The next date is December 7, 2024

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is a type of depression that occurs during specific seasons, usually fall or winter. It's also known as "winter depression" because symptoms are typically more severe and apparent during the winter. Some people experience depressive symptoms during the spring and summer months, known as summer-pattern SAD or summer depression. Summer-pattern SAD is less common.

Symptoms of SAD include:

- Decreased energy and fatigue
- Difficulty concentrating
- Changes in sleep or appetite
- Physical aches and pains
- Thoughts of death or suicide
- Loss of interest in activities you used to enjoy
- Social withdrawal

Feelings of guilt and hopelessness

SAD is more common in people who live farther north, where there are shorter daylight hours in the winter. This is because less sunlight causes your biological clock to shift, which can make it difficult to adjust to changes in daylight length. But, if you think folks who are full-time AZ residents are immune to SAD, we aren't! In Yuma, where summer temps can reach in the mid-120's, people may stay indoors more to avoid the heat, which can lead to a lack of socialization and Vitamin D deficiency.

SAD can be treated with: Light therapy, Antidepressant medications, Talk therapy, Vitamin D, and Cognitive behavior therapy (CBT). Symptoms usually improve on their own with the change of seasons, but treatment can help them improve more quickly.

Michelle Cegon



OUTREACH

Isaiah 40:3-8

³The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the ord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: {straight: or, a straight place} {plain : or, a plain place} ⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. ⁶The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withereth, the flower fadeth because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. ⁸ The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever.

What does this even mean? Isaiah predicted that John the Baptist would go in advance of Jesus saying these things before He, Jesus, rode into town on a donkey. All things that are on earth shall eventually go away but God shall live forever.

The Welcome Back Bash is December 11th. Come and see us at the Civic Center.

Road work on the north frontage road is nearing completion. So watch the bulletin for the next clean-up event.

GDC T-shirt sale is coming soon so look for that also. Thanks. Everyone have a Merry Christmas!!

Joe Johnson, Outreach Chair

SOCIAL CONCERNS

As the year draws to a close, I want to thank our committee members and other volunteers who made this year's projects successful. The Angel Tree project is in full swing and I am looking forward to seeing Santa's sleigh filled with gifts for foster kids. This year we partnered with Arizona Baptist Children's Services & Family Ministries to serve the children they sponsored. Next year we will continue to look for opportunities to serve foster children.

Following "Angel Tree", we will begin "Good Gifts". Good Gifts is a program of the ELCA with a focus on missions. Our congregation is asked to participate in the purchase of animals and other items to assist mission activities. As this article is being written before the projects conclude we will need to wait until January for a full report.

In November we collected 153 lbs. of food for the Yuma Community Food Bank.

We celebrated 2 birthdays at Rose Garden Care Home. It is a joy to see the smiles our efforts bring. We give the birthday resident a party with quilt, balloons and cake. If it is the second time we celebrate a birthday we give a present other than a quilt.

Greeting cards continue to be sent. A council member told me he had spoken to a friend who got a card and was so happy to be remembered. Even the smallest gesture of love can make a difference.

The collection center continues to accept pill bottles, travel kits, glasses, printer cartridges. Aluminum cans are collected for recycling outside by the dumpster.

Wishing you a merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Social Concern's committee.
Blessing,

Evelyn Trone, Chairperson
928-210-8015 (call or text)

John:15 "I am the vine you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit..."

Stewardship

is *heart* work



STEWARDSHIP

A few years ago, a very good "young hearted" elderly friend of mine relocated to the great northwest to be closer to his family. He had been a regular attendee at the 9:30 service. Since his departure we speak frequently on the phone and at some point the conversation usually gets around to his "church life". When he first departed Yuma [in 2021] and after he was settled in, he started his search for a Lutheran Church. He had been watching the Gloria de Cristo "livestream" but wanted more of a personal involvement. He eventually located a Lutheran Church that was open; most churches were still closed because of the pandemic, The first couple Sundays he attendedhe said the church had 2 Pastors but only a handful of people in attendance, less than 10....neither of the Pastors were a "Pastor Timm". He only attended a few more times and then returned to our "livestream" service on a weekly basis. He searched other churches...nothing compared to Gloria de Cristo. Fast forward to 2024...a friend of his daughter suggested a non-denominational "mega church". His report: several thousand in attendance, so many screens in the altar area he couldn't follow them all, the church seemed like a shopping mall in that there were coffee shops and bookstores...you retrieved a small packet from under your seat if you felt a need for the sacrament of communion....but most notably was the fact that very few of the people in attendance were over the age of 60...audio was extremely loud...needless to say, he said he felt out of place. Then he says....the best part was when someone other than the primary speaker appeared on stage and pitched for a commitment of the congregation to raise 17 million dollars in the next 2 years to build another church. which..... those in attendance vigorously approved.

Our blessings are abundant...God has provided for all of us...we are very fortunate to have Gloria de Cristo as our place of worship...and we WILL get another Pastor.....and we are GENEROUS !!!

Thank You for your time and Generosity !!!

Gary Raasch, Stewardship



WELCA HAPPENINGS

Celebrating our Lord's birth with Christmas Eve services and joyful music is our tradition this last month of the year. All through the year, our church's service groups endeavor to engage our congregation to help serve our community. This year, WELCA has been asked to host the women of the Cactus Conference at a day-long workshop. Monthly planning meetings to prepare for the March 22, 2025 event are ongoing. The next meeting is scheduled **Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 3 pm in the Fellowship Classroom**. For those returning for the winter months, please consider attending this important meeting, if you haven't already.

Another WELCA mission is Days for Girls, a sewing project designed to provide third-world women and girls with personal hygiene products. This month, the finished pieces to the kit were tallied and delivered to our sponsor church, Lord of Life Lutheran in Sun City West. Delivered were 600 liners, 91 shields and 87 bags. Recently, 60 complete kits went to Cuba by representatives from Rotary and the Salvation Army. Typically, we meet every other Saturday from 9am to 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please, even if you do not sew, join us for this important mission. Next time we meet is December 14th. Hope to see you then.

Donna Brown, WELCA Convener

WORSHIP & MUSIC



We are entering the busiest season of the church year as I see it but it is also the most wonderful season of all as it's the time we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Every day as I wake up I find the words of the song we sang for Thanksgiving in my thoughts. 'May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, Be thankful', and I am, not only for how God has blessed me personally but for all the blessing I see in the congregation of Gloria de Cristo.

As I look ahead of things here at GDC, knowing that Pastor Timm will be leaving us in the near future, I know there are many in our midst that have the ability to step up and move this mission forward in bringing unbelievers to know Jesus as their Savior. Pastor Timm has led his flock well!

We do, however, need to keep praying for that special person that God will send to Gloria de Cristo as pastor of our congregation. So may the joy of the coming Advent and Christmas season be yours! Celebrate the one who has promised us eternal life.

Char Schomisch, Worship Co-leader

YARD SALE

Mark your calendars for the Yard Sale planning meetings!

Initial meeting will be held on Thursday, January 23, at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Please attend this meeting especially if you are interested in volunteering and have not done so before. All are welcome!

Final planning meeting will be held on Thursday, February 6 at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. This is a critical meeting to attend. We will be finalizing responsibilities and making sure we have all we will need to have a successful yard sale.

Upcoming drop-off dates:

December 14, January 11, and possibly February 8.

The 2025 Yard Sale will be Fri/Sat, Feb. 21-22.

Michelle Cegon



YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Welcome home all of those who have returned to the Desert Southwest and Gloria de Cristo.

The Youth and Education Committee will be getting a new chairperson in 2025. Please consider serving on this committee or any other committee that can use your God given time and talents.

Diane Lee, Chairperson

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER

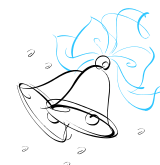
- 1 Marijan & Judy Petrovic in memory of dear friends
8 Mary Marsh in memory of husband Forrest and Cheryl Preul
In memory of husband Bob
15 Jan Klipfel in memory of husband Dennis
23 Char Schomisch in honor of grandson Brandon and Stan & Ila Goter
In celebration of their 67th wedding anniversary
29 Larry Unger in memory of wife Rose Marie



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|----|------------------|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Evelyn Trone | 6 | Niki Duffy | 10 | Bonnie Munson |
| 3 | Suzanne Hormann | 7 | Cheryl Preul | 11 | Loretta Munsteman |
| 4 | Margie Hollandsworth | 8 | Larry Munsterman | 23 | Stan Goter |
| 4 | Billie Martin | 8 | Roger Tracey | 25 | Virginia Reisaur |
| 4 | Glenn Van Winkle | 10 | Dennis Kasin | 27 | Isaac Timm |
| | | | | 29 | Harry Taylor |

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



- 12/4 Alan & Becky Werner
12/19 Dave & Gwen Hubenthal
12/21 Stan & Ila Goter
12/23 Bert & Mikie Rinehart
12/24 Bill & Rita Kowalski
12/28 O. Duane & Fay Weeks

DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Worship 7:45 & 9:30 am 10:30 am Potluck Collection of Food for Food Pantry</p> <p>12 pm GriefShare FC 1 pm Foothills Social</p>	<p>2 9 am Glorious Quilters 12 pm Worship Meeting 12 pm Social Concerns Mtg. 12:30 & 3 pm Bible Study, Pastor's home</p>	<p>3 7 am TOPS 10 am Zoom Bible Study 12:30 pm Caregivers Lunch 1 pm Foothills Social 4 pm Mental Health Mtg.</p>	<p>4 9-10 am Linedance 1:00 pm Chair Aerobics 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 5:45 pm Choir</p>	<p>5 9 am Linedance 1:00 pm Chair Aerobics 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 5:45 pm Choir</p>	<p>6 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 10:30 Chair Aerobics 1 pm Foothills Social 6 pm Women's AA</p>	<p>7 8 am- Men's Breakfast, Daybreakers 8 am Women's Breakfast Club, Jimmy K's 8 am Christmas Bazaar 9 am TOPS 4 pm Worship</p>
<p>8 Worship 7:45 & 9:30 am <i>10:30 am New Member Class</i> 12 pm GriefShare FC 1 pm Foothills Social</p>	<p>9 9 am Glorious Quilters 12:30 & 3 pm Bible Study, Pastor's home</p>	<p>10 7 am TOPS 10 am Zoom Bible Study 12:30 pm Caregivers Lunch 1 pm Foothills Social</p>	<p>11 9-10 am Linedance 1:00 pm Chair Aerobics 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 5:45 pm Choir</p>	<p>12 7:00am TOPS 9 am Game Time 4 pm Old Testament Bible Study</p>	<p>13 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 10:30 Chair Aerobics 1 pm Foothills Social 6 pm Women's AA</p>	<p>14 9 am TOPS 9 am Church Facilities Clean-up 4:00 pm Worship</p>
<p>15 Worship 7:45 & 9:30 am <i>10:30 am New Member Class</i> 12 pm GriefShare FC 1 pm Foothills Social</p>	<p>16 9 am Glorious Quilters 12:30 & 3 pm Bible Study, Pastor's home</p>	<p>17 7 am TOPS 10 am Zoom Bible Study 12:30 pm Caregivers Lunch 1 pm Foothills Social 4 pm Executive Mtg. 4:30 pm Council Mtg.</p>	<p>18 9-10 am Linedance 1:00 pm Chair Aerobics 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 5:45 pm Choir</p>	<p>19 7:00am TOPS 9 am Game Time 4 pm Old Testament Bible Study</p>	<p>20 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 10:30 Chair Aerobics 1 pm Foothills Social 6 pm Women's AA</p>	<p>21 9 am TOPS 4 pm Worship</p>
<p>22 Worship 7:45 & 9:30 am <i>New Members Received</i> 12 pm GriefShare FC 1 pm Foothills Social</p>	<p>23 9 am Glorious Quilters 12:30 & 3 pm Bible Study, Pastor's home</p>	<p>24 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 2 PM, 4 PM, 6 PM, 8 PM</p>	<p>25 CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>26 7:00am TOPS 9 am Game Time 4 pm Old Testament Bible Study</p>	<p>27 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 10:30 Chair Aerobics 1 pm Foothills Social 6 pm Women's AA</p>	<p>28 9 am Days for Girls 9 am TOPS 4 pm Worship</p>
<p>29 Worship 7:45 & 9:30 am 12 pm GriefShare FC 1 pm Foothills Social</p>	<p>30 9:00 am Glorious Quilters 12:30 & 3 pm Bible Study, Pastor's home</p>	<p>31 7 am TOPS 10 am Zoom Bible Study 12:30 pm Caregivers Lunch 1 pm Foothills Social</p>	<p>January 1, 2025 NEW YEARS DAY OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>2 7:00am TOPS 9 am Game Time 4 pm Old Testament Bible Study</p>	<p>3 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 10:30 Chair Aerobics 1 pm Foothills Social 6 pm Women's AA</p>	<p>4 9 am TOPS 4 pm Worship</p>

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PERMIT NO. 190

DECEMBER 2024

PASTOR: Bill Timm
ORGANIST: Dr. Shirley Ehler
PIANISTS: Marie Ritten, Lorie Rapp,
Pam Carter, Suzanne Haggett
VIOLIN: Ami Gudjohnsen
BELLS OF GLORY: Lorie Rapp
CHOIR: Dr. Shirley Ehler

GriefShare Leaders:
Ted & Nikki Duffy
Lisa Crayne
Mary Marsh

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

Church Secretary: Char Schomisch

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Sharon Merz
VICE PRESIDENT: John Arnold
SECRETARY: Jackie Tracey
TREASURER: Char Schomisch

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS:

CARE MINISTRY: Mary Marsh
EDUCATION: Diane Lee
FELLOWSHIP: Merilee Kaiser
OUTREACH: Joe Johnson
PROPERTY: Jerry Randby
SOCIAL CONCERNS: Evelyn Trone
STEWARDSHIP: Gary Raasch
WORSHIP & MUSIC: Char Schomisch