



MISSION STATEMENT

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

TO YOU, CALLED BY GOD TO BE HIS OWN PEOPLE, SERVING HIS PURPOSES!

Transitions happen throughout our lives. Some transitions are unplanned. Some transitions are planned, and preparations are made for them.

Gloria de Cristo is coming to a time of transition as I end my ministry to the congregation, retiring on Sunday, March 30th, 2025. I have been praying and waiting for nearly 2 years for a new pastor to be called, just like you have.

Preparations have been made for this time of transition.

- 1) **Lay Ministers are completing their training soon.** More will start training soon. To ensure that worship and the celebration of Holy Communion each week will continue after March, the Council has sent a letter to the bishop requesting sacramental privileges for our 3 lay ministers completing their training and it has been granted for Dr. Shirley Ehler, Char Schomisch, & Judy Zeiss. Two more members, Paula Pegues and Jerry Randby will begin Lay Ministry training in January.

Lay Ministers will oversee all worship planning and the worship services, along with making sure that the every-day operations of the church go on as normal...better than normal, because the size of the team working on the details has increased!

They will be under the supervision of an ordained pastor and will keep things in good order until your new pastor arrives.

- 2) **Stephen Ministers have been trained and have been helping with the care of the congregation and the community for over 21 years!**

In January, 3 members will begin a 5-week Leadership Training Course: Sandy Corless, Niki Duffy, & Robin Marlatt. After their training, they will coordinate the pastoral care ministry of Gloria de Cristo, along with our currently trained Stephen Ministry Leaders: Michelle Cegon, Jim & Sherrie Wehrer.

More eyes, ears, hearts, hands, and faith will make sure that all will be covered for you during this time of transition.

Please pray for and support these fellow members!

See you in worship!

Pastor Bill Timm

Happy

Proverbs 16:20

He who heeds the word wisely will find good, and whoever trusts in the Lord, *happy is he*.

Romans 14:22

Do you have faith? Have *it* for yourself before God. *Happy is* he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

Happy: enjoying well-being and contentment; being pleased or glad

New

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is a new* creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become *new*.

New: having recently come into existence: recent, modern; being other than the former or old; different from one of the same category that has existed previously

Year

Genesis 1:14

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and *years*.”

Our calendar year runs from January 1 through December 31. Our church year runs from the first Sunday of Advent (usually the Sunday after Thanksgiving) through Christ the King Sunday (the last Sunday before Advent) or approximately December 1 through November 30.

This new year, 2025, is already marked by changes — some we expected, and some are surprises. Throughout all of these changes, I want to be found walking with Jesus to bring new life and hope to every person.



FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Another year has passed into history and we begin 2025. This will be a year of changes within the Gloria de Cristo congregation. While we are introducing any changes we need to remember our Mission Statement, "Walking with Jesus to bring new life and hope to every person." Changes can seem overwhelming at times but with God's help we can face any challenges as he walks beside us in our journey as well as your church family to walk with you during this time. Change is part of growth for our congregation as we continue to meet the needs of our church family as well as those of the community. Hebrews 13:8 tells us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." In a world of change this is a comforting reminder that Jesus is our constant.

John Arnold, Vice President



QR CODE GIVING: Just use your smart phone's QR Code Reader and scan this QR Code to begin your generosity giving! You can set it up to give your gift for a One Time gift or you can set up a recurring gift (Every Week, every 2 weeks, twice a month (1st & 15th), monthly, quarterly, or annually). You can have your gift taken directly from your bank account or you can give with either your debit or credit card. You can pick the day you want your gift to be given. With this way of giving, you can also give to the General Offering, Church Property, World Hunger, and Lent/Holiday gifts. To view the different giving opportunities: When you first enter the app, just scroll down to the line that says 'View more giving opportunities' below the 'Add to Basket' highlighted line.

CARE MINISTRES

GRIEF SHARE:

Our last session for this cycle was on Sunday, December 15, 2024. A new cycle will start Sunday January 5th, 2025 from 12:00pm until 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall Classroom, If you would like to attend the program you can register in the church office or by phone. The phone number is 928-342-6002. If you know of someone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, you may mention to them about the Grief Share Program which offers a supportive group for people going through loss, and would they be interested in learning more? If so then have them contact the Church Office.

STEPHEN MINISTRY:

We completed the final continuing education modules for last season's class on November 27th. The new class for this season started on December 4th and continues every week through the winter.

There are three people going to start the Stephen Leader training program in January for 9 weeks,

A supervision session and potluck was held on November 18th for the existing Stephen Ministers.

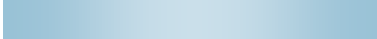
Submitted by:
Mary Marsh

ENDOWMENT FUND TEMPLE TALK

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but put it on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light shine before people, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven".

Your life is a light in this world. With a planned Endowment gift in place to support Gloria de Cristo that has meant so much to you, your light will continue to shine for years and years to come.

When you give to our Endowment Fund beyond your regular giving, you help guild Gloria de Cristo that lasts. A church like ours is on a mission. It allows us to live our mission as a church and fund important elements of our work without impacting our yearly budget. It is not just



about our work today — though that is why most of us do our giving. It's not even about our building that needs ongoing care. It is about creating a durable church foundation that is here for your grandkids' grandkids.

This can be done by giving something extra to our Endowment Fund, a fund that can grow even as a portion of it is spent on mission critical expenses.

A planned gift is one that sits in a different box from the support you give us throughout the year. People put planned gifts in Wills or Estate Plans as a way to ensure they can support the life of Gloria de Cristo long after they are gone. There are many ways to give to our Endowment Fund. Outright gifts of Cash, Securities, Life Insurance Policies and Real Estate.

Weekly and monthly giving keeps this place humming. But what if we had a fund that would allow us to do extra ordinary things. We do have that fund. It's our Gloria de Cristo's Endowment Fund.

In the past five years, Gloria de Cristo's Endowment Funds provided grants to the Vision Team, for our new Audio System and money to the Church Council for their special use.

The total amount of grants that were approved was \$179,460.00. The amounts that I just read made a real difference in the life of Gloria de Cristo, and our Endowment Fund can do even more. All it takes is for us to specify a planned gift to our church from your personal Will or your Estate Plan. It's that easy. It's a wonderful way for Gloria de Cristo to remember you or someone you love. Just one of our goals at Gloria de Cristo is to build a legacy of missions that outlasts all of us. That's why our Endowment Fund is so critical.

Remember Gloria de Cristo's mission: ***“Walking with Jesus to bring new life and hope to every person!!!”*** Our Endowment fund is being administered by ‘The Faith Community Foundation’, which works with Thrivent Financial of Appleton, Wisconsin.

Contact a member of the Gloria de Cristo's Endowment Committee if you have any questions.

Dave Graham (701-226-7960)

Sharon Merz (928-246-2803)

Pastor Timm (928-210-1771)

Niki Duffy (509-531-6651),

Earl Marlatt (928-580-6865)



FELLOWSHIP

Every year we ask were does the time go? Those who have the answer please speak up!!

I would like to than Robin and Earl Marlatt for the wonderful donation of a new dishwasher!! THANK YOU!! It is going to be such an improvement to the kitchen.

Christmas is upon us already. Do not forget that we have a Christmas dinner on the 25th at 12:00 noon. We would like for all to come.

Our Christmas Bazaar was a wonderful success this year. We had such a good selection of gifts. Can't wait until next year. Thanks to all who worked on it to make it so special.

There will be a message in the bulletin about a dinner we will be having in late January for the benefit of Crossroads Mission so keep an eye out for that. They help so many, from the young to the elderly. The date is not set as yet. Keep this in mind.

Merrilee, Fellowship Chair

GLORIOUS QUILTERS



It's a new Year 2025!

I really can't predict what these Ladies will be up to in the coming month. It goes without saying they will be constructing many more quilts, and there will be an abundance of laughter throughout the Fellowship hall.

That being said, we wish you all a great new year filled with happiness and good health.

We still need non-sewers! Try us out - you'll like us!

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Chuck & Mona O'Reilly
10152 E. 36th Street, Yuma 85365

928-210-0133

Chuck: I was born & raised on ranch/farms in both Fort Benton, Montana & Helena. Entered Law Enforcement as a Deputy Sheriff at age of 20 and went on to be elected Sheriff 5 times. I've held various Law Enforcement positions, also served on several federal commissions, etc. Upon retirement Mona & I traveled throughout the U.S. but kept returning to Yuma where we finally planted and have called our home for over 20 years. I've been fortunate to serve as a council members and have participated as a Call Committee member in two different churches in Montana and Yuma. We joined Gloria de Cristo in it's infancy and attended worship in a gymnasium while Gloria de Cristo was being built.

Mona: I was born & raised in Valley City, North Dakota. Moved to Montana, married and enjoy a beautiful blended family of five children & 12 grandchildren. From Helena we moved to Yuma where I have been involved as Secretary at both Gloria de Cristo and Faith Lutheran. I also served on council. My husband & I enjoy traveling and visiting our children, all of whom live in Montana, whenever possible. We are happy to be back at Gloria de Cristo as this is where we started our faith journey from the churches beginning.

Berenice Renteria
10794 E. 39th Lane, Yuma 85365

858-692-2271

Berenice was born on March 21, 1981 in Calexico, CA and enjoyed the sleepy Imperial Valley life, especially her close knit community and familiarities. She attended the University of California—San Diego in La Jolla, CA and double majored in Sociology and Linguistics while working for the university library as a student. She moved to Northern Virginia and worked for the US Government for nearly 18 years, where she met many fascinating people and traveled to exciting locations around the world, but missed her family and the feeling of community she had growing up. She relocated to Yuma in July and is enjoying reconnecting with family and friends as well as making new friends at Gloria de Cristo.



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

The next date is: January 4, 2025, 2024



OUTREACH

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying. All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: (teach...:or, make disciples, or, Christians of all nations) ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

What does that even mean? This event was known as the Great Commission. That is Jesus commanding his disciples to go and spread his teachings and continue the work he showed them how to do from healing, to teaching, to loving one another and most of all to love God.

Outreach: We had a great time doing the Welcome Back Bash. I'd like to thank Dyanne Radke, Wanda Wirths, and Jean Gerfen for helping out. It was a lot of fun. Many people showed up for that event and we raffled off a beautiful quilt.

Looking to getting the highway clean-up going again and will be starting GDC shirt sales soon.

Watch the bulletin for details.

Thanks and Have a Happy New Year.

Joe Johnson, Outreach Chair

SOCIAL CONCERNS

At this writing, it is still December and still waiting for Christmas but when you read this 2025 will be here. Are you ready?

In December the Social Concerns Committee had 2 major activities: Angel Tree for clothing and gifts for foster children, and "Good Gifts" for ELCA Missions. The gifts were given to Arizona Baptist Children and Family Services. We filled a pickup truck with your generous gifts. We collected for "Good Gifts" over \$400.00 in donations for ELCA missions with your purchase of animals and other designated projects.

The usual Items are continuing to be collected at the collection center which are designated for various groups.

Greeting cards continue to be sent by Sandra Arceneaux with donated cards and some beautiful handmade cards from Lola Miller.

Monthly food collections for Yuma Community Food Bank continue and here is the total to date totals:

1/24	179lbs.	2/24	138 lbs.
3/24	245 lbs.	4/24	253 lbs.
5/24	217 lbs.	6/24	84 lbs.
7/20	83 lbs.	9/24	?
10/24	119 lbs.	11/24	153 lbs.
12/25	184 lbs.		

Food insecurity - lack of access to enough food for an active and healthy life affects about 13 % of Americans. About half of Americans who are food insecure have incomes too high to qualify for federal programs like SNAP. Eligibility level for a family of 4 is \$40,500. Your generous monthly donations make a difference in filling the gap.

Hope you had a lovely Christmas and wishing you a Happy New Year!

Blessings,

Evelyn Trone, Chairperson

1 Peter 4:10

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



WELCA HAPPENINGS

A Happy and Blessed New Year to you and yours.

The new year is filled with WELCA events clear up to Easter.

First is our Gather potluck dinner on January 7th, 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall. On board for the program are four of our ministries within the church. We'll find out who does what, when, where and how, most especially, how we can help.

Next is the WELCA Cactus Conference Planning committee meeting on January 8th, 3 pm, in the Fellowship Classroom. Even if you haven't attended a planning meeting, come join us – you are welcome. The Conference will be held at Gloria de Cristo on Saturday, March 22nd, from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Registration to attend will open mid-February. At previous conferences, women from Gloria de Cristo were well-represented. We hope to surpass previous conference attendance to the point we have to have a speaker outside to accommodate the overflow. Please place this day on your important list. It promises to be an inspiring, fulfilling day of worship and friendship. More information to follow.

Days for Girls continues every other Saturday morning, 9-1, in the Fellowship Hall. The next day is January 11th. See you then.

Donna Brown
WELCA Convener



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 January 4, 2025,

WORSHIP & MUSIC



Where did 2024 go? It is hard to believe the year is past and we're heading into another. 2025 will bring changes to Gloria de Cristo..some welcomed, some not so much.

We begin with the change of worship times. Saturday will remain at 4:00 pm until the end of April and **Sunday will change to 8:30 & 10:15 am beginning January 5th**. That means a bit later for the services on Sunday. I can see both advantages and disadvantages to this change but I'm sure we'll all adjust.

We will also have a new website for Gloria de Cristo in the very near future. Diane Lee and I have been putting in many hours to put together a new look and hopefully an easier way to navigate through it. We will let you know when it up and running.

I am in the process of putting together a worship assistant schedule for January thru April. Thank you so very much for each of you that help make the worship services a positive experience for everyone that walks through our doors.

The Sound System Team is coming along marvelously. I have a couple of team members that can handle the service quite well. Soon they will all be able to do it from start to finish and I will be assigning them in teams of two to go solo!!

Changes, changes, changes... all for the good of God's mission here at Gloria de Cristo.

Char Schomisch, Co-Chair

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

NOVEMBER 2024	Year to Date		2024 Budget
	2023	2024	
Revenue	286,112	300,969	335,008
Expense	<u>307,818</u>	<u>311,375</u>	356,371
Difference	-21,706	-10406	-21,363
In-Person Attendance	772	767	
On-Line Connection	589	1104	

THE FOLLOWING WAS AN ARTICLE FROM THE SYNOD OFFICE

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Since June 2023, the Grand Canyon Synod has celebrated 19 pastoral installations!

These milestones led with hope and renewal are made possible by the dedication of our synod's Transition Coaches, Rev. Pat Reed and Rev. Phil Gustafson, who provide guidance and support to congregations navigating change. While transitions can foster uncertainty, they also offer an opportunity for new leadership, fresh ideas, and renewed purpose, all while reminding us of our shared journey as one synod.

As we move from Advent into Christmas, Emmanuel "God with us" reminds us that God's blessings often come in perfect, yet unexpected, timing. With this in mind, I extend my heartfelt thanks for your Congregational Mission Support. Your generosity ensures that congregations are cared for and encouraged during pivotal moments of transition.

During their pastoral transition Mount Cross Lutheran Church in Payson, AZ faced disappointment when their first pastoral candidate declined the call. "Pastor Pat Reed was readily available whenever I reached out!" shared Jan Bartoli, Mount Cross Call Committee Chair, adding "Pastor Pat was a great source of support, offering encouragement to both our committee and me personally."

Before long, Pastor Carl Sirotzki (pictured) was called to serve Mount Cross! "During this process, the committee and I felt very supported by Pastor Pat," Jan shared. Now, a year after Pastor Carl's arrival, his leadership continues to bless the Mount Cross community, "Pastor Carl has been a wonderful addition to Mount Cross, and we look forward to several more years of his spiritual guidance and leadership."

To be "Synod" means to "journey together," and that's exactly what we do, walking alongside one another in ministry and celebrating the light of Christ in our midst.

Thanks to your Mission Support, the GCS Office of the Bishop continues to provide care and resources to congregations and leaders during uncertain times.

May God bless you this Christmas season as we journey together into the uncertainty of the world to share the Good News of Christ.

In Christ's light, Bishop Deborah K. Hutterer

Grand Canyon Synod, ELCA 1819 E. Morten Ave., Suite 110 • Phoenix, AZ 85020 • 602-957-3223 • gcsynod.org Communicate Jesus • Connect People • Create Possibilities

'So why hasn't Gloria de Cristo even had as much as an interview for a possible Pastor since we began our process in March of 2023?'

FLOWERS FOR JANUARY

- 5 Larry & Loretta Munsterman in celebration of their 66th wedding Anniversary
- 5 Dennis & Linda Kasin in celebration of their 62th wedding anniversary
- 12
- 19 Lauren & Janice Erickson
- 19 Terry & Sunnee Rodgers in celebration of their 61st wedding anniversary
- 26



THE 2025 FLOWER CHART IS NOW ON THE BOARD IN THE NARTHEX IF YOU SHOULD DESIRE TO PURCHASE THE ALTAR FLOWERS. Cost is \$25/vase. Simply sign on the date you desire and reason. Payment envelopes are beneath the chart on the shelf. Thank You!!

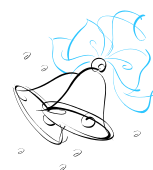


JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | | | |
|----|---------------|----|----------------|----|-------------------|
| 2 | John Gerfen | 12 | Max Jacobs | 20 | Nadine Webster |
| 5 | Delores Heil | 16 | Dave Steinman | 21 | Nancy Kisling |
| 6 | Dave Lester | 17 | Annie Taylor | 22 | Erik Timm |
| 9 | Donna Watkins | 18 | Lynette Layton | 27 | Carolyn Thorene |
| 10 | Jim Wehrer | 18 | Brian Suess | 29 | Lynda Steinman |
| 11 | Rita Kowalski | | | 31 | Jim Hollandsworth |

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 1 | Larry & Loretta Munsterman | 18 | Terry & Sunnee Rodgers |
| 1 | Jim & Sherri Wehrer | 24 | Lauren & Janice Erickson |
| 2 | Ronald & Suzanne Haggett | 24 | Chuck & Mona O'Reilly |
| 5 | Dennis & Linda Kasin | 26 | John & Verna Arnold |
| 8 | Harry & Brenda Taylor | | |



JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
			1 NEW YEARS DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2 7 am TOPS 4 pm Old Testament Bible Study	3 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 10:30 Chair Aerobics 6 pm Women's AA	4 8 am- Men's Breakfast, Daybreakers 8 am Women's Breakfast Club, Jimmy K's 9 am TOPS 4 pm Worship
5 Worship 8:30 & 10:15 AM Potluck following 10:30 worship Collection for Food Pantry	6 9 am Glorious Quilters 12:30 & 3 pm Bible Study, Pastor's home	7 7 am TOPS 10 am Zoom Bible Study 12:30 pm Caregivers Lunch 1 pm Foothills Social 5 pm WELCA Potluck	8 9-10 am Linedance 9:30 am Stephen Ministry training 1 pm Chair Aerobics 3 pm WELCA Conference Planning Meeting 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 5:45 pm Choir	9 7 am TOPS 4 pm Old Testament Bible Study	10 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 10:30 Chair Aerobics 6 pm Women's AA	11 9 am TOPS 9 am Days for Girls 4:00 pm Worship
12 Worship 8:30 & 10:15 AM	13 9 am Glorious Quilters 12:30 & 3 pm Bible Study, Pastor's home	14 7 am TOPS 10 am Zoom Bible Study 12:30 pm Caregivers Lunch 1 pm Foothills Social 3 pm Book Club	15 9-10 am Linedance 9:30 am Stephen Ministry training 1 pm Chair Aerobics 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 5:45 pm Choir	16 7 am TOPS 4 pm Old Testament Bible Study	17 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 10:30 Chair Aerobics 6 pm Women's AA	18 9 am TOPS 4 pm Worship
19 Worship 8:30 & 10:15 AM	20 9 am Glorious Quilters 12:30 & 3 pm Bible Study, Pastor's home	21 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.	22 9-10 am Linedance 9:30 am Stephen Ministry training 1 pm Chair Aerobics 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 5:45 pm Choir	23 7 am TOPS 4 pm Old Testament Bible Study	24 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 10:30 Chair Aerobics 6 pm Women's AA	25 9 am Days for Girls 9 am TOPS 4 pm Worship
26 Worship 8:30 & 10:15 AM	27 9:00 am Glorious Quilters 12:30 & 3 pm Bible Study, Pastor's home	28 7 am TOPS 10 am Zoom Bible Study 12:30 pm Caregivers Lunch 1 pm Foothills Social	29 9-10 am Linedance 9:30 am Stephen Ministry training 1 pm Chair Aerobics 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 5:45 pm Choir	30 7 am TOPS 4 pm Old Testament Bible Study	31 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 10:30 Chair Aerobics 6 pm Women's AA	1 9 am TOPS 4 pm Worship

Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church,
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JANUARY 2025

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

Authorized Lay Ministers

Dr. Shirley Ehler
Char Schomisch
Judy Zeiss

Stephen Ministry Leaders

Pastor Timm
Michelle Cegon
Jim & Sherrie Wehrer

GriefShare Leaders:

Ted & Nikki Duffy
Lisa Crayne
Mary Marsh

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