THE EVANGEL Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church 11273 E. 40th Street Yuma, Az.

May 2024 Volume 32, Issue 5



MISSION STATEMENT

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

TO ALL, CALLED TO TELL THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS, CRUCIFIED AND RISEN!

The Importance of Relationship in Evangelism

38% of Christians do not have a single non-Christian friend or family member. Almost half of millennials say they experience a general sense of emptiness. A similar percentage say they often feel rejected.

62% of lapsed and non-Christians say that someone who listens without judgement would be the best person to talk with about faith.

1/3 of lapsed and non-Christians say some of the Christians they know listen without judgement.

1/4 of lapsed and non-Christians say some of the Christians they know allow them to come to their own conclusions.

17% of Christians demonstrate an interest in other people's stories or listen to them.

1 in 5 Christians personally take the time to know the story of the person they're sharing their faith with.

(Source: Barna Research & Alpha)

We are living in a world where technology overwhelms our social lives with a tremendous number of friends and connections...but with little intimacy or influence.

Sharing the good news of Jesus today most often occurs through the process of listening. Listening to the stories of the people around us. Listening is such a gift in a world where not many people truly listen. Listening actively helps us ask questions to understand the person telling their story more fully.

Jesus was asked more than 370 questions in the gospels...yet Jesus only answered 8 of them directly...but he did ask 182 questions in return. (You don't need to have all the answers!)

As we seek to share the good news of Jesus, we would do well to listen to the stories of the people around us.

No one will care how much we know until they know how much we care!

See you in worship! Pastor Bill Timm

FROM YOUR COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT



As we say goodbye until this coming fall to our winter visitors we are now preparing for a time of change at Gloria de Cristo. Just as the seasons change so sometimes change comes to congregations. How we embrace these changes will be of utmost importance. We will have to be open to these changes and still keep our Mission statement in mind at all times. "Walking With Jesus to Bring New Life and Hope to Every Person" is how we must proceed in the upcoming months to keep our eye on the goals of furthering Gloria de Cristo's role in the community and our church family. Please take part in the change process and embrace serving the Lord in whatever way your talents lead you in the future.

-John Arnold

THANK YOU NOTE:

Hello Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church:

You may not realize it, but your generosity is helping Veterans, children, families and seniors in Yuma and La Paz Counties. These families come to the Yuma Community Food Bank and it's partner agencies looking for food. Your kind gift is bringing them hope.

You donation is an investment in our communities because it's an investment in the lives of the people who make Southwest Arizona great! Thank you for your compassion and your generosity—for every \$1 you donate; the Yuma Community Food Bank can distribute food for at least 10 meals. Pantry items, fresh produce, meat, eggs, dairy, bread, and more are all possible for those who are food insecure because of the support from wonderful people like you!!

From the desk of Dr. Shirley....

Good morning! God is good all the time. All the time, God is good! It is a beautiful day to praise the Lord here in Yuma, Arizona.

Several people have asked me to publish again my reasons for requesting no applause after a choir offering. You will remember that we have no performances during a service here at Gloria de Cristo—only presentations of worship. Therefore, when the choir sings, the Bells of Glory ring, a small ensemble, or a soloist sings, these are presentations of worship to God. The focus in on God, and you are invited to participate in that attitude of worship.

If the presentation to God also especially blesses your heart, please offer <u>TO GOD</u> a hearty "Amen" which means "so be it" and maintains the attitude of worship. If, on the other hand, someone applauds, the focus goes immediately from worshipping God to adulation of the performer and robs God of His glory. If I am the person making the offering, it also robs me of my blessing in serving God and ministering to His people.

We clap at ballgames because we want to encourage the players. We clap at concerts because we enjoyed the music we heard. We do not clap at church after the reading of God's word because our focus is on worshipping Him and hearing from Him. We do not applaud the Pastor for bringing us a wonderful sermon or teaching because we are still trying to internalize what God was telling us during that time, although some of the braver of us will say "Amen" if we agree with what was said.

Just so, saying "Amen" after a musical offering is an appropriate way to say that we agree, and our hearts are blessed. This keeps the focus on our Holy Lord God. We do this while we are walking with Jesus to bring new life and hope to every person.



GLORIOUS QUILTERS

April showers bring May flowers,!! Don't know if that holds true here in Yuma, Arizona.

Sadly more and more Ladies are leaving the Quilting Family to go back to their summer homes. We wish them safe travels, but hurry back!

On a positive note, the Ladies are sewing, cutting, turning and tying their little fingers off, making between 24 – 28 quilts a week.

The ladies have decided for the month of May they'd like to make bags for the foster children to have during the transition of their home to foster care.

We still have a couple 'Angels' that make stocking caps to give away in November & December

Carol Schock

503-338-9358 please TEXT



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 May 4, 2024



FELLOWSHIP

The attendance at fellowship following church services remains pretty constant, even though so many of our church family have left for the summer months. Potlucks continue to draw a good crowd so we will continue holding them as long as there is interest so keep it on your calendar for the first Sunday of each month following worship.

Thanks to the many who have volunteered to help with cleanup after fellowship. If you can lend a hand in this capacity, please just pitch in. If each of our families would host just one Sunday, then no one would have to do it more than once. Give it a thought...it doesn't take long to get everything cleaned up. We're all gone by noon!!

Thank you to all who have donated cookies or other goodies for Fellowship....our freezer is plentiful at the present time.

I hope those of you who came to the 'movie night' enjoyed the evening. We may try to continue holding this, if we can find movies that are appropriate. Keep an eye on the bulletin for notices on all the activities being held here at the church.

Please Note: there will be no Fellowship Committee Meetings until fall as several of our members have left for the summer.



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

All are invited.

The next date is: May 4, 2024

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITY

The future of the Lutheran Church is going to be fairly dependent upon lay people being trained for ministry. Is this something you might be interested in doing....at any level? If so...read on: (call Pastor Timm if you have questions)

Unleash Your Leadership Potential with the School for Lay Ministry Learning Community

From preaching and teaching to providing pastoral care or designing worship, faith leaders, like you, serve their congregations in various roles. Often, you do so without the theological background or seminary degrees your colleagues may have. With the School for Lay Ministry, you'll embark on a transformative year-long journey empowering you to lead faithfully, recognizing the vital role you play in a lay-led, clergy-support ministry model.

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Who Should Join the School for Lay Ministry?

Do any of these describe you:

- You've recently been asked to or have taken up a leadership role in your congregation,
- You've been entrusted with giving sermons, teaching Sunday School, or leading adult education,
- You desire to be a faithful disciple who can help form other disciples,
- or, you simply yearn to deepen your faith?
- Then the School for Lay Ministry is tailor-made for you!

Whether you hold a formal position within your congregation or simply have a burning passion for leadership, our School for Lay Ministry provides a unique opportunity for peer-based learning while emphasizing your pivotal role as pastoral caregivers.

What Will You Learn?

Throughout the year, you'll embark on an enriching journey covering a wide range of topics, including:

- Crafting impactful sermons from basic exeges to the hermeneutical circle.
- Mastering pastoral ministry and effective congregational leadership.
- Navigating spirituality in the digital age.
- Delivering compassionate and meaningful funeral sermons.
- Exploring biblical chronology, from the Pentateuch to the matriarchs and patriarchs.
- Discovering the intricacies of Church history, American Christianity, and rural ministry.

Staying connected to God in the busyness of life and ministry and discerning where Jesus' Church is being led in the 21st Century.

And that's just the beginning! We're proud to share that our online School for Lay Ministry is entering its 3rd year, building upon the success of 2023, with past students leading in their communities as a testament to its effectiveness.

How Does It Work?

Each month, you'll enjoy online lessons you complete at your own pace. Then, meet together with your cohort and Rev. Marianne to process what you've learned and put it into practice.

Step 1: Learn at Your Pace with On-Demand Lessons

Monthly lessons are available on-demand so that you can fit them into your schedule

Access our on-demand lessons at your convenience.

Each month, explore the course materials. You'll be engaged by our interactive activities and videos from trusted guides. Each unit includes spiritual practices and ideas you can start using in your community right away.

Step 2: Monthly Cohort Meetings

Calls are on Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Central

Join live monthly meetings to collaborate with your cohort and our experienced facilitator to process online learning and apply insights.

Can't make a meeting? No worries! We record each session for later viewing.

Step 3: Embrace Growth as You Serve

Put what you're learning into practice and get support from your cohort

Apply your newfound knowledge to your ministry context.

Receive unwavering support from your cohort throughout the year, fostering growth in faith, confidence, and leadership.

Here's What You'll Learn...

1 You Can Preach!

Gain the tools and skills you need to preach faithful sermons. In this unit, you'll discover spiritually nourishing ways to prepare and deliver sermons that will connect and uplift your community.

2 Your Spiritual Life Sustains Your Ministry

Take the mystery and overwhelm out of how to connect with God and grow in your faith. You'll come away with fresh practices and be renewed in ways that will sustain you for life and leadership in the church and world.

3 Your Gifts Are Needed

Stop questioning whether you have spiritual gifts! This unit gives you the biblical basis for spiritual gifts, skills in how to recognize and encourage others in their gifts, and tools to help you use your gifts to serve God and others.

4 You Can Plan Worship— Together

By the end of this module, you will be able to build worship services and work with your community to lead them. Use the worship service builder tool to evaluate your services and create new ones.

5 **Provide Care and Practice Boundaries**

Deepen your trust in how Jesus provides us with care and comfort so that we may provide caring visits, support, and prayer for those in our congregation. By the end of this module you will have a customized spiritual visit guidebook to take with you to hospital calls, home visits, and more. Students will also come away with training around boundaries for ministry.

6 The Church and God's Mission

Dive into how the church is a part of God's mission in the world and how we are all called to join in. From theological basics to strategies for using your building, you'll gain new perspectives and tools to strengthen any community you are a part of.

7 Empowered to Manage Ministry

From the challenges of financial management to working with others on councils, lay leaders are called upon to complete all kinds of daily work, weekly, monthly, and even annual work to aid in the running of the church. Discover again or for the very first time how this is holy work and be renewed to serve in the vital day-to-day ministry of the church.

8 Hope and Encouragement for Small Churches and Rural Ministry

Both small congregations and rural settings have been foundational to God's work in the world from the ancient church to now. Yet, smaller communities can struggle without fresh hope and encouragement. Get a new appreciation for your community and use these skills to spread that joy to others.

9 The Bible Comes Alive

Not only will this unit give you a solid theological grounding in what the Bible is, but you will also get insight into the Gospels to assist you further with preaching and teaching in your community. By the end of this unit, your appreciation for the Bible will deepen and further enrich your spiritual life.

10 Journey Through Scripture

Equipped and oriented to the Bible from the previous unit, you'll dive into Scripture with a special emphasis on the Gospels and how to connect the Bible to your life today.

11 Our Historical Roots

Learn about the people in Christian history who risked it all and changed the world! You'll hear stories of how some of the most unexpected of leaders emerged and gain a strong foundation in how Christianity has grown over the years.

12 Faithful Innovation

End the School for Lay Ministry on a strong and hopeful note as you are equipped to faithfully innovate and come away with a doable spiritual practice to use in your congregation.

		FINANCIAL INFORMA FOR MARCH	ATION	
	CU	RRENT MONTH	YE	AR TO DATE
	2023	2024	2023	2024
REVENUE	\$28,935	\$51,766	\$125,637	\$146,336
EXPENSE	\$27,482	\$28,839	\$85,290	\$103,538
ATTENDANCE	1053	1129		

HEALTH & WELLNESS MINISTRY

May, Mental Health Awareness Month since 1949, provides an opportunity to raise awareness, combat stigma, and promote mental health resources.

Mental health is an essential part of overall well-being, impacting individuals, families, and communities across the world.

One in five American adults experiences a mental health condition each year and everyone faces challenges in life that can impact their mental health.

Despite its prevalence, mental health remains shrouded in stigma, preventing many from seeking the help they need.

Early intervention and access to quality care are crucial for managing mental health conditions and improving quality of life.

How can **YOU** help?

Educate yourself and others about mental health conditions, treatment options, and available resources. Here are a few starting places:

https://www.nami.org/About-Mental-Illness

https://yumacountyaz.crediblemind.com/

Be sure to see our free resources on the west wall of the narthex. Please share as needed.

Challenge stigma by speaking respectfully and inclusively about mental health.

Words DO matter. The brain is a part of the body. A mental illness is an illness like diabetes or cancer.

Seek help if you are struggling with your mental health and encourage others to do the same. Be honest about treatment. Mental health treatment is like other health care.

Support organizations that provide mental health services and advocacy.

Mental Health America National Alliance on Mental Illness

Create safe and supportive environments for open conversations about mental health.

"Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

https://mhanational.org/mental-health-month/2024-toolkit-download

OUTREACH

1 Samuel 3

1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision. 2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see; 3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep; 4 That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I. 5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou callest me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down. 6 And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again. 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him. {Now...: or, Thus did Samuel before he knew the LORD, and before the word of the LORD was revealed unto him} 8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child. 9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

One of my favorite stories of the bible. What does it even mean? I personally believe that if the Lord calls your name don't ignore him and shut him out. Listen to what he says. He has a plan for everyone.

Pretty quiet in outreach this month. Lots of events going on in the church and in the area. 04/13/2024 is Yuma's 110 year birthday. Celebration in town.

Have a great spring!!!

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Our members continue to be very generous in donating food to the food bank. The donations in 2024 are:

Jan. 178 lbs.

Feb. 138 lbs.

Mar. 245 lbs.

April 253 lbs.

The food bank not only prepares food boxes but coordinates with Crossroads Mission, Amberley's Place, and other agencies to supplement their food needs.

There were no birthdays at Rose Garden but we delivered an Easter basket for residents with greetings from Gloria De Cristo.

The collection center has moved to the back of the fellowship hall. We are continuing to collect tabs from cans . We had stopped for a while, but the tabs are now used by AM Vets and proceeds are contributed to veterans on dialysis.

Social Concerns and WELCA sponsored the film "Sound of Freedom" on 4/9/24. About 26 people attended and it was well received. Comments were made that we should do this more often.

We continue to look for volunteers to help with the monthly delivery of food to the food bank and care home ministry

Blessings,

Evelyn Trone, Chairperson 928-210-8015

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

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



WELCA HAPPENINGS

Greetings Everyone. By now, many of our congregants are in their summer homes up North. Those of us remaining in Yuma still enjoy Quilters and Days for Girls work parties.

WELCA partnered with Social Concerns to show the Sound of Freedom, a study in Human Trafficking. Although it was sad and emotional, it was factual and informative. We plan to continue movie night throughout the coming months.

Nine women from Gloria de Cristo made the journey to Sun City West at Lord of Life Lutheran Church where we enjoyed breakfast served by the men of the church. A full program focused on artificial intelligence and its impact on the church and on our society. The men of the church also served lunch after which, further worship, discussion, and finally, communion.

Gloria de Cristo, along with the other churches within our Grand Canyon Synod, are invited to a retreat on October 4-5 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Tucson. The theme is "Holy Spirit Set My Heart on Fire." Registration is available on line at www.grandcanyonwomen.org/events. Mark your calendars and let's go!

Wishing you a grand, fun-filled, healthy summer.

Donna Brown WELCA President/Convener Gloria de Cristo diabee1@yahoo.com 253 961-4564



Believe it's May already? What come's to my mind is 'Mother's Day'. It's a day when I look forward to hearing from not only my children but I probably get more excited to hear from my grandchildren and what they are doing.

As for the church activities my committee can take a breather after all the busyness of the Lenten and Easter season.....the changing of the interior of the Sanctuary. Thank You to all of them for being so helpful.

New worship assignments have been sent to volunteers for the months of May thru July. I am so appreciative to those that are willing to help make our services flow smoothly and provide that 'welcoming' smile to all of our guests on Sunday morning. If you'd like to be a part of worship, give me a call at the office (928-342-6002) and I will find a place for you.

To all those traveling....be safe and hurry back to Yuma!!

Char Schomisch, Co-Leader

Joanne Ausing, Co-Leader

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR MAY

- 5 Marijan/Judy Petrovic in celebration of their 30th wedding anniversary

- 12 Jeanette Miller in memory of husband Gene
- 19 John/Sharon Merz and Gary/Kristina Merz

George/Ann Alcaraz

10

26 Bill/Rita Kowalski in memory of grandson DAK Griffin And Bill's brother John.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES



1	Glenn/Ginger Van Winkle	16	Dave/Tina Jarmer
7	Mike/Sandy Corless	16	John/Sharon Merz
7	Marijan/Judy Petrovic	20	Jerry/Chris Randby

MAY BIRTHDAYS



			MAY 2024			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
			1 1 pm Chair Aerobics 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	2 7:00am TOPS 4 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm TOPS	3 8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/ English Conversation 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	8 am- Men's Breakfast, Daybreakers 8 am Women's Breakfast Club, Jimmy K's 9 am Days for Girls 9:00 am TOPS
S Worship 9:30 Potluck following 9:30 Collection of Food for Food Pantry 12:00 pm GriefShare Fellowship Gassroom 1:00 pm Foothills Social	6 9:00 am Glorious Quilters 10 am GriefShare Class, FC 12:30 & 3:00 pm Bible Study, Pastor's home	7 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 10 am Zoom Bible Study 1:00 pm Foothills Social	8 1 pm Chair Aerobics 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	9 7:00am TOPS 4 pm Bible Study	10 8:00am TOPS 8:00am Spanish/ English Conversation 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	11 8-10 AM Yard Sale Drop off
12 Worship 9:30 12:00 pm GriefShare Fellowship Gassroom 1:00 pm Foothills Social	13 9:00 am Glorious Quilters 10 am GriefShare Class, FC 12:30 & 3:00 pm Bible Study, Pastor's home 4:30 pm Stephen Min. Potluck, Fellowship Hall	7:00am-9:00am TOPS 10 am Zoom Bible Study 1:00 pm Foothills Social 4 pm Exec. Council 4:30 pm Council Mtg.	15 1 pm Chair Aerobics 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	16 7:00am TOPS 5:00 pm TOPS	8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/ English Conversation 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	18 9 am Days for Girls 9:00 am TOPS
19 Worship 9:30 12:00 pm GriefShare Fellowship Gassroom 1:00 pm Foothills Social	20 9:00 am Glorious Quilters 10 am GriefShare Class, FC 12:30 & 3:00 pm Bible Study, Pastor's home	21 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 10 am Zoom Bible Study 1:00 pm Foothills Social	22 1 pm Chair Aerobics 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	23 7:00am TOPS 5:00 pm TOPS	24 8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/ English Conversation 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	25 9:00 am TOPS
Vorship 9:30 12:00 pm GriefShare Fellowship Gassroom 1:00 pm Foothills Social	27 MEMORIAL DAY — OFFICE IS CLOSED! 10 am GriefShare Class,	28 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 1:00 pm Foothills Social	29 1 pm Chair Aerobics 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	30 7:00am TOPS 5:00 pm TOPS	31 8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/ English Conversation 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	June 1 8 am- Men's Breakfast, Daybreakers 8 am Women's Breakfast Club, Jimmy K's 9 am Days for Girls

Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church, ELCA 11273 E. 40th Street

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MAY 2024

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ORGANIST: Dr. Shirley Ehler

PIANISTS: Marie Ritten, Lorie Rapp,

Pam Carter, Suzanne Haggett

FIDDLE: Ami Theroux
BELLS OF GLORY: Lorie Rapp
CHOIR: Dr. Shirley Ehler

GriefShare Leaders:

Ted & Nikki Duffy

Lisa Crayne

Mary Marsh Lynette Layton

Stephen Ministry Leaders:

Pastor Timm Michelle Cegon Jim & Sherrie Wehrer **CHURCH 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 Cheryl Preul FELLOWSHIP: OUTREACH: Joe Johnson PROPERTY: Jerry Randby **SOCIAL CONCERNS: Evelyn Trone** STEWARDSHIP: Gary Raasch WORSHIP & MUSIC: Char Schomisch

Church Secretary: Char Schomisch