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

July 2023 Volume 31, Issue 7



#### MISSION STATEMENT

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

# TO ALL SEEKING TO FOLLOW JESUS AS LORD OF LIFE: CHANGE...SOME LOVE IT, SOME HATE IT.

Some change is inevitable, like the change out of old pastors or the change out of old A/V systems for something that is designed to work much better and satisfy the current needs of the congregation.

The need for change in the present A/V system is made evident in every worship service broadcast...and it was identified by our consultants as terribly inadequate, which would disappoint those trying to find a new church home...and was made the number one priority to address by our Vision Team.

The need for the change of the A/V system was never more apparent than on Christmas Eve 2022. The Christmas Eve worship is loved and watched by many, many people...and the broadcast totally and completely failed on Christmas Eve...and we heard about it!

The new A/V system has all new components that are designed and proven to "work and play well" together. For good sound, throughout the facility. First time, every time. Training and support will be provided.

The existing hearing assist system will also be available with the new T-coil hearing assist system. Some hearing aids only need a switch turned on to use the T-coil system. The existing hearing assist system will be available for all others.

Our progress so far: \$29,580 was given in the first two weeks of June, for a total given of \$64,481.

Thank you for your generous support! We thank God for your generosity to move God's mission forward!

Still needed to meet the goal: \$71,519.

<u>Please use the enclosed envelope and slip to give your generous gift to meet the goal as a great system for any new pastor to work with, without the headaches of the current system!</u>

See you in worship! Pastor Bill Timm

### From Dr. Shirley....

Hello, brothers and sisters! Today, I read a short booklet, *A Simple Explanation of Confession*, published by Concordia Publishing House in 2022. Let me share a few paragraphs with you.

No one is perfect. Everyone makes mistakes. Sometimes, we may even deliberately do wrong things. What does God expect us to do when we've sinned? Simply tell the truth and receive the forgiveness Jesus offers.

Does God forgive only the specific sins we confess to Him? No—that would leave countless sins unforgiven because it is impossible to remember or even recognize all our sins. Whether we confess publicly in church, privately to a pastor, or directly to God in prayer, we can be confident that since Jesus carried our sins to the cross, we have forgiveness in Him. . . . God is more than happy to take away our sins and guilt, comfort us with His love and forgiveness, and promise us eternal life with Him. God knows each . . . of us is a sinner. We stir up His anger and deserve nothing but His punishment here on earth and forever in the fires of hell. But God loves us too much to let that happen to us—so He sent His Son, Jesus, to become a human, to live among us, and to take our sin and guilt upon Himself so that on the cross, God could punish Him in our place. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, you are free from your sin. You never need to fear God's punishment. . . . you can know with certainty that God has forgiven your sins, and you can live in peace and joy, serving God and your neighbor in gratitude and love.

I am reminded of a Bible verse I memorized as a child, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9, KJ21). This is marvelous comfort and encouragement while we "Walk with God to bring new life and hope to every person".

#### From the Call Committee

#### **Call Committee Update**

As of the date I'm writing this article, we have had one candidate express interest, but they were not a good fit for what we need, so their name was not passed on to the Call Committee by the Transition Coach. This is a normal practice, similar to when an HR department filters the candidates that a manager would interview. We have specific criteria we need to meet, and not every candidate that would love to come to our church would actually be an appropriate candidate to serve here. So, we continue to wait and pray. Currently, the Call Committee is reviewing the interview process, and has selected our questions to ask potential candidates.

All candidates that pass the initial screening receive an initial interview. The initial interview is usually 30-60 minutes, and covers a few questions that the Call Committee has. The team leaves about 15 minutes for the candidate to ask question of the committee. This is a mutual process, and the candidate needs to get to know the congregation as much as the congregation needs to get to know the candidate. After each interview, the team will discuss the candidate, their impressions and reactions, and whether or not they would like to continue interviewing that candidate more. Our first interviews will all be via Zoom, since we need to be consistent with not only the questions asked, but in the method of interviewing. Each candidate will be asked the same questions in the same order.

Keep in mind also that the Office of the Bishop staff need discernment time to identify appropriate candidates, and this may take four to six weeks. The team that is doing this is small, and there are many churches in the Grand Canyon Synod who are in need of pastoral staff. Our Ministry Site Profile was posted on May 15, 2023.

Please continue to pray for Gloria de Cristo and the Call Committee as we continue to work for a successful pastoral transition.

God, keep us mindful of your presence among us as we seek to discern your will for us. Help us see beyond our own needs to the needs of your whole church. Open our eyes to new possibilities and opportunities of being your people. Guide us and lead us O Lord. Amen

Michelle Cegon
Call Committee Chair

#### FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Hardly seems possible that summer is half over. This will definitely be known as the summer of change at Gloria de Cristo. The Call Committee has been busy taking care of their duties and we are in the process of updating the sound system to produce better quality for members both online, in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. One aspect of our congregation that won't change will be the fellowship among the worshipers and visitors both online and in person. We will have to work together to achieve our goals and a smooth transition in the coming months. This will at times require patience, understanding and much prayer. As a congregation, we will need to have open and meaningful conversations while keeping our Lord and Savior foremost in our minds.

**'BE BOLD IN YOUR BAPTISM'...** This was the theme of this year's Grand Canyon Synod Assembly held at Resurrection Luther Church in Oro Valley, Az. On June 9th and 10th. I want to thank the members of Gloria de Cristo for having me represent our church at this function. Pastor Timm, Michelle Cegon, Lynette Layton and I were in attendance.

The many volunteers did a wonderful job putting on the event with over 90 congregations from Utah, Nevada, Arizona and Mexico being represented (300+ people)

Food, Fun and Fellowship (the three F's) were all in the recipe! It was also great sharing our life story as Lynette and I did with each other.

God is Good....All the Time! All the time.....God is Good!!

Bob Hall, GDC member

# Can you hear me now?.....Can you hear me NOW?....CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW??

I think most of us can remember the cell phone commercial. During the vision process, the team identified a serious problem with the live stream and recorded worship services due to the age and condition of the sound and video equipment. It is not the best sound when we are in the sanctuary, and some awful stuff when we try to worship online. Well, I am pleased to tell you that by mid-August, we should have a brand new, functioning sound and video system installed and operational in the sanctuary!

As someone who has faced hearing problems for a couple of decades, I can tell you that the world is a much nicer place when one can hear the sounds and especially the words that are going on around them. This is even more important to those who are not able to attend worship in person and choose to join-in through online options.

<u>Prepare to be amazed</u>. In person and online attendance should be an even better experience than we have ever had. Thank you to all who have already earmarked their extra offerings for the sound system. We will need to raise funds at a rate similar to the great contribution pace we kept to pay for the beautiful new organ and I am confident we will be successful in raising the funds to cover this large expense.

#### **PROPERTY**



Decided it was time to go see my Grand Kids in Colorado. Lee and I were on our way to Colorado when she passed last year. I have not seen them for three years.

Lots of friends and lots of cool weather. Thanks to Curt Roark for helping me Replace a few of the Oleanders along the Driveway. Thanks to Eric Warner for tightening up all the pews in the Sanctuary. The blowing sand has dramatically improved after we installed the silt fence. I have not had to shovel sand even once all summer. It has been pretty quiet this summer so far. I am fine with that.

Hope everyone is having a great summer and we look forward to your returning to us safely this fall.

Property: David Donaldson

# Refreshments

#### **FELLOWSHIP**

We are definitely in our summer season, really warm days, but it has been cooling down at night. Evenings are a welcome part of each day.

It seems that everyone enjoys a potluck. We had a great crowd at our June potluck, with LOTS of good food. We will be continuing our monthly potluck all through the summer. Attendance at Fellowship after church continues strong, and I really appreciate the people who have stepped forward to help with clean up afterwards.

I would like to have an assistant help with the set up, which means coming about an hour prior to worship, help make the coffee/drinks and set out the goodies. I will be available to help the person in proper coffee making procedures and setup needs. At this time, we have plenty of cookies. I will let you all know when we need more.

There is a sign up sheet for people to be hosts. If you enjoy the fellowship time, please consider signing up for a time to work with me and help with the cleanup.

We have been having a fair number of our members at our Thursday morning work parties. We accomplished a lot of organizing and hope to start actually making products for the Bazaar. Anyone with ideas for products to sell is encouraged to come to a work party and show us how to make the product. We have such a talented group of ladies. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday's of the month.

See you all in Fellowship. Cheryl Preul



# **GLORIOUS QUILTERS**

Yay for the RED, WHITE & BLUE, fireworks, parades, picnics but most of all our FREEDOM and remembering all our fallen servicemen and women that fought so that we could enjoy our FREEDOMS. Let us not forget our service men & women in all branches of service, Marines, Air Force, Army, Navy & Coast Guard. There are never enough Thank You's to them.

Many of our Ladies are still leaving us to visit family or just a little VACA somewhere. Those that are left come in every Monday morning with smiling faces and an eagerness to get more accomplished. The Glorious Quilters try hard to lend a helping hand with other projects that will be happening here at Gloria De Cristo church.

We will be quilting all summer long so if you get lonesome for some Fellowship come join us Monday 9-12 in the fellowship room. We stop for coffee and treats at 10. You'll not find any friendlier Ladies.

Oh a little side note: These ladies made 48 pillow case dresses for The Little Girls in Africa!!!

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



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-July 1

#### MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

#### **Coping Strategies for Living with a Chronic Condison (Part Two)**

Mentally adjusting to being in a long-term chronic condition and how that can change your life can feel overwhelming. Many parents have comorbid mental illnesses due to the difficult nature of living with their condition. Our April *Evangel* article focused on strategies to help cope with a chronic illness such as Dementia, Parkinson's Disease, Arthritis pain, Terminal Cancer, etc. We listed several coping strategies that we will detail in more depth. In the June *Evangel* we focused on:

Acceptance, Being Kind to Yourself, Talking About What You are Going Through, and Practicing Self Care. Part Two will focus on the following:

#### **Replacing Negative Thoughts with Positive Ones**

Negative thoughts are often unavoidable when you live with chronic pain or a debilitating condition. The key to reduce negative thoughts as much as possible and the most important thing is what you do when you have those thoughts. When you think something negative, for example "I'm always going to be in pain", stop yourself and replace it with something positive, for example, "I know that chronic pain can improve, this feeling will pass". It's important to realize that negative thoughts don't have to influence your behavior You can continue to implement positive coping strategies despite any negative thoughts you may experience.

#### **Finding Joy**

It can seem like chronic illness has taken all the joy out of your life, but this doesn't have to be the case. You can find joy in small everyday things, taking the time to really appreciate them rather than rush past them. For example, if you have a tasty meal or if you enjoy a program, take the time to really savor this and think about how much you enjoyed it. You can also find new hobbies which bring joy into your life and set new goals for the future. Finding purpose and motivation is vital. Continuing to strive for your goals despite your chronic pain is not easy, so having things that you are passionate about achieving can keep you moving forward and give you a reason to get up in the morning, even if you're in pain.

#### **Practicing Gratitude**

Another way to have a more positive outlook on life is to find things to be grateful for. You can do this daily by listing things you are grateful for in your life in your head or writing them down. This could be family and friends, a roof over your head, a wonderful experience or a pain free day. Anything at all, however small or large it seems, can be included. A lot of people keep a gratitude journal. At the end of each day, they write down two or three things that they have been grateful for that day. This act of actively looking for the positives in each day can contribute over time to a more positive mindset. When you're struggling to find positives, it can be great to look back through your gratitude journal to remind yourself of things you have to be happy about.

#### 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!)

#### **SOCIAL CONCERNS**

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

The Social Concerns committee continues to send birthday, anniversary and cards to members. There was some confusion over labels which has been resolved. If you didn't get a card, we apologize. We are asking for donations of cards. If you get the free cards that many charities send and collect them, we are placing a basket in the collection center for you to contribute your cards.

We delivered 120 lbs. of food to the food bank in June. Thank you for your generosity and remember the first Sunday each month is food bank day. If you would like to volunteer to take the food donations to the food bank let me or a committee member know. We rotate in scheduling deliveries, so the task doesn't fall on only 1 person.

The committee is considering providing some service for Rose Garden Assisted Living. Right now, we will be adding them to our birthday list. But we are looking at other ways to get involved. If you would like to participate or help plan. Let me or a committee member know.

Blessings,

Evelyn Trone, Chairperson

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV) As each received a gift, use it to serve one another, as stewards of God's caried gifts.

#### **OUTREACH**

#### 1 Samuel

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 calledst 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.

Do you know what to do if God comes calling? Don't just shut the door and hope it goes away. Respond and let God know you are listening. God has a plan for you. Give him a chance to use you. We had a good meeting with the sound system company and talked about our needs and wishes and got the ball rolling on negotiating for a nice system for our future needs. We also had a good pot luck get together with the Stephen ministers. That's about it.

Thanks
Joe Johnson



#### Welcome...New Members

A couple of the new members received recently did not get their bio's printed in the Evangel, so I am sharing those with you this month.

**Mary Becker** 

1950 E 24th St # 105 Yuma, AZ 85365

I was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 1935. Moved several times while growing up but eventually graduated high school in Iowa. Entered the Nay in 1953 where I met my husband. We had 2 daughters (Cheryl living in Washington state and Theresa living here) and 2 sons (Matthew in Washington state and John in California). Some of our duty stations were Guam, Barstow, Washington DC and San Diego. I lived just east of San Diego (Lakeside) since 1966. My daughter Theresa and I moved to Yuma 13 months ago following the death of her husband.

**Lisa Crayne** 

2700 W. 8th Street #139 Yuma, Az. 85364

I was born on Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage, Alaska. I was raised a typical 'military brat' — moving around the country every three years or so. I graduated from high school in Longview, Washington but moved around some as a young adult. I then settled ack in the Pacific Northwest where my second husband, Ray and I raised 3 kids together. We have 2 grown sons but recently lost our daughter. We moved to Yuma when Ray retired in 1999. I worked at the Harley Shop for a number of years and then returned to education. I taught Special Ed, Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades. I retired from the Somerton School District in 2019.



#### WELCA HAPPENINGS

For the summer months, probably through September, most of WELCA's focus at Gloria de Cristo will be on Days For Girls kits, constructing the contents for each of the 53 bags already completed. Waterproof pouches, shields and liners are items to be put together, pressed and sewn. Washcloths and travel-sized soaps are the other items that make up the contents of the kits. Spearheading this project are a group dedicated to every other Saturday work parties in the Fellowship Hall from 9-1 pm. Some are able to contribute every time, some once a month, and some during the Fall-Winter season. Regardless, everyone's work is so very important.

The other challenge to WELCA women of Gloria de Cristo is the registration to the September WELCA Triennial gathering. As its name suggests, it happens every three years. The year 2020 was canceled due to the Pandemic so it has been six years since a national gathering has occurred. Since it will be held in Phoenix, the opportunity for the Grand Canyon WELCA to attend is much more likely. The Theme is "JUST LOVE" and the dates are September 21-24, 2023. Registration is available online at <a href="welcatg.org">welcatg.org</a>. Please consider registering and attending this fulfilling event where thousands of women worship together, a truly remarkable gathering.

As stated on the registration site, "renew your spirit with thousands of faithful women just like you who are eager to grow, learn, pray and party-together.....live your faith in love that leads to justice."

Donna Brown, WELCA Convener

#### **WORSHIP**

We are moving into July...the middle of the year. The year seems to be passing by so quickly and even though many of our church family are away from Yuma, there's still a good number who gather on Sunday to hear the Word of God. I find it very satisfying to have a part in worship every week be it ushering, greeting, serving communion, reading, playing bells or singing in the choir. I will soon be putting together a schedule of worship assistants for the fall and into spring. If you would like to be a part of that, please send me an email (<a href="mailto:chargdc@outlook.com">chargdc@outlook.com</a>) or phone the office. Kate will be leaving for Arkansas this month as Doug has accepted a position with Walmart and I have the privilege of returning to the secretary position. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to stop by and chat.

# **ALTAR FLOWERS FOR JULY**

- 2 Ted & Niki Duffy for their 45th wedding anniversary
- 9 Carol Schock/Michelle Cegon in memory of Lee Donaldson
- 16 Johnny Watson/Joy McCormicle Birthdays
- 23 Brigitte Arnio in memory of husband Arnie

30





# **JULY BIRTHDAYS**

1	Brenda Taylor	12 Lauren Erickson	28	Pat Nelson
3	Dave Jarmer	14 Claudia Knight	29	Janice Erickson
7	Gwen Hubenthal	17 Duane Reinhardt	31	Lori Rapp
7	Alan Werner	18 Betty Cilk	31	Lou Strahm
10	Shar Stapleton	22 Bill Haney		

# **JULY ANNIVERSARIES**



1	Ted & Niki Duffy	20	Allen & Linda Sprauer
4	Jeff & Amber Pacewic	22	Don & Pat Bunker
5	Jerry & Shar Stapleton	30	Dennis & Bonnie Munson
7	Paul & Rosella Lesher	31	Brad & Shirley Baeth
10	Dave & Elaine Hofslien	31	Bill & Sandy Timm

			JULY 2023			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:00 am- Men's Break- fast at Daybreak- ers 9AM- 1PM DAYS FOR GIRLS
2 Worship 9:30 POTLUCK & FOOD COL- LECTION Reception for Kate 12:00 am GriefShare 1:00 pm Foothills Social	3 9:00 am Glorious Quilters 12:30 pm Bible Study 1 pm Social Concerns	4 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 10:00 am Zoom Bible Study 1:00 pm Foothills Social 4:00 pm Mental Health Ministry	5 8:00 am Staff Meeting 2:30 pm Chair balancing & Stretching 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	6 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 5:00pm-7:00 pm TOPS	7 8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/ English Conversation 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	8
9 Worship 9:30 12:00 am GriefShare 1:00 pm Foothills Social	10 9:00 am Glorious Quilters 12:30 pm Bible Study 1:30 pm Fellowship Meeting	11 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 10:00 am Zoom Bible Study 1:00 pm Foothills Social	12 8:00 am Staff Meeting 2:30 pm Chair balancing & Stretching 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	13 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 9-1 Bazaar Workshop 5:00pm-7:00 pm TOPS	14 8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/ English Conversation 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	15 9am- 1PM DAYS FOR GIRLS
16  Worship 9:30 12:00 am GriefShare 1:00 pm Foothills Social	17 9:00 am Glorious Quilters 12:30 pm Bible Study	18 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 10:00 am Zoom Bible Study 1:00 pm Foothills Social 4:00 pm Executive Council 4:30 pm Council Meeting	19 8:00 am Staff Meeting 2:30 pm Chair balancing 8 Stretching 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	20 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 5:00pm-7:00 pm TOPS	21 8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/ English Conversation 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	22
23 <i>Worship 9:30</i> 12:00 am GriefShare 1:00 pm Foothills Social	24 9:00 am Glorious Quilters 12:30 pm Bible Study	25 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 10:00 am Zoom Bible Study 1:00 pm Foothills Social	26 8:00 am Staff Meeting 2:30 pm Chair balancing & Stretching 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 6:00 pm Choir	27 7:00am-9:00am TOPS 9-1 Bazaar Workshop 5:00pm-7:00 pm TOPS	28 8:00am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/ English Conversation 1:00 pm Foothills Social 6:00 pm Women's AA	29 9am- 1PM DAYS FOR GIRLS

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#### **JULY 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: Brennen Harwood

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