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

June 2025 Volume 33, Issue 6



#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

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

#### **CHRIST WITH US IN JUNE**

#### **Easter People in a Good Friday World**

"On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away....suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightening stood beside them...the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" He is not here; he has risen!"

Luke 24:1-6

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! We have rejoiced with Christians everywhere on Easter Sunday at the good news that Jesus, who suffered for our sins, died, and was buried, has risen and our salvation is secured. Now, we're two months beyond that celebration, and the world has kept on spinning and when we look around us, we see that Satan is still working, that suffering is still with us, war still rages, people are still hungry, sick, dying, grieving and many are living on the margins, unseen and unremarked. Good Friday is still at work...evil and darkness, violence and hatred, division and discrimination are still active and thriving. So what's the point?

Jesus told his disciples even before his suffering and death; "You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. All men will hate you because of me," (Luke 21:16-17) and then, in verses 18 and 19, he says: "But not a hair of your head will perish. By standing firm you will gain life". Christ's life, death and resurrection did not make things easier for the disciples or the early church. We know that these two sets of verses appear to be contrary. We know that all of the disciples were martyred (except John) and that the church has been persecuted even to this day. But we also know that we are already eternally living in God's promise and that through Jesus' suffering, we are made new and Christ is in us. We are also transfigured and by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone, we are beloved sons and daughters who will inherit the kingdom. We live in the 'soon', but not 'yet' and although we are subject to our own flesh, we are made perfect, redeemed, sanctified, justified and purified and we have the joy of the promise fulfilled in Christ's death and resurrection. And that is the point.

(Continued)

## Con't from page 1

So we can rejoice! We do have hope! And best of all, we can bear witness, walking with Jesus to bring new life and hope to all people. In this "Good Friday World". we can bring the word of salvation, love and the peace that passes all understanding. We can be the hands and feet of Jesus to our neighbors, to our families, serving others in grace and in truth. And finally, when God calls our name, we can step into that totally, completely, perfect bliss of life as an Easter Person who has been transformed into an Easter Body to live eternally in the Easer Promise.

Heavenly Father, keep Easter joy alive in me. Send me the Holy Spirit that I might continue to share the good news with those that are stuck in a Good Friday life. Through your grace, bring us all into the Easer Promise way of living in peace, love and the certain hope of life eternal. Amen.



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

The next date is: July 5, 2025

All Ladies are encouraged to come join us!!

### TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

The NEW Website for Gloria de Cristo is up and running! Be sure to check it out. We are eager to hear what you think about ease of use, the general layout and the clarity of the message Diane Lee and Char began the development of this project about April, 2024 meeting at least once a week. To complete each section we sent articles, photo's, set-up to Imaginary Friends. They would give the information o their team to arrange, send back to us for approval and then wait for them to send us the instructions for the next session and go through the process again.

A great deal of work and frustration has gone into this important means of getting out the Word to the community ,and we're hoping that our message of "Walking with Jesus to Bring New Life and Hope to Every Person" is loud and clear! Seeing it completed ,we both feel it was worth all the effort.

Go to: www.gloriadecristo.com and see for yourself!!

## **LOVE THOSE SCREENS**

The screens for worship are installed and working nicely. We've gotten a lot of positive responses and people seem eager to worship without having their hands full. We still have a balance to repay to get our new worship tool "Paid in Full". There is a dedicated envelope in this Evangel for you to use to make a donation to offset the outstanding balance. Please prayerfully respond and support this wonderful addition to our worship tools.

Thank You!!

# From the desk of Dr. Shirley . . .



One of the benefits of going to my grandson's wedding last week was receiving from his pastor a copy of the revised and updated book by Brant Hansen, *Unoffendable*. The basic premise is "You can consciously choose to be "*unoffendable*, to forfeit the right to hold on to our righteous anger." He goes on to say, "Actually, it's not even 'forfeiting' a right, because the right doesn't exist. We're told to forgive, and that means anger has to go, whether we've decided our own anger is 'righteous' or not."

Hansen also says, "If you're constantly being hurt, offended, or angered, you should honestly evaluate your inflamed ego." Real humility is not about putting yourself down. It is about self-forgetfulness—not thinking: *How do I look? Am I a success? What do they think of me?* 

People who don't think about themselves are difficult to offend. When we choose ahead of time—before conversations, meetings, or even beginning our day—to be unoffendable, we are simply choosing humility. We give up our right to bitterness and anger and decide in advance to forgive people. This forgiveness opens new dimensions of rest, grace, and simplicity in our lives. "Those who want to save their lives will give up true life, and those who give up their lives for me will have true life" (Matthew 16:25).

I recently finished reading the book, *Unoffendable*, and will read it again. In the meantime, I am trying to practice becoming unoffendable.

### **EDUCATION**

We continue teaching the Confirmation Classes, the young ladies are picking up fairly quickly. We are in Small Catechism right now. Martin Luther wrote the Small Catechism to help his fellow man get a basic approach to the belief of the church. The Apostle's Creed, The Lord's Prayer, the 10 Commandments, morning & evening Prayers and the Sacrament of Baptism & Communion are in the Small Catechism. If you are interested in reading about the Small Catechism, there are many books available. My favorite is "Both Small and Large Catechism." It gives more insight into the Catechism.

If you are interested, you can talk to Sandra Arceneaux or me.

God bless, Lynette Layton, Education



## **FELLOWSHIP**

Thank the GOOD LORD for watching over us. HE is always there for us. On GOOD FRIDAY someone entered the kitchen. We had just received a new stove. That person decided to try it out. That person turned on the burners without any knowledge that it was not totally in working order. Why would anyone go in a kitchen without any purpose but to be nosy, I have no idea, but they started to play around. They left the burner on and filled the kitchen with gas!! The cleaning crew came in and immediately called Dave. Just think about what could have happened. The church could have blown up, someone may have been killed. Only a spark would do it.

Due to this happening we must make some changes for potlucks. 1) The door to the kitchen is not a pass-through door. Please use the main entrance. 2) There should only be 4 people in the kitchen at a time. The people that are working in there must work around you. 3) Please place your dirty dishes in the containers on the table. You will find your dish that you brought on that table after the event. We are not responsible for them.

Now on to better things. We are planning a Mexican dinner in last part of June. I will put more information in the bulletin to announce the date. Please watch for that.

Pray for all.

Merrilee Kaiser, Fellowship Chair



# **GLORIOUS QUILTERS**

June is upon us!

We really don't have anything new to tell you. Oh wait!! Our awesome co-leader Dyanne while getting ready to fly back to Ohio fell and did a real number on herself. SOOOO drop her a line and give her a little bit of H\_\_\_\_ while you're at it. Silly girl! (address below)

Again, if you're bored with the summer heat, come join us. The Fellowship Hall is air conditioned!! We're here **Every Monday 9-12**, coffee and treat break at 10.

We've cut up a lot of fleece that can be tied. You MEN are welcome as well. I've been told there are some sewers and knitters out there.

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

Dyanne Radke 4600 Collingville Way Columbus, Oh. 43230



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 July 5, 2025



## **HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

## **Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body**

Let's praise the awesome Lord as David in Psalm 139: "I praise thee, for thou art fearful and wonderful. Wonderful are they works!" (RSV)

Almighty God made you and me. As His creations, we are wonderful! Praise Him! This is the last of Healthy Tips for Brain and Body from the Alzheimer's Association. To help you be the wonderful you that God created, previous suggestions are to get quality sleep, quit smoking, take care of mental health, get moving, and eat healthily.

#### **Challenge Yourself**

#### **Examples:**

- >>Learn a new skill or hobby that challenges your brain
- >>Take a class about a topic that interests you
- >> Bible studies, Stephen Ministry Class

>> bloic studies, stephen wimstry class	
One healthy habit I already have:	
One change I can make now:	
One change I'd like to make in three months:	
One tip to help me be successful:	

### Stay Connected

## **Examples:**

- >>Schedule phone calls or video chats with friends and family
- >>Volunteer for a cause you care about in your community
- >> Church services, Fellowship, Quilting, Outreach, Social Concerns Committee, Chair exercise

One healthy habit I already have:	
One change I can make now:	
One change I'd like to make in three months:	
One tip to help me be successful:	

### **STEPHEN MINISTRY**



#### **Stephen Ministry Updates**

Stephen Ministry has been a key part of Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church since the fall of 2003. Pastor Bill Timm laid the foundation and mentored several Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers. We are excited to continue this Christian caregiving for people in the congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in life and are hurting.

The Stephen Leader Team has expanded to six. This provides the opportunity to "fine tune" all the key roles, allowing us to focus on coordinating our responsibilities to provide the best training, supervision and support to our Stephen Ministers.

Referrals Coordinator – Niki Duffy Communications Coordinator – Sandy Corless Supervision Coordinator – Robin Marlatt. Training Coordinators – Jim & Sherrie Wehrer Stephen Leader Team Coordinator – Michelle Cegon

This month, we would like to focus on the Referrals Coordinator. Niki Duffy will oversee the referrals process which includes various areas of consulting and communicating with the pastoral staff on referrals issues. Primarily, Niki will be matching Stephen Ministers with care receivers. This process is done with the utmost confidentiality.

If you are experiencing difficulties in your life OR if you know of someone who is struggling, please contact Niki Duffy at (509) 531-6651 to see if assigning a Stephen Minister might offer hope and healing.

Thank you! Stephen Leader Team



#### **PROPERTY**



Jerry asked me to look after things here at the Church over the summer. I am happy to do that . I will be doing the property report .

Most of the issues have been minor repairs and cleaning. Blowing sand off the walks, replacing lightbulbs, spraying weeds and cleaning the gardens. I replaced the two dead bushes on the driveway and repaired the irrigation to them. Thanks to Bryan Urrey for his help. In replanting them. Repaired the light in the men's bathroom. Thanks to Brian Suess's for helping me replace the ballasts and bulbs.

From time to time over the summer I may need assistance with repairs . Please contact me or the office if you are staying here for the summer and are willing to volunteer. I promise I will not have you digging in the sand or out in the heat .

Have a blessed Summer and enjoy . David Donaldson



The Worship Committee did not meet this month as there isn't anything to discuss. There are no church holiday's in the upcoming month for changing of the Sanctuary so my assigned committee members will tend to setting up communion each week.

The Worship Assistant schedule has been sent out, however, if anyone is interested in helping as an usher, greeter or reader, contact the office or make it known on your 'green" slip. I certainly appreciate all the volunteers that keep our church going..

There are still dates on the Flower Calendar, should you desire to provide them on a given weekend. The calendar is posted on the west wall of the Narthex

Char Schomisch, Co-leader



### **STEWARDSHIP**

After several days of thinking and searching, I finally decided on an 'article' for this edition of the Evangel. I came upon the idea after reading this humorous story in one of my yard sale books. I will first give credit to the author whom some of you may know. The book is entitled "Pay or Burn", written by a Lutheran Pastor for 42 years, G. William Genszler, a Wisconsin cheesehead.

A woman appeared before a judge seeking a divorce from her husband.

The judge asked her, "Do you have any grounds?"

"Yes sir, I have three acres." was her reply

"No, no, I mean do you have a grudge?"

"No, I don't, but I have a carport".

"I'm sorry, but does your husband beat you up?" asked the judge.

"No sir, I always get up before him."

Finally, exasperated, the judge in desperation asked. "Woman, why do You want a divorce?"

"Well, judge, you see, my husband and I seem to have a problem with Communication."

The word "communication" sort of clicked. In the lives of people in 2025, communication includes more possible definitions than I could possibly list. At some point in our lives we have all experienced difficulties in communicating with our families, co-workers and sometimes even our friends on a simple one-to-one basis. The real concern with communication is when others speak about something without knowing all the facts. I believe at times that may occur when "others" speak of our 'Gloria de Cristo".

When in a conversation with others and the subject Gloria de Cristo comes up, frequently it is followed by "oh yeah! That little church on 40th street, they have the best Yard Sale". Perhaps prejudice or pride, more likely both, but yes we do. I would usually counter with "we have a most excellent Pastor who tells good 'jokes" and also "preaches" strictly from Scripture "without politics. Perhaps it is more understandable because for me those conversations usually happen at the poker table. Then I would suggest that they try us. Guess my communication didn't work so well since only one our of four lasted for more than few months.

The point I am trying to get to is more about what those same people don't say or maybe that we don't properly communicate with them. Perhaps they should hear about the generous stewards in our church who for years have been collecting food for the Yuma Food Bank; often in excess of 2 and 3 hundred pounds a month. Communication!! Or equally important, we provide the best GriefShare Program west of the Mississippi. In a very broad sense,

## STEWARDSHIP (con't)

communicating the "goodness" of our Gloria de Cristo is perhaps in a small way part of being a Christian Steward. After all, it does take our time to talk to people. Try it. Nothing to lose.

In recent church council meetings it was pointed out that our Bishop expects Gloria de Cristo to become the "flagship" of the Grand Canyon Synod for the "Lay Ministry Program". There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that WE WILL succeed. Not only will we become their Flagship, we will be their "poster child". So to make that happen, it is imperative that we begin to "communicate using our time and talent" with the world outside the arch: that we are a Lutheran Church filled with hundreds of God's Stewards and REMARKABLE VICARS. We care for God's church in many more "generous terms" than simply a yard sale. Invite them to come to a service on a Sunday morning. You have nothing to lose. I usually get a down the nose look or a very fast head shake..so what, still friends.

This is a little difficult to say because I am as guilty as anyone else; maybe a little less "grumbling" communication about the synod doing a bad job, no new Pastor, screens we didn't want, temperature too warm in the sanctuary or any other subject du jour you may like to "grumble" about. Let's all communicate with a little more positivity as God would demand. Be joyous and spread all "the good news" while you are taking that walk with Jesus. Takes "time and talent", two points of stewardship.

Guess I got a little 'windy' again.

Stewardship Chair, Gary Raasch

Look around the world and what do you see? The beauty of the sky, the grandeur of the mountains, and the splendor of the lakes. All of these attests to God's glory, majesty, and power. Yet, we also see brokenness, tragedy, wars. This is enough to make even Christians question if God is still in control. Instead of despair and hopelessness, open your Bible. It is full of God's promises to us.

Though the world is constantly changing, God has promised He never changes (Malachi 3:6). When we doubt if God cares, we are assured He is always with us (Matthew 28:20). We trust that God wants what is best for us because He is faithful (2 Thessalonians 3:3). Finally, we can be assured that we have nothing to fear because Jesus told us, "I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Taken from Hope-Full Living



### **OUTREACH**

John 16. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Wow what a great bible verse. Isn't it great to know that all I have to do is believe in Jesus and I will have eternal life. Surely there is more to it but there is no other way to have that promise. What a great thing to live for.

Not much going on in Outreach. A lot of our church family have already left for the summer months. I will also go on vacation this year. The wife says she wants to go visit the grandkids. We have 12 grandchildren and one great grandchild. So we will be busy. They love their grandpa.

Have a great summer, stay hydrated...see ya in the fall.

Joe Johnson, Outreach Chair

## **SOCIAL CONCERNS**



As the temperatures climb so do needs. Temperatures, prices, etc. make it difficult for all of us, especially for those already struggling for their daily bread. The monthly food bank offering continues on the first Sunday of each month. Everyone has been very generous. Here are the totals this year so far: January 356#, February 200#, March 100#, April 230#, and May 250# Thank You for your kindness and generosity.

There are 2 Rose Garden Birthdays in June. These are simple gatherings with cake, quilt, balloons. If you would like to participate, let a committee member know. We would like to expand this ministry but can't do it without your help.

Greeting cards continue to be sent and the collection center accepts clear amber pill bottles without labels, printer cartridges, aluminum tabs, travel kits and eye glasses. The center is located in the back of Fellowship Hall.

We would like to make pocket prayers to distribute to members and if you would like to help, let a committee member know. Social Concerns meets the first Monday of each month in Fellowship Hall. Drop by...new members are always welcome.

Blessings, Evelyn Trone, Chair 928-210-8015

#### 1 Peter 4:10

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

# **JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**

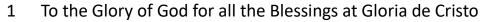


7 Curtis and Carol Roark 12 Dave & Nancy Griffiths

8 Tom & Jeanie Volpe 21 Walt & Terry Pappin

9 Larry & Shirley Shilley

## **FLOWERS FOR JUNE**



- 8 Dave & Nancy Griffiths in celebration of their 61st Wedding Anniversary
- 8 Ralph & Patricia Polk in memory of son, Robert

15

22

29



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1	Gary Bradshaw	15	Jan Klipfel	24	Carolyn Smith
3	Joe Johnson	16	Patricia Polk	26	Larry Unger
5	Anna Stokes	19	Brigitte Arnio	27	Jack Greenfield
5	Gary Titus	21	Jane Todd	27	Carolyn Wertman
7	Merrilee Kaiser	22	Richard Martin	28	Jeff Pacewic
7	Carol Schock	23	Judy Zeiss	29	Ila Goter
12	Jackie Tracey	24	Nila Jacobs	29	Ruth Nelson
13	Judy Petrovic				

			JUNE 2025			
Sunday	Monday	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs		Saturday
1 Worship 8:30 AM 9:30 am Brunch Food Collection 12:15 pm GriefShare, FC	2 9 am Glorious Quilters 12 pm Social Concerns Mtg		4 9 am Line dance Exercise 1 pm Chair Aerobics 5 pm Confirmation Classes	5 7 am TOPS		7 8 am Men's Breakfast 8 am Women's Break- fast 9 am TOPS 9:30 am Days 4 Girls 10 am Vision Mtg.
8  Worship 8:30 AM  12:15 pm GriefShare, FC	9 9 am Glorious Quilters	10 7 am TOPS 9 am Fellowship Mtg.	11 9 am Line dance Exercise 1 pm Chair Aerobics 5 pm Confirmation Classes	12 7 am TOPS	13 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/ English Conversation 10:30 Chair Aerobics	14 9 am TOPS
15 <b>Worship 8:30 AM</b> 12:15 pm GriefShare, FC	16 9 am Glorious Quilters	17 7 am TOPS 10 am Fellowship Mtg.	18 9 am Line dance Exercise 1 pm Chair Aerobics 5 pm Confirmation Classes	19 7 am TOPS	20 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/ English Conversation 10:30 Chair Aerobics	21 9 am Days for Girls 9 am TOPS
22 <b>Worship 8:30 AM</b> 12:15 pm GriefShare, FC	23 9 am Glorious Quilters	24 7 am TOPS 4 pm Council Mtg., FC	25 9 am Line dance Exercise 1 pm Chair Aerobics 5 pm Confirmation Classes	<b>26</b> 7 am TOPS	8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/ English Conversation 10:30 Chair Aerobics 6 pm Women's AA	<b>28</b> 9 am TOPS
29  Worship 8:30 AM  12:15 pm GriefShare, FC	30 9 am Glorious Quilters	1 July 7 am TOPS	2 9 am Line dance Exercise 1 pm Chair Aerobics 5 pm Confirmation Classes	3 7 am TOPS	4 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/ English Conversation 10:30 Chair Aerobics 6 pm Women's AA	S am Men's Breakfast 8 am Women's Break- fast 9 am TOPS 9 am Days for Girls 10 am Vision Mtg.

Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church, ELCA

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#### JUNE 2025

AUTHORIZED VICARS: Dr. Shirley Ehler Paula Pegues
Judy Zeiss Char Schomisch Jerry Randby

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

Stephen Ministry Leaders

Jim & Sherrie Wehrer Niki Duffy
Michelle Cegon Sandy Corless

Robin Marlatt

GriefShare Leaders: Ted & Nikki Duffy Lisa Crayne Mary Marsh MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS:

PRESIDENT:

SECRETARY:

TREASURER:

VICE PRESIDENT:

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

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS** 

John Arnold

Sharon Merz

Jackie Tracey

Char Schomisch

Church Secretary: Char Schomisch