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

August 2025
Volume 33, Issue 8

MISSION STATEMENT

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

CHRIST WITH US IN AUGUST

WOE AND WORRY

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27

Remember the burning hearts we all had on the road to Emmaus on Easter morning? We were so excited to be accompanied by the resurrected Jesus and as we told others, our hearts were bursting with joy and hope. That was then. This is now. At this time and in this place, it feels like we are confronted with a life that is too complicated, too vexing, too worrying, to hear. We hear of wars and natural disasters, suffering in magnitudes too difficult to process. And each one of us has our own "thing", our own challenges our own suffering. In the midst of all of it, I hear my Christian friends saying "God has everything under control. He has a plan and a purpose"; and indeed, that is the case. But, how do we process that in our own Christian walk, is that *REALLY* any comfort and does it make any difference?

Perhaps the right question to ask is: what is God's plan for *MY* life? How can I serve God faithfully now, today, in the midst of uncertainty and what feels like chaos. We don't get to just say, "God is in control." We are to pray for the least, the lost, the last and the lonely. When we see injustice we are to speak out. We are to feed the hungry, visit the lonely, and to share the good news with our neighbors. Yes. Things are In disarray and the future feels uncertain. We need to focus on Paul's proclamation in Romans 8: "The suffering of this present time is not worthy to be compared to the glory that will be revealed in us". We can find peace in the promise that our salvation is secured and that we are covered by grace. It is our

(Con't.)

CHRIST WITH US (Con't.)

blessing to be called to serve. And if we are serving, we are offering comfort, solace, and hope to those to whom we minister. We are to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit so that we can live with hope and peace and joy in spite of the swirling conflicts around us and we must be in service and of service to those around us. If we truly have "Christ in Us" we are to be the hands and feet of Jesus to everyone we meet and we are to be active disciples as we have been called and gifted and blessed. Horatio Gates Spafford wrote the hymn, "All Is Well With My Soul" upon hearing of the death of his four daughters in a ship collision two years after his only son died of pneumonia and after his entire business was lost in a fire. That comes from a place of deep suffering, but also of deep faith. And 'all is well' with our souls, too, as we place ourselves completely into God's good grace. Rest in Jesus. He has given us His Peace because He has wrapped us in His love and His mercy. Refocus your vision. Practice gratitude. Be open handed and generous with your resources. Embrace the opportunity to worship with other Christians and rejoice in the opportunity to serve. The world must be a better place because we are in it, and we are ambassadors of the promise, the grace, the mercy and the joy of eternal life through Jesus Christ. You are here, at this time and in this place for a reason. God loves you! And as Mother Teresa reminded us; "Not everyone can do great things; but we can all do small things with great love." That great love will change everything. It is our commission to Walk with Jesus to Bring New Life and Hope to Every Person.

Heavenly Father; bestow upon me the peace that passes all understanding and let me serve others with love and with joy. And when the world presses in, send me the Holy Spirit so that my focus will remain on your love and grace. Amen.

We are so grateful for your prayers and encouragement as we work to faithfully bring the Word to you each Sunday. All five of us have responded to a call and we have been equipped through the Holy Spirit to do the work. Each sermon is carefully researched, authentically presented and like any other presentation, is well practiced. We are ordinary people, called to do something we might not have otherwise considered attempting. However, as you participate in worship, be aware that there is much more going on than preaching. Char has a Worship Committee that puts the bulletins together and ladies who prepare the bread and wine for Communion and in-sure that the proper vestments are on the altar. Shirley and her group of singers and musicians (which includes ensembles and bell ringers) thoughtfully prepare the music and hymns that will enhance the worship and lift our hearts and voices. The technicians in the back corner (including Char, Dave Niki, Ted, Tom, Gary & Michelle) make sure the service is available online, that the sound is working and that the screens are working to enhance the service. The Ushers and Greeters are essential to see that people are welcomed and that the service proceeds correctly with the collection of gifts and assisting with the distribution of Communion. The readers who read the announcements and the lesson for the day keep us posted on what's happening. The Kitchen Committee makes sure there is hot coffee and tasty treats for fellowship time after the service is over. And then there's YOU! You, who raise your voices in prayer and praise, who give your gifts, who greet and comfort one another. We are all the heart and the soul of what makes Gloria de Cristo the "body of Christ".

The Vicars are not the only ones who have a "calling". Each one of us has a gift, a talent, be-stowed by the Holy Spirit, and each one of us can serve. We are at an important juncture in time and place and there are so many opportunities to be a part of the exciting journey as we become the Church body that God wants us to be. Consider saying "YES" to whatever you are being called to do. Trusting in the Lord, we can do "All things" through Jesus Christ. What a glorious opportunity for us in this time and in this place!

Keep us in your prayers,

Shirley (DrShirleyEhler_gdc1@outlook.com) *Char (Chargdc@outlook.com)*
Jerry (jerryrandby@hotmail.com) *Judy (razandjaz@gmail.com)*
Paula (paulapagues@gmail.com)

From the desk of Dr. Shirley . . .

Where has the summer gone? Wow! Here it is August already, and I thought I would have accomplished much more! I am revisiting my book by Brant Hansen, *Unoffendable: How just one change can make all of life better.*

He quotes Dallas Willard-- *Anger is the most fundamental problem in human life*—and dedicates the book "To all those who want grace for themselves but struggle to extend it to others. Wait: that's everybody." He reminds me that we have been commanded to put away (get rid of) all anger, malice, and a shopping list of other undesirable characteristics. If we are actively putting on love, gentleness, kindness, etc., we won't have room for those characteristics where we exalt **our** interests at the expense of others and allow ourselves to become offended.

I like his suggestion that every day we **intentionally** begin the day declaring that we are unoffendable and are committing all offences into the hands of the Savior who died and rose again for us.

I discovered another book by the same title but with a different author: *Unoffendable: How to break Free from the Prison of Offense* by John Burton. He says, "*Carry Like Mary.* The moment you grasp the revelation that you are a carrier of God, everything changes!-----–See you in church!

If you have a question that you would normally direct to your pastor, perhaps you could contact one of the Vicars. We are trained Stephen ministers and can keep your confidence. Our emails are in this Evangel on the page of "Vicars' Voices." You are all in our prayers, and we are happy to serve.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been several months since Gloria de Cristo began worship services using Vicars as worship leaders. We have been blessed to have had our congregation's needs filled by such dedicated leaders. We still await the time when we will have a Pastor answer the call to our church. When that day arrives, the Vicars will be a wonderful resource to make the transition period go smoothly. I have been at other congregations where pastors have left and it took time for a new Pastor to arrive and we used visiting Pastors to fill the needs of worship services. Having the opportunity to use Vicars for our interim leaders has been a great asset for our congregation.

In the meantime we will still strive to reach out to the community and our congregation members following our Mission Statement, "Walking with Jesus to bring new life and hope to every person."

We need to keep in mind that the next period in our congregation will be one in which we will experience some trials and sometimes disagreements on how to deal with changes that are always present when a congregation receives a new pastor. We will need to pray for God to show us the way to face any challenges.

John Arnold, President

MINISTRY ENDOWMENT FUND

Gloria de Cristo Endowment Committee has recently opened a fund entitled “Pastor Timm’s Outreach Development Fund” at Edwards Jones.

This fund would be used to further our commitment to develop our Outreach Mission and help the possible funding of a Children, Youth & Family Ministry position at Gloria de Cristo. We need to establish new programs to coincide with the construction of new homes in our area. The position would be responsible for contacting people in our area and inviting them to Gloria de Cristo Church.

You can make your donation to Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church and mark the donation “**Pastor Timm Outreach”. All monetary amounts will be accepted.** Once a month we will transfer the donations collected to Edward Jones. These funds will be held at Edward Jones at 11361 S. Foothills Blvd. And will be used for the above program. This account will be administrated by the Endowment Committee along with the Thrivent Account.

If you have any questions, contact any member of the Endowment Committee.

Thank You,

Dave Graham

701-226-7960

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

September 6 , 2025

GriefShare: The current cycle of GriefShare will finish up on the 3rd Sunday in July and the next cycle will begin in mid-September. Gloria de Cristo has been facilitating the GriefShare program at our location multiple times each year for the last 20 years.

One of the objectives of the program is to show participants how much God can help them understand, process and progress through their season of grief. The positive changes God encourages through participation in this support group atmosphere continues to amaze us through each 13 week cycle.

Do you want help with your grief struggle? Check the schedule and join us in the Fellowship Hall Classroom on Sunday afternoons when it begins again in September.

Mary Marsh, Care Ministry Chair

EDUCATION

As we come to the close of July, our young ladies have completed Exodus. They are starting to understand where the things that they've learned in the " Small Catechism" are coming from in the Bible. It makes these beliefs more real to all of us.

We are doing the History Channel "Exodus" in the Bible Series on Wednesday. Then on Saturday we will do the movie "The 10 Commandments ". I am sorry to say this will be the last day with the young ladies.

They are moving to South Dakota. We send prayers and encouragement to continue in their studies toward Confirmation. It has been a wonderful time with them. They are awesome young women.

God Bless,
Lynette Layton, Education

GLORIOUS QUILTERS

August is upon us, yes already!

The Ladies, now in smaller numbers, are still turning out beautiful quilts to give to anyone in need.

In July we delivered quilts to Crossroads Mission, Cancer Resource Center and Hospice of Yuma. What we've heard from the Ladies who delivered them was that THEY received as much joy and love from these places as it was to give to them. What a wonderful feeling!

We have the pleasure of welcoming Michelle Cegon, a NON SEWER, to our group! She's doing some tasks that we have not been able to get to, and we are so fortunate to have her! Again I say, non sewers ARE NEEDED.

The Fellowship Hall is COOL so if you're tired of sitting home during all this heat come join us 9 – 12 on Monday's. We even have a coffee break at 10 am.

Contact me a call via text 503-338-9358, or just stop in to see what the Ladies are up to.

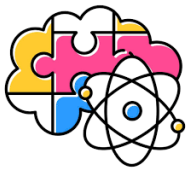
Carol Schock, Program Coordinator

I would like to report that our Mexican Dinner was a wonderful success. The food was delicious. The raffle winners were really pleased with the beautiful quilt and picture.

Thank you to all those that helped with the clean-up. It is so appreciated to have help. That is the true meaning of fellowship. It makes new friendships and just catching up with each other. We are looking forward to another event. We are planning a **hot dog and hamburger dinner** in early September. More details to come.

The bazaar committee is starting on the second Thursday of each month to work on items for the fall bazaar. All are welcome to bring their supplies and join in the fun.
I hope that all are staying somewhat cool during these very warm times.

Merrilee Kaiser, Fellowship Chair



Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church is currently navigating many changes, some easy, others more difficult to adopt. Let's look at what the Bible tells us about change.

A Bible Study on Change

Adapted from ALOA-Adult Lutherans Organized for Action

Introduction

Question: How many senior adults does God want to make changes in their lives?

Answer: **All** of them!

Study Context

The word *change* is used in many different ways in our daily conversations. For example:

There are too many *changes* going on in my life. I don't need to *change*.

Sorry, but I *changed* my mind. I need to *change* my clothes.

Some *changes* are good, but others are bad. But I don't want to *change*.

Observation #1: God doesn't change.

Readings: Malachi 3:6 I, the Lord do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

What do these words mean to your relationship to God?

Jeremiah 2:11 In what ways do we try to change our picture of who God is?

Romans 1:18-25 In what ways might we try to change God?

Observation #2: God changes us.

Readings: Ephesians 2:1-10 God has changed us from dead people to people alive in Christ. What difference does that make?

1 Peter 1: 3-9 How has God been working in your life and changed you?

Galatians 4: 17-20 Have you, like Paul, asked God to change the way you think and the tone of your conversations?

Philippians 4:4-9 Do you believe that God can change your life to give you greater joy, gentleness and peace?

II Corinthians 5:14-21 What kinds of changes does God want to work in your life?

(continued)

HEALTH & WELLNESS (Con't)

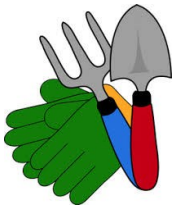
Observation #3: God will continue to bring about changes throughout our lives until we experience the final change of eternal life in His presence.

Readings: 1 Corinthians 15:50-52

Philippians 3: 20-21 Our changeless God will change us forever.

Pastor Ken Holdorf generously grants permission for this study to be copied, used and adapted to fit individual needs. aloaserves.org

PROPERTY



Well, the good Lord has turned up the heat for sure. I've have been keeping out of the heat as much as possible .

I have received many positive comments on the new screens in the sanctuary. They seem to be a welcome addition and are providing a great improvement to the service… making it easy to participate.

I want to thank Bryan Urrey for helping me replace two dead bushes along the driveway, he dug the holes while I watched.

Bryan also faithfully blows the sand off the sidewalks each week, thank you very much, it is noticed.

The irrigation has been functioning much better this year, the upgrades to the system seem to be doing the job, Praise the Lord!

Hope everyone is having a great summer, God Bless you and return to us safely.

Dave Donaldson interim, Property guy

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Our intrepid committee continues to meet. We don't let a little heat deter us. We continue with collections, greeting cards, food bank deliveries, and Rose Garden birthdays. One birthday was celebrated in July another was planned but sadly the resident passed away prior to his birthday. Unless new residents are added our next birthday party will be October.
Here is the running total of pounds delivered to the Yuma Community Food Bank :

Jan. 356 lbs. Feb. 200 lbs. March 100 lbs. April 230 lbs. May 259 lbs.
June 218 lbs. July - unknown -scale broken (no it wasn't me!)

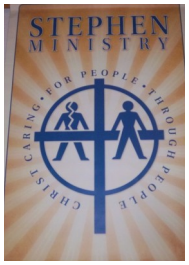
The Crossroads Mission serves 450 meals a day! In the month of May they provided 15,386 meals and housed 180 homeless persons. (source: Crossroads Mission Newsletter).
The mission is in need of water to use at their cooling center at the 2nd Chance Thrift Store. (suggestion from this writer: Have water or other items delivered directly to the mission. I had some shipped from Amazon directly to the mission address. Works great.)
Our committee meets the first Monday each month at noon in the fellowship hall.

Blessings,
Evelyn Trone, Chair
928-210-8015 (phone or text)

1 peter 4:10
As each received a gift, use it to serve one another, as stewards of God's varied gifts.

As we progress through the summer months here in sunny Yuma I want to again express my appreciation to those that volunteer to help make our worship service flow smoothly. Anyone that isn't helping at this time and would like to be a part of our worship team, please let me know. I'm always in the church somewhere. One part that I could really use help with is the reading of announcements by the men in the congregation. Fellas let me know if you would volunteer.
I have been asked if we will continue to use bulletins now that we have the screens…Definitely… copies of the bulletin will always be available for anyone who wants one, as well as the large print.
Any other questions you might have, feel free to bring it to the Vicars or the office.

God Bless
Char Schomisch, Co-Chair



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Exciting things are happening in the caring ministry at Gloria de Cristo! To keep this ministry going strong, we need congregation members who are willing to answer Jesus' call to be trained as lay caregivers, called Stephen Ministers. This distinctively Christian training includes a variety of topics such as listening, assertiveness, maintaining boundaries in caregiving, and grief; focusing on how to provide care while God cures.

Being a Stephen Minister may be one of the most fulfilling and transformative ministries you will ever be a part of. You will grow spiritually and gain skills to use not only in your caring ministry but also in your everyday relationships with family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers.

Our next training class will begin this fall, so we invite you to think and pray about this opportunity. If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, contact one of the Stephen Leaders and we can talk about how you can get started.

We are excited to see what God will do in the lives of those who join this ministry and those who will receive much needed care.

God's Blessings,

Niki Duffy, Referrals Coordinator - nikited1978@gmail.com
Robin Marlatt, Supervision Coordinator - rlmarlatt@gmail.com
Michelle Cegon, Stephen Leader Team Coordinator - jdcmom1963@hotmail.com
Jim Wehrer, Co-Training Coordinator - jim.wehrer@gmail.com
Sherrie Wehrer - Co-Training Coordinator - slewis1959@gmail.com

VISION TEAM

Good Morning!

My name is Shirley Ehler and I am a member of your Vision Team.

In January of 2022, twelve (12) of us began collaboratively meeting with a coach from Auxano to frame Gloria de Cristo's vision for the future. It was a year-long process that began with taking our mission statement from a paragraph, which none of us could remember, to the one phrase you see on your bulletin every week: "Walking with Jesus to Bring New Life and Hope to Every Person."

It included distilling our values into five (5) incontrovertible statements including preaching from the Word of God (which we hear weekly) and offering a warm welcome — which you all do so well.

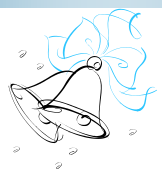
To bring you up-to-date, this fall, we will enter a refresher phase from September thru December. It will include an opportunity for the entire church to meet about the process, as it did the first time.

Why now? How the church navigates decisions while strengthening congregational unity and gaining momentum in the next 1-2 years, will determine the scope of ministry effectiveness for decades to come.

The opportunity is significant. With wise planning, focused leadership, and God's continued guidance, Gloria de Cristo is poised for it's most impactful season yet.

Shirley Ehler

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES



9	Sean & Melissa Estes	27	Paul & Shirley Ehler
14	Charlie & Bonnie Rothi	29	Jerry & Lisa Fink
17	Richard & Tammy Martin	31	Dave & Carolyn Lester
20	Don & Suzan Hormann	31	Roger & Jackie Tracey

FLOWERS FOR AUGUST

3

10 Charlie & Bonnie Rothi in celebration of their 20th wedding anniversary

17 Don & Suzanne Horman in celebration of their 42nd wedding anniversary

24 Paul & Shirley Ehler in celebration of their 63rd wedding anniversary

31

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1	Lissi Grill	11	Diane Lee	20	Lisa Fink
2	Duane Carter	12	Jerry Taylor	20	Brian Neigum
5	David Donaldson	13	Charlie Rothi	25	Kathy Hoffman
5	Ted Duffy	14	Becky Werner	28	Ava Estes
7	Dave Hofslien	15	Linda Kasin	29	Amber Pacewic
7	Robin Marlatt	16	Janis Suess	31	Linda Anderson
8	Bob Zeiss	18	Mary Becker		

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AUGUST 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

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

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:

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

Church Secretary: Char Schomisch