

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

October 2025
Volume 33, Issue 10



MISSION STATEMENT

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

CHRIST WITH US IN OCTOBER

Healthy Hearts

"But when He heard this, He said, "those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means. I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners". Matthew 9:12-13

This passage is the response that Jesus gave to the Pharisees when they challenged Jesus for socializing with "tax collectors and sinners". In this day and age, we hear 'you're judged by the company you keep' and the moral of that story is 'run with dogs, and you'll end up with fleas.' But Jesus Christ, God incarnate, did not come to us to shut out the least or the lost, the lonely and the misbegotten. Jesus responds by telling the self-righteous Pharisees that he is spending his precious and limited time on earth doing exactly what His Father sent Him here to do; to bring salvation to all people.

The bad news is that no matter who you are, NO MATTER WHO YOUR ARE, we all have a terminal disease and that disease is sin. When Jesus said, 'for I have not come to call the righteous' He was actually stating that He came to save all of us because the Pharisees (who were experts in Scripture) would have recognized that in the Psalms, the proclamation is "There is no one righteous, not even one" (Psalm 53:3). The good news (and this is **VERY GOOD** news) is that in His mercy and grace, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). In spite of the fact that we are all sinners, our salvation has been secured; the sacrifice has already been made and we are healed.

With this gift of healing, we can and should go forward, sharing that good news. We are to love our neighbor, we are to seek out the poor, the homeless, those with whom we do not agree, those who are outside of our social circle because those are the people that Jesus has invited to the table. The company you keep is to be every "beloved child of God" and that includes everyone because everyone has a place at the foot of the cross. And we are to live

CHRIST WITH US (Con't.)

lives of gratitude. With a healthy heart, we can praise, pray and give thanks, be open handed and generous, be inclusive and welcoming to strangers and visitors, and we also can speak words of salvation to those who might not otherwise be reached because they are living on the margins. What a glorious calling!! Use your healed, healthy heart to live the life that Jesus has granted us; walking with Jesus to bring new life and hope to every person!

Heavenly Father, I thank you that you have loved me, sought me, found me, and healed me. Pour out your Holy Spirit that I might share the good news of salvation. Let me see others as You do; beloved sons and daughters of the King! Amen.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



It's that time of year when our church family experiences a rapid growth in church attendance. Many of our old friends will return and we will see some new faces that are in Yuma for the first time and searching for a church to worship at and find spiritual growth. If you see someone you are not familiar with, introduce yourself and welcome them to our worship service and coffee time after service. Let them know we are happy they have chosen to be with us and what Gloria de Cristo has to offer.

First time visitors might have questions about our community. Good time for us to brush up on our own knowledge about Yuma. We should all have name tags and if you don't have one please let the church office know you are in need of a name tag and then wear that name tag at church functions.

More people also mean more work for the Ministry teams. Volunteers are always welcome to help. The Ministry Teams and the leaders are listed on the back page of the Evangel if you find it in your heart to help.

We all walked through the front door of Gloria de Cristo for the first time once and someone made us feel welcome. Kindness and friendliness don't cost a dime but they have great rewards. We are "Walking with Jesus to bring new life and hope to every person".

John Arnold



Your Vicar's are never more "up front and visible" than when we preach a sermon. The congregation gets to witness a finished product that has been written (with the help of the Holy Spirit), honed (with the help of the Holy Spirit), rehearsed (with the help of the Holy Spirit) and

then, finally delivered (with the Holy Spirit present and flowing between the Vicar and the Congregation).

Not all of the five Vicars' go through exactly the same process of writing, but there are some general steps that each of us use to round out a good sermon. We use a rotating three year lectionary, which provides the passages for the lesson, the Gospel and the Psalm and that is where we begin. One may choose to use the Lesson, the Gospel or the Psalm for the sermon text. We are free to alter that if we are preaching on a series or theme (like "Women in the Bible"), but we basically stick to the Lectionary. We do not use already written sermons which might appear on some websites, nor do we use AI or sermons provided by the Synod. With the theme for the Lesson determined, we ask "what came before?", "what comes after?" Who is the main character in the reading and what do I want to emphasize about the verses we're hearing. There is research on websites like "Working Preacher". When actually writing the sermon one must consider who is my audience? How can we see God in this sermon? And if someone walks through the door of our church who has never heard about Jesus before, does this sermon offer a message of love, grace and salvation? The Sermon is written and edited, often more than once; sometimes, even in the car on the way to Church on Sunday morning. We try to include humor, relevance to our immediate circumstances and always, the message of grace. Rehearsal includes speaking the Sermon aloud over a period of days prior to the actual presentation to perfect the flow, what we want to vocally emphasize and to ensure that we are pronouncing unfamiliar Biblical names correctly.

All of us are readers and we read works written by Christian authors such as: "Unoffendable" by Brant Hansen, "What Paul Really Said About Women" by John Temple Bristow, "Jesus' Alternative Plan" by Richard Rohr and "The Immortal Mind" by Michale Egnor and Denyse O'Leary and many other books as well. We also have access to podcasts from Luther Seminary, Faith+Lead. This is part of our continuing education and some of us keep a journal of passages or phrases from our reading that might enhance a Sermon or make a portion of Scripture easier to understand. As your Vicars we are always learning, changing our approach and praying that we will be granted wisdom and discernment by the Holy Spirit.

(continued)

Your Vicars also, in concert (no pun intended) with Dr. Shirley pick the hymns that go along with their sermons. We try to pick music that enhances, embraces, edifies and enlightens the message and gives us all a chance to “make a joyful noise”.

The Vicars meet weekly to plan, recap and encourage. Finally, at the end of each month, your Vicars meet with Pastor Jack Williams and we go over all the sermons given that month and we critique (not criticize) the writing, the presentation, the accuracy of the Theology and what could have been done differently or more effectively. Again, we are all learning together. It is our greatest joy and blessing to be able to serve as your Vicars, speaking the truth of God's love. Please remember us in your prayers.

In Christ,

Shirley, Paula, Jerry, Char and Judy

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JACK

Friends in Christ,

The third chapter of the Gospel of John is the dialogue between Nicodemus and Jesus. The nocturnal dialogue is loaded with the bizarre! Nicodemus is attempting to understand who Jesus is and where he receives his power. He is basically searching for the Messiah.

“Rabbi. . no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” Jesus’ response is: “Most assuredly. .unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Horao is the Greek word meaning to become acquainted with or experience. Have you been born again and see God’s kingdom unfolding in our midst? Immersed in our culture is the internet that provides instant news and opinions. The internet seems to be a NET capturing our time and attempting to capture our whole life and person. Jesus directs Nicodemus to be born again! Not to get lost in the worldly but open your eyes to God working in the midst. “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” Please pray to the Lord and be open to Christ born again in you daily. Jesus opens the door to the bizarre. “God so loved. .He gave His only Son. .believes. .eternal life.” Isn’t God’s love a little bizarre according to our standards?

Pastor Jack

From the desk of Dr. Shirley . . .



**From the Baton of the Director of Music
Jennifer Sheldon
Director of Music**

Ten Reasons to Sing in the Choir

10. You'll gain another family!

The choir is a group of people who not only sing together, but watch out for each other. We are a community. You express your soul in song.

9. Everybody needs a good midweek worship service!

Don't let the words "choir rehearsal" deceive you. Yes, you will learn your choir part, but you'll also worship God in the words and the music and leave feeling refreshed and ready to tackle the rest of your week.

8. American idol...

You don't have to appear on American Idol to sing in the choir. One of the most amazing things about choir ministry is how God takes voices – some strong and others not so strong – evens things out and brings forth beautiful music.

7. No music degree needed

If not having a degree in music has been keeping you from singing in the choir, then your **non-singing** in the choir days are OVER! We have tools to help you learn the music.

6. Different perspective

We take each piece of music and deconstruct it and put it back together – looking at not only the music, but discussing the text and the mood of each piece. Singing is praying twice.

5. Team effort

You are never alone. There is a lot of communication through e-mail. We give listening links and any specific information you need for the worship service so you are never out of the loop.

4. Choir is fun!

You are guaranteed to smile in choir rehearsal - at least once.

3. Choir is an extension of the pulpit.

There are many great hymns written for the congregation to sing. The Sanctuary Choir uses music which emphasizes the message of the day, bringing a rich dynamic to the theme or message; songs that teach, encourage, compel and call to action. The choir acts as musical ambassadors for the Word.

2. Always guaranteed a seat

On Christmas and Easter, you are always guaranteed a seat!

1. *Gesang ist dasein* - "To sing is to be." And "Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise." - Martin Luther

JOIN THE CHOIR! Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 5:45 until 7:00 p.m. in the choir section of the Sanctuary. Would you rather ring bells? Please talk to Lorie Rapp about coming to rehearsal at 4:45 p.m on Wednesdays.

See you there!

Dr. Shirley

Vision Update

From the Desk of Dr. Shirley . . .

According to Vince Parks, our Auxano consultant, “Gloria de Cristo has a mission that is both clear and compelling: ‘Walking with Jesus to bring new life and hope to every person.’ We also have powerful mission measures that give life to this mission statement every day—connecting in relationships, living generously, worshipping passionately, praying consistently, diving into God’s Word, and serving others with joy.” These aren’t just words on a page; they are a portrait of what a disciple of Jesus looks like in this place, and they set the tone for everything we do together.

The expanded Vision Team comprises of the call committee, the church council, and the original Vision Team. We met on **September 12** to reorient ourselves with our mission and goals and help get everyone on the same page to clarify our Kingdom calling. We will establish clear steps so that Gloria de Cristo can continue to positively impact Yuma and beyond for generations to come as we move forward together.

God has incredible things in store for this church family. The expanded Team will meet together again on **October 10**. Then on **November 22**, we invite the entire congregation to meet with us over lunch in the Fellowship Hall from 10 until 12 or so to influence our future work. We are trusting that “He who began a good work among you will bring it to completion” (Philippians 1:6).

Please be planning now to be part of the solution at **10 a.m on November 22 in the Fellowship Hall**. I look forward to seeing you!

EDUCATION



The Education, Social Concern & Outreach Committees are all working together to have a ‘Trunk or Treat’ event for the neighborhood children on Friday evening, October 31 in the parking lot. We would like to invite the members of Gloria de Cristo to participate in this by decorating your trunk, providing wrapped candy for at least 150 children and even dressing in costume. Come to our parking lot by 4:30 pm and see what colorful characters you have come visit you. If 2 couples or friends want to double up, that would work also. Have fun!!

We will be providing cards with the times of our worship services for you to add to your treats. We are hoping this will be the 1st Annual Trunk or Treat!

Lynette Layton, Chair



FELLOWSHIP

We welcome back our church family that leave for the summer. Hope you had a wonderful summer. We are busy making plans for the rest of the year. Our next event will be “Trunk and Treat”. A safe and sane environment for the children trick or treating in our neighborhood on October 31st. We will meet in the parking lot with our car trunks open and give out treats . The car trunks can be decorated and a prize will be awarded for the best trunk, you can even come in costume. Starting time is 4:30 pm. We will be joined with 2 other churches in the area. Plan to bring about 100 treats.

At our last event we all enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs, salads and dessert. We joined in singing old songs. We will try to make this an annual event. It was held in Fellowship Hall due to the heat and everyone was comfortable. Paula Pegues provided the music and Michelle Cegon & Sandy Weidling kept us on beat.

Next we will have our annual Veterans Day Breakfast, November 9 @ 7:30 am in Fellowship Hall

Merrilee Kaiser

GLORIOUS QUILTERS



October here we come!!

Many of our wonderful Glorious Quilters are coming back to their winter home, their family here in Yuma. Welcome and we’ve missed you.

About 10 to 15 Ladies have braved the heat and quilted all summer long. The other Monday one of them said I was running a “sweat shop”!

We’ve been given another opportunity to help, and this is for our farm workers that are waiting for their bus from between midnight and 4 AM. These hard workers are asking for blankets, 60X70. We just so happen to have fleece cut to this size. Again we’ll be able to help in a different area. Praise God!

As the weather is cooling down we still have areas you can help us help others. This is a great way to start your week.

Coffee and treats at 10. Join us, you may find we’re a great fit and a lot of fun!

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

Carol Schock



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Loneliness and Isolation

What is the difference between loneliness and social isolation?

The number of older adults age 65 and older is growing, and many are socially isolated and regularly feel lonely.

Loneliness and social isolation are different, but related. Loneliness is the distressing feeling of being alone or separated. Social isolation is the lack of social contacts and having few people to interact with regularly. You can live alone and not feel lonely or socially isolated, and you can feel lonely while being with other people.

Older adults are at higher risk for social isolation and loneliness due to changes in health and social connections that can come with growing older, hearing, vision, and memory loss, disability, trouble getting around, and/or the loss of family and friends.

How can you stay connected with friends and family?

There are things you can do to help protect yourself or a loved one from the negative effects of loneliness and social isolation. First, it's important to take care of yourself. To help manage stress and stay as mentally and physically healthy as possible, try exercising, eating healthy, getting enough sleep (7 to 9 hours), and pursuing activities you enjoy.

Second, it's important to stay active and connect with others. People who engage in meaningful, productive activities they enjoy with others feel a sense of purpose and tend to live longer. For example, helping others through volunteering helps you feel less lonely and allows you to have a sense of mission and purpose in life, which is linked to better health. Studies show activities like these may help boost your mood and improve your well-being and cognitive function.

Here are some other ideas to help you stay connected.

- Find an activity that you enjoy, restart an old hobby, or take a class to learn something new. You might have fun and meet people with similar interests.
- Schedule time each day to stay in touch with family, friends, and neighbors in person, by email, social media, voice call, or text. Talk with people you trust and share your feelings. Suggest an activity to help nurture and strengthen existing relationships. Sending letters or cards is another good way to keep up friendships.
- Use communication technologies such as video chat or smart speakers to help keep you engaged and connected.
- If you're not tech-savvy, sign up for a class at your local public library or community center to help you learn how to use email or social media.
- Consider adopting a pet if you are able to care for one. Animals can be a source of comfort and may also lower stress and blood pressure.
- Stay physically active. Find ways to exercise with others, such as joining a walking club or working out with a friend. Adults should aim for at least 150 minutes (2 1/2 hours) of moderate-intensity activity each week.
- Introduce yourself to your neighbors.
- Find a faith-based organization where you can deepen your spirituality and engage with others in activities and events.
- Check out resources and programs at your local social service agencies, community and senior centers, and public libraries.

Join a cause and get involved in your community.

(excerpt from the National Institute of Health website)

Romans 1

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.

What does that even mean?

Even the Apostle Paul told us wisdom is the key to heaven. How do we gain wisdom? Read the bible! Don't be ashamed of reading the bible.

I read the bible every day. There are many types of bibles that are published. I prefer the New King James version. You can choose your own, just be careful not to choose the ones that filter out verses to suit the sin of the day.

Not much going on in Outreach, helping out with Trunk or Treat on Halloween then later will do the "Welcome Back Bash". Finally, we'll get a highway clean-up going this fall.

Joe Johnson, Outreach



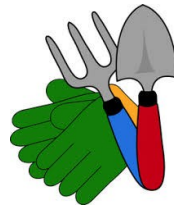
Men's Breakfast will meet on the first Saturday of the month at 8 am at Daybreakers.

Please join us for a time of food and fellowship!

The next date is **November 1, 2025**



PROPERTY



It is so nice to be able to work outside in the mornings now that it has cooled down some. I'm happy to report that the overall property fared the summer heat pretty well. Weed control and irrigation control did okay.

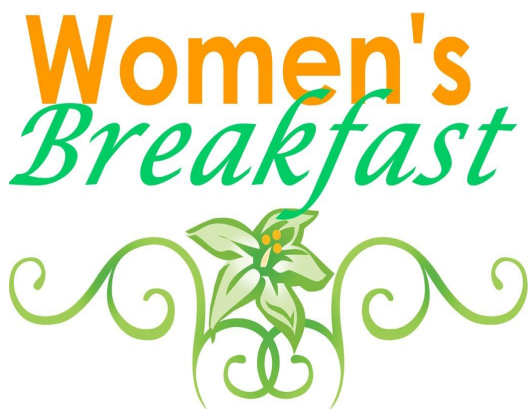
The RO system in the fellowship hall has been serviced with all new filters and new membrane. You can be assured that you are drinking pure clean water in the fellowship hall.

The front entry doors to the church are showing the effects of the sun bleaching. We are planning to refinish them soon. Any volunteers would be appreciated for this task. I have the restore stain needed to finish them.

The bushes and plants in the Courtyard need to be trimmed. If you are able and would like to volunteer to help me with this project, I would appreciate it.

Looking forward to the return of our winter family's now that it is cooling down some. May the Lord be with you as you travel safely here.

Dave Donaldson, Property Committee Member



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

The next date is: November 1, 2025

Please come join us for great food, conversation,
and fellowship!

Michelle Cegon



SOCIAL CONCERNS

Count your blessings. Count them one by one. We have many blessings to count but there are some who have a few less. Each month we gather a food offering the first weekend of the month to increase the blessings of those that need that extra boost. The food collection so far this year is: Jan. 365 lbs. Feb. 200 lbs. March 100 lbs. April 230 lbs. May 250 lbs. June 218 lbs. July (scale broke) Aug. 150 lbs. Sept. 78 lbs.

We hope the you enjoyed receiving the book corner and scripture reading made by our committee members. This was a little *thank you* for supporting our efforts throughout the year. There were no Rose Garden Assisted Living birthdays in September. We have one planned for October.

The Social Concerns committee is spearheading the formation of a Pastor/Vicar Discretionary fund. At this time there are no discretionary funds available. Guidelines were drafted by the committee and will be presented to the council. On Sunday, October 19 we will take a special offering for seed money for the fund. You will hear more about this soon. The ongoing availability of funds will depend on your generosity. There are envelopes in the pews which can be designated to continue this fund once established.

Our ongoing projects continue: greeting cards and collection center.

Social Concerns is always looking for new members and new ideas. We meet the first Monday of each month at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

Blessings,
Evelyn Trone, Chair
928-210-8015

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



STEWARDSHIP

So, while looking through some of my “old religious books” I learned something I don’t think I ever knew. The parable of talents is considered to be a cornerstone of Stewardship in the Lutheran Church and other Christian churches as well. I have heard the parable many times during worship, but do not remember the significance. The Parable of Talents (also known as the Bags of Gold) is a story Jesus told in Matthew 25 14-30 where a master entrusts his property to three servants before he leaves on a journey. Copied from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible....

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received five went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way the one who had two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents. His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master. And the one with two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents. His master said to him, ‘Well done good and trustworthy slave; you have been good and trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master. Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten talents. For to all of those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for the worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

STEWARDSHIP (con't.)

The word "stewardship" is not anywhere in the parable. The parable does highlight that we are not the owners of the gifts and resources that we possess, but rather stewards. God has blessed each and every person with different levels of "talents"; they are our spiritual gifts, abilities, finances and time and we are responsible for managing them wisely according to God's wishes. In the period of time of the parable, when a talent was used as a value of money, it was valued in the weight of silver and worth about 6,000 denarii. Payment for one day of work was generally 1 denarius. At one denarius per day, a single talent was worth twenty years of labor. So, think about it: the servant who received the five talents was responsible for more than the earnings of a lifetime. The servants in the story worked for their master's investment, not for selfish purposes. Similarly, the parable suggests that our motivation for using our gifts should be to honor God and further his kingdom rather than for personal gain. It seems that overall the message is that God will ultimately assess our stewardship and we will be held accountable.

Gloria de Cristo affords all of us many opportunities to use our gifts from God. You simply need to "step up and become involved".

On a lighter note.....REMINDERS!!!!!!! Collection for Amberly's Place In January (not sure of date) and start practicing your "smiles"..... photos will be taken On Jan 13 and 14 for a new Church Directory.

Stewardship: Gary Raasch

YARD SALE



Reminder that our first drop-off for the Yard Sale is on **Saturday, October 11, 8-10 am**. We sure could use a few more men during these drop-offs, to assist with loading the containers!

We will also be putting a signup sheet in the narthex soon. We have been given permission to box up donated items from Erik Werner's home and this will require a lot of willing hands to help! We will be determining a date soon.

Michelle Cegon



It is that time of year when the rest of our church family returns to sunny Yuma, Arizona. I can't wait!! We will be starting the Saturday worship service on October 4th.

In the very near future I will be mailing out the brochure for Ushers, Greeters and Readers. This is a group of people that are very important to the flow of our services and the first people that our guests and members see when they come thru our door. If you've not been a part of this group and would be able to help out, please let me know. I'd be proud to have you on the team.

Char Schomisch, Worship Committee Co-Chair



CALL COMMITTEE

In this time of transition, we are so grateful for our Vicars! The committee did an initial visit with a local person who showed interest in applying for the Pastor position. We turned over information to the synod, but since the candidate had no formal seminary education, it was felt that it was not a good fit for our congregation.

Also, the Synod did get a request for our Ministry Site Profile from another candidate, so we are hopeful and will continue to pray.

Michelle Cegon, Committee Co-Chair

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US POSTAGE PAID
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PERMIT NO. 190

OCTOBER 2025

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Pam Carter, Suzanne Haggett
VIOLIN: Ami Gudjohnsen
Guitars: Paula Pegues, Randy Zieman
BELLS OF GLORY: Lorie Rapp
CHOIR: Dr. Shirley Ehler

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