

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

February 2026  
Volume 34, Issue 2



## MISSION STATEMENT

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

### Love Amid the Ashes

***“For 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

February is the month in which corporate America reminds us that love requires some kind of monetary investment. Valentine’s day is upon us and we are bombarded with advertisements for cards, candy, flowers, suggestions where to dine, where to go for a “romantic” getaway, how many carats a diamond needs to be to indicate “true love”, what designer bag, perfume, scarf, wrap or jewelry is acceptable for giving and receiving and heaven help anyone who leaves their “significant other” without some token of loving regard. Sadly, we use the word “LOVE” so loosely and so often that it’s hard to distinguish between “I love spaghetti, chocolate, wine, puppies and myself” from “I love my husband, wife, children”. At a time when our presence is so much more needed than presents, we shove stuff into the gap and leave each other empty and needy long after Valentine’s Day has passed.

This year, the calendar tells us that, just a few days after Valentine’s Day, is Ash Wednesday. That is the beginning of a Season that embodies LOVE...a divine love, excelling all other love. Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten journey as we follow our Savior to the cross and leads us to the open tomb and to everlasting life. We followed the Christmas star to Bethlehem just a short time ago and we worshipped at the manger. We found God Come Down, to take on our flesh, to weep with us, to suffer with us and for us and to die for us so that we might be with Him and live in His kingdom forever. Now, and for the weeks to come, we will walk beside Jesus as He moves to complete obedience and submission to His Father’s will in order to fulfill prophecy and secure our salvation. That is LOVE. And we are not the ones who are doing this perfect love, it is enfolding us and it is being poured out upon us. God does not love us because we are good, God loves us because HE is good!

It is ours to share this good news with our neighbors, with our friends and family. It is ours to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, to include those who live on the margins. It is ours to visit the sick, the prisoner, the lonely. We cannot give a greater gift than our time, our prayers, ourselves to benefit those who need uplifting, encouragement, who need to hear the good news. No gift is more worthy than to share the love of Jesus.

As we receive the sign of the Cross made of ashes on our foreheads when we worship this Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that we are dust and we will return to dust. We are also living in the faith, the “evidence of things not seen” that we will be received into everlasting life through sacrifice. God’s perfect, unfailing, eternal love in the ashes. That is the purest definition of love; that is the greatest gift any of us could receive.

***Beloved Savior; as I enter this season of meditation and repentance, keep me ever mindful of my sin and the innocent suffering and death that redeemed me. Forgive me in your great love and mercy and remember me when you come into your Kingdom. Amen!***

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JACK



Friends in Christ,

“You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.” These words in the baptism service are our guarantee that the Holy Spirit guarantees our salvation. Paul’s writing in Ephesians 1:13-14 uses “guarantee” as an engagement ring presented to us by God’s grace in Christ.

As we begin the season of Epiphany, we are to be conscious of watching for the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Surprise! No! Surprises! We are so busy that we often don’t see the Holy Spirit moving in our lives to protect us, encourage us and inspire us. Take your valuable time allotted by God’s grace to count your blessings and your epiphanies. We are God’s special treasures purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ.

As you venture through your daily devotions and schedule start with the confession and absolution and acknowledge the “guarantee” of God’s grace. Then, spend the rest of the day living and acknowledging the epiphanies in your life and Valentine's day will be enhanced.

*Alive in Christ,  
Pastor Jack*



The month of February ushers in Ash Wednesday and the Lenten Season begins. This will be a time when we focus on our need for repentance and the innocent, bitter, suffering and death of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We will begin with an Ash Wednesday service, February 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm. During that service, we will be reminded that we are sinful and unclean and in need of redemption and we will receive a sign of the cross on our foreheads, done with ashes. That is to remind us of our humble state: "From dust we came and to dust we will return." Throughout Lent we will continue to worship on Wednesday evenings and each service will follow Jesus on his journey to the cross. We hope you join us for this journey which culminates in Holy Week and the glory of the Resurrection on Easter.

There are many different ways for us to observe Lent. It is a time when we can meditate and reflect, to go deeper into Scripture, both the Old Testament prophecy and the New Testament fulfillment. There are some beautiful hymns in the hymnal that can help with your home Worship; both hymns for Lent and hymns we use when we take communion. Take home your bulletin each Sunday and use the prayers and the liturgy for your morning prayers and devotions. Some may decide to fast or to give up something for Lent in remembrance of the suffering of Jesus. Consider giving of your time to service, to share the good news or to set aside something extra for your weekly Wednesday plate offering. Do your "giving up" in love and in joy. We can never match the gift of eternal life, but God honors our gifts given in love and with pure intent. There are Lenten devotionals available both on-line and in hard copy that help you with a day-to-day focus on Jesus' journey and those can help lead you to a more focused understanding of the fulfilling of the prophecy. You get to choose how you walk through these days of meditation, repentance and reflection, so with intent, set aside some time to immerse yourself in the manner and meaning of our salvation.

Please pray for your Vicars and be assured that your Vicars are lovingly remembering you in prayer as well.

## *From the desk of Dr. Shirley . . .*



This month, I want to look at courage and prayer. Some of the thoughts are based on Jesus Always: Embracing Joy in His presence by Sarah Young (2016).

Do not be terrified or discouraged, for Jesus is with you wherever you go. “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go,” (Joshua 1:9). It is easy for Jesus’ followers to feel frightened and pessimistic when the mainstream voices in this world speak so heavily against them. Looking at this life through godless, biased lenses will indeed pull you down. Christian courage is the antidote to this poisonous input, and it is nourished by the knowledge that Jesus is always with you.

“[Elijah] replied, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too,” (1 Kings 19:14). It is critical to remember that what you can see of reality is only a very small piece of the whole. When Elijah was deeply discouraged, he said he was the only one who had remained faithful. Yet there were thousands in Israel who had not bowed down to Baal. Elijah was blinded by his isolation and his discouragement.

“And Elisha prayed, ‘O Lord, open his eyes so he may see.’ Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha,” (2 Kings 6:17). Similarly, Elisha’s servant was terrified because he couldn’t see what Elisha saw: horses and chariots of fire all around to protect them from enemy forces.

But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid,” (Matthew 14:27). Beloved, not only is Jesus with you, but He has unlimited resources to help you. So, look beyond the way things appear, and take courage!

‘Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’ Jeremiah 33:3 This month, the Prayer Fellowship has resumed meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings at 10 in the sanctuary. Bring your Bibles and bring your prayer requests. “The effectual and fervent prayers of a righteous person avails much” (James 5:16) in our efforts to move forward in mission walking with Jesus to bring new life and hope to every person.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



It has been some time since Gloria de Cristo placed a call through the synod for a pastor to fill our needs. Our Vicars are doing an excellent job of filling our needs as a congregation for spiritual leadership and guidance. We should all be very thankful we were able to have this program in place and ready to lead us.

We should not stop praying for an answer to our church's call for a pastor and we must also continue to work with the synod to achieve this action. A church without a pastor is much like a ship without a rudder to help steer a course to carry out our Mission Statement, "Walking with Jesus to bring new life and hope to every person".

In the coming months we may have to face some very hard questions on the future growth and needs of Gloria de Cristo.

*John Arnold, President*

## EDUCATION



We are having a lot of success with all the Bible Study programs.

The New and Old Testament studies are having good attendance. Attendance at each class is around 10 to 15 people.

Coffee with Jesus has about 25 people each week.

The Prayer Fellowship session is meeting the 2nd & 4th Thursday's at 10AM. So we are hoping to attract more people.

*God bless,  
Lynette Layton*



## FELLOWSHIP

The **Christmas Bazaar Craft and Bake Sale Committee** members would like to thank the congregation for their support during the 2025 December Bazaar. Each year the money raised goes to help various committees at Gloria de Cristo and local charities.

Last spring we purchased a new commercial refrigerator for the kitchen and this year we gave money to the Fellowship Committee, the Glorious Quilters, Days For Girls, the Vicars Discretionary Fund and Hunter's Army, a charity that helps children and their families from the Yuma area who are dealing with cancer.

Anyone who thinks they might enjoy crafting is welcome to join our committee. We meet once a month until September, then weekly until December. A fun time for everyone and a chance to meet new people. If you are interested, please call Nancy Griffiths, 816-628-5741



## GLORIOUS QUILTERS

First of all, let me apologize for not submitting an article for the January Evangel...that was a first!!

So, taking a short step back, in December these ladies worked tirelessly making quilts. So, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December we took the morning off and had a potluck breakfast, guessed the number of candies in a jar, and played Right, Left, Center for fat quarters. I think everyone had a fun, relaxing morning.

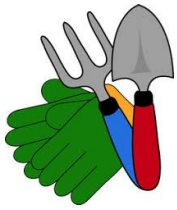
Back to the February article. These ladies are back to work and the sewing machines are just a buzzing. We, as a group, are going to sell coffee and cookies in the morning at the Yard Sale. Look for us over by the carport. Besides that, Lent comes very early this year so we've planned to make soup for one of the Wednesday's Soup Suppers.

As you can see, we don't JUST SEW!!

*God Bless,*

*Carol Schock (Slave driver!)*

*503-338-9358 (please text)*



## PROPERTY



We have completed the upgrade on the parking lot lights this month. All the old high energy bulbs have been replaced with new LIED low energy bulbs . The light diffusers were so dirty you could hardly see through them. They are all squeaky-clean. Just to give you an idea how much of a savings we are getting from this upgrade. We measured the current being used when the old lamps were on. They were drawing 7.6 amps per pole. After we replaced the bulbs and removed the ballast, they are drawing 1.2 amp this is a Huge savings.

I hope you have noticed the refinished job Dennis Kasen did on our front doors. They look fabulous. Thank you, Dennis.

Looking forward to a new year of clean up and improvements, thanks to all our volunteers for your help.

*Peace of the Lord be with you in this new year  
David Donaldson, Property Committee Member*



2nd Saturday of the month, 8:00 am at Izzies on Foothills Blvd. The next one is **February 14, 2026**

All men of the congregation are invited and encouraged to join in.



## SOCIAL CONCERNS

Can you believe we are into February! Well, at least when you are reading this it is. The Evangel goes to press before I have a report for you on the "Chicken For Dinner: collection and the "Go See" tour of the food bank. I will update you in the next Evangel.

We collected \$477.00 toward AELC mission "Good Gifts" and the Baptist church who sponsors foster children sent us a lovely "thank you" for the Christmas gifts.

There is one birthday in February at Rose Garden Care Home and we also plan to deliver some goodies on Valentines day.

The Yuma Community Food Bank had 364,000 visits in 2025 and has seen a 21% increase in the past 5 years. Thank you for you food donations the first weekend each month.

Blessings,  
Evelyn Trone, Chairperson



*First Saturday of every month, 8:00 am, Izzies on Foothills Blvd.*

**The next date is: March 7, 2026** Please come join us for great food, conversation, and fellowship!

# STEWARDSHIP

## **Church Directory**

First off I want to offer heartfelt thanks to Jan Klipfel, Carol Schock, Lynda Steinman and Linda Strand for all of their help in making the photography for the "Church Directory" a huge success. By the time you read this all of the pictures will have been completed. The results will be compiled and printed by Universal Church Directories and delivered to the church and other recipients. At this time, we have not received a completion date. Except for about 10-12 people, the entire congregation had pictures taken. The ladies listed above called nearly all of the people who did not make appointments on Saturdays and Sundays in church. I apologize to all who were inconvenienced by the occasional "long wait". The lady was doing two jobs because the second person could not make the trek to Arizona. Thanks to all of you for your cooperation.

## **Generosity Project:**

The weekend of February 21-22 will be a collection of infant/toddler diapers and women's toiletries for Amberly's Place. For those new to the area, Amberly's Place is the local "non-profit" shelter for abused women. The safe haven frequently is filled to maximum levels with women and children. This time of the year is traditionally given to Stewardship in Lutheran congregations. We talk about time, talent and treasures. We are also reminded of the words of Jesus from Acts 20: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Gloria de Cristo has an opportunity to display their Lutheran Generosity by helping Amberly's Place. During that February weekend as you come to worship, please bring diapers for infants and toddlers as well as lady's toiletries i.e. shampoos, conditioners, toothpaste and brushes, deodorants and other items you may consider necessities. Items will be collected as you enter the courtyard.

## **Men's Fellowship Gathering:**

The Men's Fellowship Gathering will be in fellowship hall on Thursday evening, March 12. Dinner and dessert (pies provided by ladies in the congregation) will be provided. As we get closer to that date more information will be provided. Simply mark the date!!!! No surprises involved, simply meet and converse with the "other" men in the congregation and those who regularly visit. Pam Carter has agreed to play appropriate "dinner" music. Maybe share a bottle of wine. Probably will be around 4:30 or 5:00....not sure yet. I will keep everyone updated. For now, simply plan to attend.

## STEWARDSHIP (CON'T.)

### Stewardship:

Remember, as we share our time and talents we continue to participate in God's work. Our offerings and gifts are used to support God's work within his community of neighbors and for future generations. Each and every gift, whether large or small becomes a prayer of thanksgiving and you may feel even more blessed. Thank You for all your gifts!!!! Your time Your talent And Your money

*Gary Raasch, Stewardship*

P,S, Keep using your Fry's Rewards Card



As we begin another year here at Gloria de Cristo, I thank the Lord that I have so many willing people to help make our worship services a great experience for our guests and our own members.

I have sent out the worship assistant schedule for the coming months but if you would like to be a part of this awesome experience, just let me know and I will try to fit you in.

We will soon be getting into the season of Lent – our journey to the cross. Remember that we begin with Ash Wednesday service, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm and then each Wednesday evening, 6:00 pm til Holy Week which is April 2<sup>nd</sup> (Maundy Thursday), April 3<sup>rd</sup> (Good Friday) and April 5<sup>th</sup> (Easter Sunday). Be sure to mark your calendar and attend these moving services. I will look for you in worship.

Also, don't forget the Soup Suppers from 4:30-5:30 pm. Those hosting include:

March 4th — Glorious Quilters

March 18th — WELCA

March 11th — Bells of Glory/Choir

March 25th — Men's Group

*Char Schomisch, Co-leader*

*Joanne Ausing, Co-leader*



## WELCA HAPPENINGS

WELCA will be hosting the Lenten soup supper on Wednesday March 18, 2026. We will be serving Taco soup.

Days for Girls continues the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4th Saturday's of each month. Please check your bulletin for further information.

The WELCA Triennial is being held in Des Moines, IA from July 16th through the 19th. Cost is \$275 for one day and \$525 for the entire event. Pray you have a great weekend.

Your sister in Christ  
Sandra Arceneaux.. Convener

### PERSONAL VISITATION ..

To support people at the time of illness or injury, Vicars 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 someone and would like a visit.

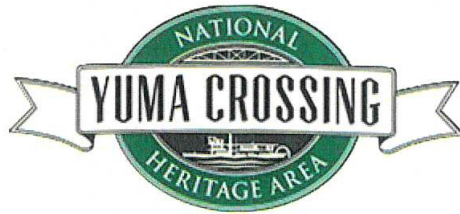
We also have Sacramentarians that will bring communion to shut-ins or others that cannot get to worship in person. We just need to know, so please call.

The present office hours are 8:00 am—4:00 pm.

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!)***

# A LETTER TO SHARE



*Restoring – Preserving – Maintaining - & Promoting Yuma’s History*

Yuma Territorial Prison – Colorado River State Historic Park – Wetlands & Riverfront Development

April 17, 2025

Gloria De Cristo Lutheran Church  
Attn: Linda Kasin, Diane Lee, Dyanne Radke  
11273 E 40<sup>th</sup> St  
Yuma, AZ 85367

Dear Mrs. Kasin, Mrs. Lee, and Mrs. Radke,

Thank you for your generous cash donation in support of the Yuma Territorial State Historic Park. Your generosity means a great deal to us and to the community.

Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area (YCNHA) manages the Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park, the Colorado River State Historic Park, and the Yuma East Wetlands. We are an Arizona non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to restore, preserve, maintain, and promote Yuma’s historical treasures and Yuma’s natural riverfront habitat along the lower Colorado River.

On April 8, 2025, YCNHA received your check for \$200.00 in support of the Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park. This funding will help us maintain and enhance the Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park. This letter will serve as your receipt for tax purposes. Our tax ID number is: 80-0038830.

YCNHA is grateful for your sponsorship. We know that our strength lies in working together and we appreciate the gifts that everyone in our community offers.

With appreciation,

Cathy Douglas,  
Executive Director

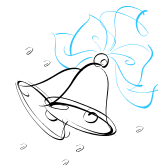
Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Corporation  
180 W. First Street, Suite E, Yuma, Arizona 85364-1407\*Phone: (928) 373-5198\*FAX (928) 343-8744



- |                     |                   |                       |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Tony Gingras      | 13 Shirley Ehler  | 21 Donna Staudenmeier |
| 2 Sandy Weidling    | 14 Sunnee Rodgers | 22 Karel Titus        |
| 5 Richard Austin    | 16 Dan Murphy     | 22 Dennis Peterson    |
| 11 Sandra Arceneaux | 16 Sherrie Wehrer | 25 Dave Hubenthal     |
| 11 Clarice Dean     | 18 Linda Bryant   | 25 George Reisnaur    |



## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES



- 4 John & Jean Gerfen
- 14 Tony & Kathy Hoffman
- 16 Bob & Judy Zeiss



## FLOWERS FOR A FEBRUARY

- 1 Joe Martinelli in memory of wife Carole
- 8 Jan Klipfel in memory of Loved Ones
- 15 Char Schomisch in honor of the twins 16th birthday
- 15 Paul Ehler in honor of Shirley's birthday
- 22 Carolyn Wade in memory of Dan Collier



**THE 2026 FLOWER CHART IS NOW ON THE BOARD IN THE NARTHEX IF YOU SHOULD DESIRE TO PURCHASE THE ALTAR FLOWERS. Cost is \$25/vase. Simply sign on the date you desire and reason. Payment envelopes are beneath the chart on the shelf. Thank You!!**

**FEBRUARY 2026**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
1 <i>Worship 8:30 /10:15 am</i> <i>10:15 am Monthly Pot-luck</i> <i>Food Collection for Yuma Food Pantry</i> <i>12:15 pm GriefShare</i> 1 pm Foothills Social	2 9 am Glorious Quilters 11 am Alanon 12 pm Worship Mtg. 12 pm Social Concerns	3 7 am TOPS 9 am Coffee With Jesus 11 am Coffee Club	4 9 am LineDance Exercise 1 pm Chair Aerobics 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 5:45 pm Choir	5 7 am TOPS 10 am Prayer Fellowship 4 pm Bible Study, Old Testament	6 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 6 pm Women's AA	7 8 am Women's Breakfast, Izzies on Foothills 9 am TOPS 9 AM Days For Girls 4 PM <b>Worship</b>
8 <i>Worship 8:30 /10:15 am</i> <i>12:15 pm GriefShare</i> 1 pm Foothills Social	9 9 am Glorious Quilters 11 am Alanon	10 7 am TOPS 9 am Coffee With Jesus 11 am Coffee Club 1-2 pm Stephen Ministry Supervisory Mtg. 10 am Fellowship Mtg.	11 9 am LineDance Exercise 1 pm Chair Aerobics 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 5:45 pm Choir	12 7 am TOPS 1 pm Yard Sale Team Meeting 6 pm <b>Dinner Theater &amp; Play</b>	13 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 6 pm <b>Dinner Theater &amp; Play</b>	14 8 am Men's Breakfast Izzies on Foothills Blvd 9 am TOPS 4 PM <b>Worship</b> 6 pm <b>Dinner Theater &amp; Play</b>
15 <i>Worship 8:30 /10:15 am</i> <i>12:15 pm GriefShare</i> 1 pm Foothills Social	16 9 am Glorious Quilters 11 am Alanon	17 7 am TOPS 9 am Coffee With Jesus 11 am Coffee Club 4 pm Council Mtg	18 9 am LineDance Exercise 1 pm Chair Aerobics 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 5:45 pm Choir	19 7 am TOPS 4 pm Bible Study, Old Testament	20 8 am TOPS 10:30 am Spanish/English Conversation 6 pm Women's AA	21 9 am TOPS 4 PM <b>Worship</b>
22 <i>Worship 8:30 /10:15 am</i> <i>12:15 pm GriefShare</i> 1 pm Foothills Social	23 <b>YARD SALE SETUP</b>	24 <b>YARD SALE SETUP</b>	25 <b>YARD SALE SETUP</b> 4:45 pm Bells of Glory 5:45 pm Choir	26 <b>YARD SALE SETUP</b> 10 am Prayer Fellowship	27 <b>YARD SALE 8 AM-2 PM</b>	28 <b>YARD SALE 8AM-12 PM</b> 4 PM <b>Worship</b>

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February 2026

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

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

#### CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: John Arnold  
VICE PRESIDENT: Dave Griffiths  
SECRETARY: Tammy Martin  
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: Mona O'Reilly  
OUTREACH: Carol Schock  
PROPERTY: Jerry Randby  
SOCIAL CONCERNS: Evelyn Trone  
STEWARDSHIP: Gary Raasch  
WORSHIP & MUSIC: Char Schomisch

Church Secretary: Char Schomisch