



# SOUNDS OF GLORY



Glory of God Lutheran Church Newsletter

## Don't Forget...

### **Please join us at 9 AM each Sunday for Worship:**

We are in person or online. You can always check out our [GOG website](#) for more information.

### **Daily Devotions:**

If you'd like to receive daily email devotions from Dana, please email her to get in the Daily Devotions Group.

## Pastoral Care Emergencies

If you need pastoral care in an emergency situation (hospitalization, accident, death) and it is during church office hours, Monday - Thursday -

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, please contact the office. If outside those office hours, you can contact Pastor Dana directly at: **414-916-3241**.

You can reach her by email at: [dana@gloryofgodchurch.net](mailto:dana@gloryofgodchurch.net)



### **Colorado Christian Short Film Festival - Save the Date!**

Join us July 17-18 for the Colorado Christian Short Film Festival—an exciting two-day celebration of faith, creativity, and storytelling. With over 105 films submitted, this year's festival will showcase an incredible range of talent from filmmakers across Colorado. Be among the first to see the premiere of Bioluminous a new music video by Michael Bliss Taggart and Jeremiah Ware, along with several other Colorado premieres.

### **Friday, July 17**

Dinner and meet-and-greet at 6:00 PM, followed by a screening of selected short films, along with special guest musician and harpist Stacie Graber.

### **Saturday, July 18**

Feature presentation of the award-winning film Our Church Thinks We're Dating at 3:30 PM.

Experience a weekend celebrating independent film, creative expression, and the powerful ways storytelling can share and reflect our faith.

RSVP using the sign-up sheets on the council table. You can also help by putting up flyers, sharing on social media, and inviting friends and family.

For more information please check out our website at [GloryOfGodChurch.net](http://GloryOfGodChurch.net) or contact Michael at [pa@gloryofgodchurch.net](mailto:pa@gloryofgodchurch.net).

### Olympian Medalist in Our Midst!

Crysta Bartram recently competed in the USA Special Olympic games held on the University of Minnesota campus in Minneapolis. To be included in the Colorado Delegation of athletes, Crysta was nominated (her gym coach) and selected in 2025 by CO Special Olympics to represent CO in level 3 gymnastics (one other gymnast from Longmont represented CO). For readers not familiar with gymnastics, the four apparatus are: balance beam, floor (movements choreographed to music for 1 ½ minutes), uneven parallel bars, and vault (run, bounce, and flip across the table). Since her selection, Crysta practiced her four routines only once a week, with some weeks off for holidays and scheduling conflicts. Regardless of infrequent practice, Crysta on the 1st day of competition (which happened to fall on her 38th birthday) earned a bronze medal for all around combined score on the four apparatus. On the 2nd competition day, she earned silver medals for both the uneven bars and floor routine, and a bronze medal on her vault. Over her years, Crysta has kept herself strong and in shape doing team sports and trampolining.

Parents Earl and Connie attended, well worth it for obvious reasons, and including the spectacular Opening Ceremony of 3,000 athletes parading in with their respective state delegations' uniforms, and Demi Lovato and Jon Batiste performing!



## Summer Sermon Series - I'm Glad You Asked . . .

Our summer series, called "I'm Glad You Asked" continues through July and August. Each week I'll try to answer some of your questions about faith, the church and theology in general. We've already tackled faith and doubt, what happens after we die, and questions about our LGBTQ+ siblings. Coming up, we'll be looking at questions about reading and interpreting the Bible, salvation and questions about denominations. You've already sent in some really great questions, but I'm always looking for more. Just email me with any questions or put them in the box on the table in Fellowship Hall. And remember, if you have a question about something, odds are that someone else is wondering about it too. All questions are good questions!

### What's Coming Up on Sundays in July:

I know that many of us are in the midst of vacations and family gatherings, but we've got a lot going on at GOG on Sunday mornings that you don't want to miss. Here's what worship will look like during July:

- **Sunday, July 5.** We'll commemorate the anniversary of our nation's 250th birthday by looking at the important difference between patriotism (which is good) and Christian Nationalism (not so good). We'll also celebrate everyone with a July birthday.
- **Sunday, July 12.** We continue our sermon series I'm Glad You Asked. We'll look at lots of your questions about biblical interpretation, including issues like portrayals of a violent God, evolution and the creation story, the treatment of women and slavery in the bible, and more!!
- **Sunday, July 19** - we're outdoors and we'll celebrate Christmas in July. Just like last year, we'll sing Christmas songs, enjoy some Christmas decorations and look at how God is Emmanuel (God with us) not just at Christmas, but each and every day.
- **Sunday, July 26.** Our first movie Sunday went so well, we're going to try it again. We'll enjoy some popcorn and watch parts of the movie *The Intern*, a great movie starring Robert DeNiro about a senior intern in a dotcom clothing business. It turns out that God is all over this movie.

Please join us at 9 am each Sunday for worship, either in person or online. You can always check out our [GOG website](#) for more information.

## July Birthdays

July 1	Pete Tomka
July 2	Lynn Hornecker
July 5	Connie Bartram Gloria Beasley
July 6	Rebecca Phetteplace
July 9	Jeri Schmelzel
July 10	Debbie Losey Colleen Turner
July 11	Mindy Leonard
July 12	Fred Behnken
July 16	Courtney Eccles Mark Hornecker
July 17	Peggy Arkins
July 20	Shirley Yook
July 24	Debbie Yergert
July 27	Blair Miller
July 29	Ann Craig

## June Prayer Families

### July 5

Link, Linsenmeyer, Losey, Lubick

### July 12

Luchsinger, Lundgren, Marquez,  
Maruyama

### July 19

McMaster, Miller, Moon, Nuanes

### July 26

O'Brien, Pattison, Paul, Phetteplace

## **GOG Contacts**

### **Pastor Dana O'Brien**

414-916-3241

[dana@gloryofgodchurch.net](mailto:dana@gloryofgodchurch.net)

### **Church Office**

#### **Parish Administrator**

303-421-2721

[pa@gloryofgodchurch.net](mailto:pa@gloryofgodchurch.net)

### **Michael Taggart**

#### **Technical Administrator**

303-421-2721

[tech@gloryofgodchurch.net](mailto:tech@gloryofgodchurch.net)

### **Rick Johnson**

#### **Assistant Treasurer**

303-421-2721

[assist.treasurer@gloryofgodchurch.net](mailto:assist.treasurer@gloryofgodchurch.net)

## **GOG Council**

### **President**

Ann Craig

### **Secretary**

Nancy Hornecker

### **Treasurer**

Kathryn Gault

### **Worship**

Jeri Schmelzel

### **Property**

Debbie Losey

## **Community Outreach & Social Ministry**

Taylor Garcia

### **Fellowship**

Bob Lundgren &  
Nita Barchus

## **Being Church During the Summer**

Summertime can be challenging for congregations. Vacations and other summer commitments often result in reduced giving and fewer people at Sunday morning worship. But summertime also offers us some great opportunities to show our friends and neighbors what Glory of God looks like. So a couple of thoughts:

First, lots of us are busy during the summer, but when you're in town, we'd love to see you at worship on Sunday morning. And when you can't make it to Sunday morning worship, you can catch our worship service live or recorded on our Glory of God YouTube channel anytime.

Second, summer is a great time to invite friends to worship and to all the other things going on at Glory of God. Our summer worship services are a bit more casual than usual (and some are even outside). Consider inviting your friends to one of our Sundays when we're looking at your questions in our "I'm Glad You Asked" sermon series. Or bring them to our Christmas in July, or pet blessing, or Family Feud worship or movie Sunday. And if Sunday worship isn't going to work, try inviting them to one of our other events, like our Wednesday evening BBQs or the Colorado Christian Short Film Festival in July.

Third, we are continuing to look for community events we can be involved in, so take advantage of the volunteer opportunities that will be available. (And if you know of any small local festivals that would welcome our presence, please contact pastor Dana.) And then come along and join us! I guarantee you'll have lots of fun!

Fourth, summer is always a financially challenging time. Please make sure your contributions keep coming to support God's ministries here at Glory of God. One easy way to do that is to sign up for automatic giving. Just call Rick in the office on any Wednesday, and he can help set you up. This way your financial gifts come automatically out of your bank account without you having to do anything more.

Remember, we are the church all the time and wherever we go - so this summer, go ahead and show everyone around you what Glory of God church looks like.

**GOG Craft Group** will meet Monday, July 13th and 20th in the fellowship hall starting at 10 AM. See Debbie Losey if you would like to participate. Everyone is welcome!

## A Look Ahead to August

We have more wonderful worship opportunities coming up in August, but here's some advance notice about two of them:

First, on August 16, we'll again be playing Bible Family Feud outside. Our reigning champs, the Schmelzel family, will be taking on some challengers as we see which family is the expert on what others know about the Bible. We are looking for another 4-5-person family to play the game, so if your "family" (and family can include blood relatives and/or close friends) would like to play, see Dana. And like last year, everyone gets to participate by answering (in advance) some bible questions used for the game. Look for more into soon.

Second, bring all your animal friends, and tell all your people friends, about Glory of God's annual pet blessing on Sunday August 30. It's an outdoor service and I'm giving you all lots of advance notice because last year a number of people told me after the event that they wished they had known about it earlier so they could have come. So don't forget to tell everyone you know - all pets deserve a blessing!!

## Tuesday Bible Study

Join us every Tuesday at 10:30 AM for a welcoming and engaging Bible study. Together, we're exploring Genesis, sharing insights, and growing in faith and understanding. Come ask questions, join the conversation, and be part of a supportive and encouraging community.

## Wednesday Potluck BBQs

We've already enjoyed two Wednesday Potluck BBQs in June. And the fun continues in July with two more Wednesday BBQs this month. Join us on Wednesday, July 8 and/or Wednesday, July 15, at 6 pm for a fun and relaxing time. Gather with old friends, meet new ones and don't forget to bring your neighbors and family along. The main meal is always provided (burgers, hot dogs, etc), so please bring a salad, side or dessert.

## Carnation Festival Parade on August 8

Again this year, we're planning to walk in the Carnation Festival Parade on Saturday, August 8. We will hand out candy and Fall Fest flyers to folks on the route. We'd love to have a bunch of GOG folks walk along. Sign-up sheets will be out soon.

## Office Hours

### **Pastor Dana**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays,  
from 10:00 AM.

Schedule varies based on GOG events. Please contact her directly to schedule an appointment.

**414-916-3241**

[dana@gloryofgodchurch.net](mailto:dana@gloryofgodchurch.net)

### **Church Office**

Mon. - Thurs., 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
303-421-2721

### **Michael**

Mon. - Thurs., 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Sun., 7:30 AM - 11:00 AM

### **Rick**

Wed., 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

## GLORY OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

12200 West 38th Avenue Wheat  
Ridge, Colorado

[www.gloryofgodchurch.net](http://www.gloryofgodchurch.net)

Ministers: Members and Friends of  
Glory of God

Pastor: Dana O'Brien  
[dana@gloryofgodchurch.net](mailto:dana@gloryofgodchurch.net)

Parish Administrator: Michael Taggart  
[pa@gloryofgodchurch.net](mailto:pa@gloryofgodchurch.net)

Tech Admin: Michael Taggart  
[tech@gloryofgodchurch.net](mailto:tech@gloryofgodchurch.net)

Music Coordinator: Roz Kueter

Choir Director: Colleen Turner

Accompanist: Matheus Pagliacci

**Fall Fest is Coming - Time to Start Planning!**

Free Fall Fest, Glory of God's biggest outreach event of the year, is coming up on Sunday, September 27, from 11 am-2 pm. Like last year, we'll have a car and motorcycle show, live music, free food, kids games, cake walk, face painting, craft vendors, art gallery, and more. And it's all free! Last year, Fall Fest was very well attended, and we're hoping for even more folks this year. Which means we'll need everyone's help. Here how you can help:

First, the sign-up sheets are on a table in the Fellowship Hall. There are lots of food items that we'll need and many different volunteer opportunities on the day of the event. Sign up for one or two things that will work for you.

Second, we're looking for a couple of folks who want to help organize the event. If you'd like to help with that, please contact Debbie Losey or Dana O'Brien.

Third, please help us publicize our festival. Tell your friends, family and co-workers about it, and if you are on social media, please share it there as well. We'll also have flyers out soon, so please share those as well. (You can even give the flyers to local businesses to post or have available.)

**Child Priority Preschool News**

Child Priority Preschool kids and staff are off for the summer. Teachers are already coming in to sort through items and get ready for the Fall. But other than some quick appearances, the building is pretty quiet in their absence, and I'm already looking forward to their return in the fall. Also, if you know of anyone looking for quality preschool education for their children, they are in luck because Child Priority has a couple of openings for the fall. Check out [their website](#) if you have any questions.

**Fletcher Miller School**

Fletcher Miller School is once again collecting toys for its Clark's Toy Workshop Summer Toy Drive. We participated in this last year and were able to give a lot of kids a happier Christmas. Here's how it works - use the link to go directly to their Amazon Wish List. You buy whatever toys you want and they are then sent directly to the School. Then volunteers with Clark's Toy Workshop will adapt the toys by adding a switch so that they can be played with by kids with complex special needs. At some point within the next couple of months we'll be doing a noisy offering to buy some toys, but you can start right now by just hitting the link and picking the toys you want to send. Thanks everyone for your help!!!! (If you don't want to use the link, here's the QR code.) [Click Here for the Link](#)



**Lunch Bunch** will not meet in July as our team will be vacationing and taking care of other things during that time. But we'll be back in August, so save the date (Monday, August 10) for our next Lunch Bunch.

### **Save the Date - Women's Retreat in October**

Glory of God is known for its terrific Women's retreats, and this year will be no exception. So mark your calendars for our October retreat which will run from Friday evening, October 9 through Sunday morning, October 11. Sign-up forms will be available soon. And if you'd like to help plan the retreat, we'd love your help. Please contact Nita Barchus, Ann Craig, or Debbie Losey.

### **Save the Date - Men's Retreat in October**

October 22-24 at Glen Isle Resort in Bailey. Contact Michael Taggart for more information.

### **New Members**

On June 14, Glory of God welcomed three new members, Kim Hensley and Ariel and Heather McMaster. All three of them are really excited to make Glory of God their new church home. Please warmly welcome them when you next see them.



*Our new members - Heather McMaster, Kim Hensley, and Ariel McMaster*

## **Bless You...**

- **Ali** for her strong leadership on Council. You will be missed!
- **Brad** for being Property council rep for all these years. And for continuing to help when needed.
- **Worship Team** including Jeri, Roz, Jan, Colleen and Dana for coordinating music to match the sermon message every week and for the hours and hours they put into creating such powerful services.
- **Jeri** for hosting the welcome new council members dinner.
- **Pastor Dana** for her amazing sermons.
- **All new members** for stepping up into your new rolls and council members who are remaining on council.
- **Bob L.** for all the work you do around the Property.
- **Kathryn** for redoing the roses by the west entrance doors.
- **Brad W., Bob L., and Kurt E.** for supporting Debbie L. as she steps in to Property Liaison on council.
- **All** who attended the first 2 summer barbecue's - we had amazing turn out for both!
- **Michael** for keeping everybody organized and on track with his consistent communication.
- **Rick Johnson** for all he does at Glory of God and Bingo.
- **Norma Jean, Dr. Luke & Keith** for the wonderful bluegrass music!
- **Taylor & Megan** for taking on Social Concerns & Outreach Committee. Welcome to Council!
- **Megan** for volunteering to keep our Google drive updated with Council's reports and notes.
- **Debbie** for being open to the new Council position of Property Liaison!
- **Huge BLESS YOU** to our entire congregation for your prayers & care of each other! We are an amazingly supportive & loving community! Keep doing the good work!
- **Kathryn** for transitioning into the Treasurer role so seamlessly.
- **ALL** the extra help for our bingo must go! It was the smoothest must go we've ever had!
- **Dianna T.** for counting THOUSANDS of pull tabs for our bingo sessions.
- **Tech Team** to keep us electrified every service and keeping the PowerPoint up and running smoothly.
- **Praise Band** for volunteering your time monthly to make beautiful music and enhance our worship service.
- **Debbie Losey** for stepping into the Property Liaison role.
- **Assisting Ministers, Fred, Ann, Debbie and Jeri.** Your participation in service and your prayers are adding depth to the service.
- **Kathryn, Dana, Nancy, Jeri, Ann, Debbie, Nita, and Bob** for being welcoming, kind, helpful, and patient while Taylor and Megan prepare for their role on council.
- **To all** that help set up, cook, and clean up the Wednesday BBQ dinners.
- **To everyone** participating in the Wednesday BBQs. Always fun and delicious!
- **June and Monica** being naturals in counting, recording, and reporting offerings in Servant Keeper and Excel and providing them to Rick Johnson.
- **Rick Johnson** for his paying GOG's bills and maintaining the financial records in QuickBooks; and bank account reconciliations for bingo receipts and offerings.
- **June, Monica, and Connie** for counting offering every week and making timely deposits!
- **Connie and Pastor** for prepping all the coins from the NOISY OFFERING on June 21st. \$900 in noisy offering total, of which \$143 was coins.
- **To everyone** in the congregation and community who donated to the NOISY offering. The funds will go to aid people in Venezuela.