

DECEMBER 17, 2023 | 8 + 10:30AM WORSHIP | GAUDATE SUNDAY



# *Lessons, Carols,* **AND** *Prayers*



**CHRIST LUTHERAN  
CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
CHRISTLAMESA.ORG

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

A Festival of Lessons and Carols was first held at King's College Chapel in England on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Rev. Eric Milner-White, who had just been appointed Dean of King's Chapel after serving as an army chaplain. The service was first broadcast in 1928 and, except for 1930, it has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War. Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by a choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service are derived from the lessons. The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God seen "through the windows and the words of the Bible." The service starts somber, as we recall mankind's rebellion in the Garden of Eden, and gradually moves from prophecies to the great fulfillment in the Holy Gospel.

You'll notice that our lessons stop short of the birth of Jesus – and that is *intentional*. To hear the ultimate fulfillment of this story, join us again in worship on Christmas Eve at 10:00 am, 4:00 pm, or 7:00 pm. We also invite you to join us on Christmas Day at 10:00 am.

If at any time you have questions or need assistance during the service, please ask one of our Welcome Team members.

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## THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent (from, "advenire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas. The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. The liturgical color for Advent is purple or blue. Purple is a color that expresses royalty and penitence. Blue is the color of the sky and expresses hope.

Today, on the third Sunday of Advent, we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. The name "Gaudete" is derived from the Latin word for "rejoice," emphasizing the theme of joy and hope as believers prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. On Gaudete Sunday, the color rose may be used, symbolizing joy.

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## CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

If you brought little ones with you today – we are overjoyed to have them here. While your worship might feel more like a wrestling match, a battle of wills, or a circus... your time, efforts, and distracted worship are worth it. Even the messiest and most frustrating days are not wasted. If your little one just needs a place to stretch their legs for a second, we have **Kid Care** for 0-2-year-olds on the second floor of the courtyard, and a **Family Room** in the back of the sanctuary.

# CONNECTION CARD

Please let us know you're worshipping with us today. You can give us as little, or as much, info as you'd like. There is also a place on the connection card to submit a prayer request, make a comment, ask a question, or express interest in next steps. If you'd like to give an offering, you can do that, too! Scan the QR code or visit [christlamesa.org/hello](http://christlamesa.org/hello).



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## SUNDAY SCHOOL + YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School is encouraged for those 3 years old to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. Check-in begins at 9:00 am at the back entrance of Christ Lutheran School (near the preschool building). Sunday School starts at 9:15 am and parents pick up at 10:15 am. New students and friends are welcome anytime! Questions? Visit [christlamesa.org/learn](http://christlamesa.org/learn).

7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders meet for Confirmation in Room 202 (second floor of the courtyard) from 9:15-10:15 am. Questions? Visit [christlamesa.org/confirmation](http://christlamesa.org/confirmation).

9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders meet for Senior High Sunday Morning in Youth Center Room 3 from 9:15-10:15 am.

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## ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

Bible studies play a vital role in deepening one's understanding of Scripture and fostering spiritual growth. Please consider attending a study this morning.

- **The Village Bible Study** explores, from a biblical viewpoint, issues that impact our families. It meets in Lucas Hall (Preschool Building) from 9:15-10:15 am on Sunday.
- **The Berean Bible Study** engages in an in-depth study of God's Word, verse by verse. It meets in Room 203 from 9:15-10:15 am on Sunday.
- **The Focus Bible Study** is a place for seasoned adults to gather around fellowship and God's Word. It meets in Room 101 from 9:15-10:15 am on Sunday.
- **The Grace Bible Study** is for 20-30 year-olds to study God's Word and its relevance to everyday life. It meets in the Teacher's Lounge from 9:15-10:15 am on Sunday.

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## LOOKING TO SERVE?

Looking to *dive deeper* in your faith journey, using your gifts for God's glory and the world's good? Consider serving on Sunday morning. Wondering how you can serve? Consider taking the spiritual gifts inventory located at [christlamesa.org/resources](http://christlamesa.org/resources). More information can be found at [christlamesa.org/serve](http://christlamesa.org/serve).

## WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Please stand, if you are able, as we prepare our hearts to worship God and receive His good gifts.*

Leader: We praise You, O God, for this Advent wreath that numbers the days of preparation for Christ's coming. As we light the third candle on this wreath, fill us with peace as we wait in anticipation for Emmanuel.

**All: Give us the light of Your grace so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we may prepare our hearts to welcome Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.**

Leader: Let us pray... Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## OPENING HYMN | LSB 376 | ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Soloist: Once in royal David's city, stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby, in a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

Choir: He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,  
and His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

All: And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heav'n above;  
And He leads His children on, to the place where He is gone.

## INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SIN | PSALM 32:5; PSALM 51:10; 1 JOHN 1:9; JAMES 5:16

Leader: Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins and so prepare ourselves to celebrate God together.

*We take a moment for self-reflection as we confess to God our imperfections.*

Leader: For the times we've sinned against you in thoughts, words, and actions, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord have mercy.**

Leader: For what we have done, and what we have left undone, Christ have mercy.

**All: Christ have mercy.**

Leader: For not loving you with our whole heart, and not loving our neighbors as ourselves, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord have mercy.**

Leader: Rejoice, for Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for you. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

*Please be seated. We begin to reflect on God's promise of Emmanuel through scripture, song, and prayer.*

## OPENING PRAYERS

Leader: Brothers and sisters: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against Him in Genesis 3, until the glorious redemption brought to us by His holy Child Jesus, foretold by the prophets, and brought forth in the Holy Gospel. But first, let us pray for the needs of His whole world... for peace and justice on earth, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord have mercy.**

Leader: For the unity and mission of the church for which he died, and especially for this church and all who gather here, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord have mercy.**

Leader: For the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord have mercy.**

Leader: For those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord have mercy.**

Leader: For all the faithful who have gone before us, including Mary and Joseph, the whole multitude which no one can number, and those whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one forevermore, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord have mercy.**

Leader: And now, to conclude all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## REBELLION AND FALL | GENESIS 3:8-15

Reader: In Genesis chapter 3, Adam and Eve listen to the serpent, rebel against God, and fall from grace.

<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." <sup>11</sup>And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

<sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” <sup>13</sup>Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup>So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All:      **Thanks be to God.**

## CAROL | O SAVIOR REND THE HEAVENS | SANCTUARY CHOIR

O Savior, rend the heavens wide; come down, Come down with mighty stride;  
Unlock the gates, the doors break down, Unbar the way to heaven's crown.

O Morning Star, O radiant Sun, When will our hearts behold your dawn?  
O Sun, arise; without your light, We grope in gloom and dark of night.

Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies; Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
Oh, come, lead us with mighty hand, From exile to our promised land.

There shall we all our praises bring, Ever to you, our Savior King;  
There shall we laud you and adore forever And forevermore.

## PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray... Almighty God, in the shadow of our disobedience, we humbly gather before You.  
Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to face Your searching gaze with honesty and seek Your mercy. As  
we reflect on the consequences of the garden, kindle within us the hope of redemption

through the promised Seed, Jesus Christ, who crushes the head of sin and leads us into the light of Your grace. Amen.

## LIGHT COME DOWN | ISAIAH 9:2-3, 6-7

Reader: In Isaiah chapter 9, the prophet speaks of a day when a light will dawn in the deep darkness of the earth.

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned. <sup>3</sup>You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us, a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All:      **Thanks be to God.**

## CAROL | A GREAT LIGHT | SANCTUARY CHOIR AND EXALTATION CHOIR

The people walking in darkness shall see a great light!  
The people living in darkness on them a light will shine!  
And the glory of God shall be shown, the will of God made known.  
The people walking in darkness shall see a great light!



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
And the government shall be on his shoulders,  
And the government shall be on his shoulders.  
He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.  
The people walking in darkness shall see a great light!

## PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray... Almighty God, whose prophetic word foretells the birth of a Child, the Light of the world: Stir up our hearts with the radiant joy proclaimed in Isaiah's vision. As we anticipate the coming of the Prince of Peace, empower us to walk in His light and share His love. Amen.

## PEACE IS COMING | ZECHARIAH 2, JEREMIAH 23, AND MICAH 5

Reader: In Zechariah 2, Jeremiah 23, and Micah 5, the prophets point to the Messiah who will come and bring peace.

<sup>10</sup> "Shout and be glad, Daughter Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you," declares the Lord. <sup>11</sup> "Many nations will be joined with the Lord in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you. <sup>12</sup> The Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> Be still before the Lord, all mankind because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling."

<sup>5</sup>“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.

<sup>2</sup>“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” <sup>3</sup>Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. <sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup>And he will be our peace.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All:      **Thanks be to God.**

## CAROL | O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is giv’n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav’n.  
No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

## PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray... Almighty God, who, in the fulfillment of Your promise, declares the coming of Your righteous Branch and King, we ask You to stir up our hearts with joy and anticipation. As we await the birth of the Lord Our Righteous Savior, grant us stillness before You, that we may recognize Your presence among us and join the nations in celebrating the fulfillment of Your divine plan. Amen.

## A PROMISE KEPT | LUKE 1:26-38

Reader: The angel Gabriel tells Mary about God's plan of salvation in the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." <sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail." <sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## CAROL | O HOW SHALL WE RECEIVE YOU | SANCTUARY CHOIR AND SABBATH SOUND BELLS

O how shall we receive you, how greet you on your way?  
Blessed hope of ev'ry nation, our soul's delight and stay?  
O holy Jesus, give us now by your own pure light,  
To know whate'er is pleasing and welcome in your sight.

Love caused your incarnation, love for humanity;  
Your thirst for our salvation procured our liberty.  
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace  
In love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race!

Rejoice, you brokenhearted who walk in darkness drear,  
Who mourn o'er joys departed, and tremble in your fear.  
He who alone can save you is standing at the door;  
He brings to you salvation, and bids you weep no more.

## PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray... Almighty God, whose angel Gabriel brought tidings of joy to the Virgin Mary, grant that, like her, we may humbly receive Your Word and respond with willing hearts. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to embrace Your divine purpose and, in the spirit of Mary's obedience, let our lives magnify the greatness of Your love. Amen.

## GOD WITH US | MATTHEW 1:18-23

Reader: An angel appears to Joseph and reveals to him God's plan in the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy

Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **CAROL | WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS | EXALTATION CHOIR**

What wondrous love is this, O my soul! O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To send a Savior down to the earth, to the earth,  
To send a Savior down to the earth

What hope we have in God as His child, as His child  
What hope we have in God as His child  
What hope we have in God, He planned from Jesse's rod  
To free us from our sin, O good news! O good news!  
To free us from our sin, O good news!

What peace this comfort brings to our hearts, to our hearts  
What peace this comfort brings to our hearts  
What peace this comfort brings, all voices raise and sing,  
“Prepare the way for Christ our Lord, our Lord  
Prepare the way for Christ, our Lord.”

Emmanuel! Emmanuel! Emmanuel is God with us  
He clothes us all with righteousness, Emmanuel

## PRAYER

Leader: Almighty and everlasting God, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men, women and children everywhere love you and serve you in peace. Stir up our hearts so that we may seek to be your witnesses in this place and to the ends of the earth. Amen.

## CAROL | ADVENT HYMN | PRAISE BAND

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the everlasting light  
The Sun of righteousness arise, and triumph o’er these shades of night

Come Thou long-awaited one, in the fullness of Your love  
And loose this heart bound up by shame, and I will never be the same

So here I wait in hope of you, Oh, my soul’s longing through and through  
And Dayspring from on high, be near, and Daystar, in my heart appear

Dark and cheerless is the morn, until Your love in me is born  
And joyless is the evening sun until Emmanuel has come

## HOMILY | THE WHO’S REJOICING

*We give as a response to God's love, not to elicit it. Giving is an act of worship where we participate in the redemptive work of Christ through the work of His Church.*

## CAROL | THE ADVENT OF OUR KING *WITH* HOPE HAS A NAME

All:      The advent of our King our pray'rs must now employ  
            And we must hymns of welcome sing, in strains of holy joy

O Zion's daughter rise to meet your lowly king  
Nor let your faithless heart despise the peace he comes to bring

Band:    Hope has a name: Emmanuel, The light of the world who broke through the darkness  
            All hail the king, Emmanuel, The light of the world, the glory of heaven

All:      As judge on clouds of light, he soon will come again  
            And his true members all unite with him in heav'ns to reign

All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free  
With Father, Spirit, Ever-One, through all eternity

## FINAL PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All:      And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray. O God, who fills our hearts with joy as we celebrate the annual remembrance of the birth of Your only Son, Jesus Christ: grant us the ability to joyfully welcome Him as our Redeemer, and confidently look forward to the time when He will come as our judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**All:      Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

Leader: May Christ, who, through His incarnation, brought heaven to earth, fill you with peace and goodwill, and may the blessings of Almighty God—Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit—be with you always.

All:     **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN | CAROL OF THE ANGELS

All:     Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains  
Gloria in excelsis deo. Gloria in excelsis deo.

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavn'ly song?  
Gloria in excelsis deo. Gloria in excelsis deo.

Choir: Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas!  
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas!  
On, on they send, on without end  
Their joyful tone to ev'ry home.

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To watch this service again, or share it with a friend, visit [christlamesa.org/worship](http://christlamesa.org/worship).*



## NOTES (OR DOODLE PAGE FOR KIDDOS)

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# THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

**Preacher:** Pastor Travis Ferguson; **Liturgist:** Deacon Jacob Sitze  
**Music:** Kathy Barkett, Sanctuary Choir, Exaltation Choir, CLC Praise Band, and Sabbath Sound Bells  
**8:00 Acolyte:** Abigail Rall; **10:30 Acolyte:** Samantha Brenner  
**8:00 Readers:** Mike McGhen, Jeff Miller, Abigail Rall, Carrie Salisbury, Tenley Sitze;  
**10:30 Readers:** Samantha Brenner, Julie Brown, Sandy Cole, Kathi Miller, Bill Roan  
**8:00 Livestream, Sound, and Media:** Stuart Gardner, Craig Barkett, Alex Miller  
**10:30 Livestream, Sound, and Media:** Mark Arzillo, Craig Barkett, Zachary Brenner  
**8:00 Welcome Team:** 8:00 – Kathy Coe, Dallas Johnson, Nancy Sierra, Ralph Suelzle, Joel Voss  
**10:30 Welcome Team:** Rick Fiege, Tim Ripke, Sandy Zeilinger

## IN OUR PRAYERS

**Celebrating a birthday this week:** Jim Simon, Denis Igrinizq, Stella Gardner, Charlie Hughes, Nathan Duggie, John Schutt, Natalie Sheehan, Ross Smith, and Ellen Smith. **Sick:** Rev. Art Puls, Lucinda Mello, Katha Kuspa, Ruth Ehlen (daughter of Dave Ehlen). **Others:** Pastors, DCE’s, Church Workers, Teachers, and all who labor in this season.

## OUR STAFF



**Travis Ferguson**  
*Pastor*



**Jacob Sitze**  
*Deacon*



**Patti Maass**  
*Director of Operations*



**Cheri Selander**  
*Director of Youth Ministries*



**Brandon Heath**  
*Minister to Youth*



**Kathy Barkett**  
*Director of Worship and Music*



**Sarah Kusel**  
*Assistant Director of Music and Worship*



**Xavria Schwarz**  
*Principal*



**Melissa Payne**  
*Preschool Director*



**Stuart Gardner**  
*Director of Community and Communications*



**Craig Barkett**  
*Director of Facilities*



**Kathy Garces**  
*Administrative Accountant*



**Emily Lieber**  
*Human Resources Specialist*



**Kathy Johnson**  
*Worship and Music Assistant*



**Kim Voss**  
*Administrative Assistant*

To contact a staff member, please visit [christlamesa.org/about](http://christlamesa.org/about)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**CHRISTMAS OFFERING** – Our entire Christmas Eve and Day Offerings will be split between three different organizations. **La Red** facilitates transformative development opportunities for people living in social vulnerability who reside in the coastal communities in El Salvador. Donations will go towards their summer camp program for impoverished children. **Support the Enlisted Project** builds financial self-sufficiency among junior active duty enlisted members and recently discharged enlisted Veterans and their families facing financial crises through counseling, education, and grants. **Lutheran Church Charities Comfort Dog Ministry** commissions working animals, trained to interact with people of all ages and circumstances who are suffering and in need. LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are deployed after traumatic events and visited Christ Lutheran School after a death in our school community in 2019.



**CHRISTMAS EVE AND DAY WORSHIP SERVICES** – Join us on Christmas Eve at 10:00 am (Holy Communion; Pastor Maass preaching), 4:00 pm (Family Worship with Candlelight), and 7:00 pm (Holy Communion with Candlelight). Join us on Christmas Day at 10:00 am for Holy Communion. The only service that will be livestreamed is the 7:00 Christmas Eve Service.



**PICKLEBALL AT CHRIST LUTHERAN** – Join us in the Gym on Mondays from 7-9 pm for an amazing night of Pickleball! Equipment is provided, but you can also bring your own. Church and school family, friends, neighbors and community members are welcome. Questions? Contact Matt Rochester at [mattrochie7@gmail.com](mailto:mattrochie7@gmail.com).



**NOVEMBER RECAP** – **Finances:** Our Year-to-Date budgeted offerings is \$583,333 with the actual being \$577,125. That means we are *under* projected offerings by \$6,208. **Worship:** Our November worship attendance was 12% above November 2022 (Average Sunday attendance in 2022: 345; 2023: 389). **Events:** Christ Lutheran School's first Veteran's Day Chapel was a great success and was well attended. The event was the brainchild of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Mark Kusel.

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To see more upcoming events, visit [christlamesa.org/calendar](https://christlamesa.org/calendar).