



good news for

# GRINCHES

from HEARTACHE  
to HOPE

DECEMBER 3, 2023  
8:00am Worship



# CHRISTMAS

## Offerings

Each Christmas, it's our tradition to give our entire Christmas Eve and Christmas Day offerings away to a few different organizations. This year, our offerings will go to:



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.



STEP 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.



LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are 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.



Wrap Our

# COMMUNITY

in Love

JOIN US in delivering wrapping paper to our neighbors **TODAY** after the 10:30 service to help with their Christmas season!

We do have some rolls to hand out, but if you're able to bring some, please do! The more, the better!

**Let Us Know You're Worshipping With Us!**



***Or visit [christlamesa.org/hello](http://christlamesa.org/hello)***

## **AS WE GATHER**

Welcome to worship! Today is the first Sunday of Advent, a season of preparation and anticipation as we walk towards Christmas. Advent is a time of waiting and hoping. This season, however, can easily turn us into *grinches* for one reason or another. Over the coming weeks, we will look at different parts of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" – with the knowledge that there's Good News for Grinches.

## **WELCOME AND INVOCATION**

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

**People:** **Amen!**

## **LIGHTING OF THE HOPE CANDLE**

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

*(The Hope candle is lit)*

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

**Leader:** Let us pray... Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Through Your presence, deliver us from isolation and give us hope; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **OPENING HYMN**

## **LSB 842, SON OF GOD, ETERNAL SAVIOR**

Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us hallows all our human race,  
You our Head, who, throned in glory, for Your own will ever plead:  
Fill us with Your love and pity, heal our wrongs, and help our need.

Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of Peace;  
Hush the storm of strife and passion, bid its cruel discords cease.  
By Your patient years of toiling, by Your silent hours of pain,  
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, stem our selfish greed of gain.

Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us hallows all our human race:  
By Your praying, by Your willing that Your people should be one,  
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition: here on earth Your will be done.

## **WE CONFESS OUR SINS**

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

*(A time of silence for confession)*

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

**People: Lord have mercy.**

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

**People: Christ have mercy.**

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

**People: Lord have mercy.**

## **WE RECEIVE FORGIVENESS**

*(Please be seated)*

### **FIRST READING**

**PSALM 25:16-22  
PEW BIBLE PAGE 788**

Reader: Our first reading is from the book of Psalms, the twenty-fifth chapter.

<sup>16</sup> Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.

<sup>17</sup> Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish.

<sup>18</sup> Look on my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins.

<sup>19</sup> See how numerous are my enemies and how fiercely they hate me!

<sup>20</sup> Guard my life and rescue me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. <sup>21</sup> May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope, Lord, is in you.

<sup>22</sup> Deliver Israel, O God, from all their troubles!

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Reader: Our second reading is from first Corinthians, the twelfth chapter.

<sup>12</sup>Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup>Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

<sup>15</sup>Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup>If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

<sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup>while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup>so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup>If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 17:15-21  
PEW BIBLE PAGE 1540

Leader: To honor the words and works of Jesus, please stand.

**People: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup> My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

<sup>20</sup> "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## APOSTLES' CREED

**People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **MESSAGE HYMN**

### **LSB 357, O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. **REFRAIN**

**REFRAIN** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. **REFRAIN**

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. **REFRAIN**

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. **REFRAIN**

### **MESSAGE**

### **THE GRINCH'S ISOLATION**

### **OFFERING**

### **CHRISTLAMESA.ORG/GIVE**

## **HYMN OF RESPONSE**

## **LSB 845, WHERE CHARITY AND LOVE PREVAIL**

Where charity and love prevail there God is ever found;  
Brought here together by Christ's love by love are we thus bound.

Let strife among us be unknown; let all contention cease;  
Be God's the glory that we seek; be ours His holy peace.

Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, His only Son;  
As members of His body joined we are in Him made one.

For love excludes no race or clan that names the Savior's name;  
His family embraces all whose Father is the same.

## **PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Leader: Loving God, in this season as we anticipate the birth of Your Son, Emmanuel, we are reminded to give You thanks for the gift You have given through the lives of **Trish Geddes, Micah Burog, Jerry Price, Andrea Bitterling, Abby Rall, Valerie Spicer, and Sean Wikoren**. As they celebrate birthdays this week, remind them of Your unfailing love, and bless their work in the world. Lord in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who feel isolated and alone, like the Grinch in his mountain cave, we pray for the warmth of your love to surround them. May they experience a true sense of belonging and community within the body of Christ. Lord in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: As the Apostle Paul teaches us about the diversity of spiritual gifts, we ask for a spirit of unity within our church. Help us recognize and appreciate the unique contributions each member brings, understanding that we are all essential parts of your body. Lord in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain, that they may feel the comforting presence of your Holy Spirit. We ask that you make us mindful, in this season, of those who are struggling with grief, loss, or despair, and ask for patience as we take the role of “active listener.” Lord in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We offer these prayers, trusting in your boundless love and mercy. May the light of Christ shine brightly in our lives and in the world, dispelling the darkness of isolation and bringing the warmth of community and belonging. Now, O Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**People: 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.**

## **PREFACE TO HOLY COMMUNION**

***2 TIMOTHY 4:22; COLOSSIANS 3:1***

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is... evermore praising You and singing:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)

*ISAIAH 6:3; MATTHEW 21:9*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*MATTHEW 26:26-28*

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

# LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)

JOHN 1:29



Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

*(Please be seated)*

## WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION

Communion is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and confidence that our Lord gives us not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table the baptized who trust in the words "my body... my blood... for you", repent of all sin, and seek to live by the Lord's ways.

If this is not your belief, are a child who has not taken the First Communion Class or are unfamiliar with the belief of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, we invite you to come forward with your arms crossed so that we can give you a blessing by making the sign of the cross over you. We also encourage you to talk to one of our pastors after the service if you have questions.

## **HYMNS**

### **LSB 725, CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER**

Children of the heav'nly Father safely in His arms He'll gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish; in His holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things He spares them; in His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth, and their sorrows all He knoweth.  
Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

### **LSB 770, WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS**

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear—  
All because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

## **BENEDICTION**

## CLOSING HYMN

## LSB 643, SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.  
The Supper is ended. O now be extended  
The fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of His teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us  
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,  
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.  
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.  
With Your feast You feed us, with Your light now lead us;  
Unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

## **THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP AT 8:00AM**

**Preacher & Celebrant**

**Worship Leader**

**Children's Message**

**Acolyte**

**Reader**

**Music Leader**

**Worship Partner**

**Communion Assistants**

Pastor Travis Ferguson

Deacon Jacob Sitze

DCE Cheri Selander

Luke Rall

Dana Blackford

Kathy Barkett

Terry Gland

David Blackford

Bob Maass

Mike Maass

Kent Schwartz

Eric Berg

Craig Barkett

Hannah Maass

Alissa Cott

Abigail Cott

Emily Cott

Jeff Paape

Erik Selander

**Livestream Technician**

**Sound Technician**

**Media Technician**

**Welcome Team**

**If you are looking for a place to serve  
here at Christ Lutheran, we have a spot for you!**

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**For more information go to [christlamesa.org/serve](http://christlamesa.org/serve)**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK?

## **TODAY | December 3**

- 8:00 am—Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
- 9:15 am—Sunday School
  - 3yrs -Grade 6—CLS Back Entrance
  - Confirmation—Room 202
  - Senior High—Youth Center Room 3
- 9:15 am—Christian Education Hour
  - Confirmation Parent Connect—Room 202
  - Focus—Room 101
  - Bereans—Room 203
  - Village—Lucas Hall
  - Grace—CLS Teachers' Lounge
- 10:30 am—Contemporary Worship
- 5:00 pm—Senior High Sunday Evening—Youth Center

## **MONDAY | December 4**

- 9:15 am—Prayers & Squares Quilt Ministry—Lucas Hall

## **TUESDAY | December 5**

- 7:00 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous—Youth Building Room 1

## **WEDNESDAY | December 6**

- 9:30 am—Women's Bible Study—Lucas Hall
- 6:00 pm—Pre-K through Grade 2 Christmas Program—Gym
- 7:00 pm—Grief Share—Youth Building Room 1

## **THURSDAY | December 7**

- 9:30 am—Insights—Lucas Hall
- 6:30 pm—Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
  - Al Anon Meeting—Fireside Room
- 7:45 pm—Handbell Rehearsal—Room 200B

## **FRIDAY | December 8**

- 6:30 pm—Singles Over 50 Game Night—Lucas Hall
- 7:00 pm—God Squad—Youth Center

## **SATURDAY | December 9**

- 7:30 am—Men's Bible Study in Lucas Hall
- 12:00 pm—Refuge Christmas Event—Off Campus
- 5:00 pm—Young Adult Dinner and a Show—Off Campus



Prayerfully consider a  
mission trip in  
**2024**

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**PARAGUAY**

June 28<sup>th</sup> - July 6<sup>th</sup>

**PERU**

August 1<sup>st</sup> - August 10<sup>th</sup>

**ARGENTINA**

October 3<sup>rd</sup> - October 12<sup>th</sup>

For more information, go to [surefugio.org](http://surefugio.org)  
or contact Sandy Cole at [colesj@hotmail.com](mailto:colesj@hotmail.com)

# JOIN US

## this Christmas & Advent Season

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**

6:00 pm Pre-K to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Christmas Program in Gym

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>**

6:00 pm 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Program

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>**

8:00 and 10:30 am Lessons and Carols

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**

6:00 pm 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Program

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>**

10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

4:00 pm Family Worship

7:00 pm Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>**

10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>**

8:00 & 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

[christlamesa.org/CHRISTMAS](http://christlamesa.org/CHRISTMAS)



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  
School 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



- A Family Lounge for parents, infants, and toddlers can be found in the rear of the Sanctuary.
- Room 101 is located on the first floor of the Courtyard.
- Rooms 200A-203, as well as Kids Care, are located on the second level of the Courtyard.

7929 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa CA, 91942