

FEBRUARY 25, 2024 | 8AM WORSHIP | SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

WELCOME *Home*



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

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Thanks for joining us today! Whether you were raised in a home that regularly worshipped, only went to church on Christmas and Easter, or are exploring the Christian faith for the first time – we are glad you are here. If you haven't been to a Lutheran Church before, our worship format might be a unique experience for you. Our service is filled with symbolism and ancient tradition that propels our hearts *upward*. Today, we encourage you to embrace the *extraordinariness* of our *ordinary* worship, where God forgives our sins, the Holy Spirit prepares us for daily life, prayers are lifted, heaven and earth converge, and the profound mystery of the Eucharist takes place. Sundays may seem ordinary, but they are also filled with extraordinary moments that we should not miss. If you have any questions, our staff, volunteers, and your fellow worshippers are here to answer any questions and help in any way they can.

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## THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent is a solemn season that spans 40 days (not including Sundays), mirroring the biblical 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. Commencing on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Easter Sunday, Lent serves as a period of reflection, repentance, and spiritual preparation. The liturgical color for Lent is purple, signifying penance, humility, and the royalty of Jesus. The season is marked with practices such as fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

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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 a staffed **Kid Care** for 0-2-year-olds on the second floor of the courtyard and a **Family Room** in the back of the sanctuary.

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## HOLY COMMUNION + WHAT WE BELIEVE

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.

# 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. **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).

# + ORDER OF WORSHIP +

## WELCOME AND INVOCATION

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

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

**All: Amen!**

## OPENING HYMN | LSB 423 | JESUS, REFUGE OF THE WEARY

Jesus, refuge of the weary, blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above:  
Often have Your eyes, offended, gazed upon the sinner's fall;  
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.

Do we pass that cross unheeding, breathing no repentant vow,  
Though we see You wounded, bleeding, see Your thorn-encircled brow?  
Yet Your sinless death has brought us life eternal, peace, and rest;  
Only what Your grace has taught us calms the sinner's deep distress.

Jesus, may our hearts be burning with more fervent love for You;  
May our eyes be ever turning to behold Your cross anew  
Till in glory, parted never from the blessed Savior's side,  
Graven in our hearts forever, dwell the cross, the Crucified.

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

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**All: But, if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

Leader: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**All:** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.



## RECEIVING OF GRACE

*Please be seated as we enter the "Liturgy of the Word." Since the early days of the church, portions of the Bible have been read during worship so that all may be formed by the Word of God.*

## FIRST READING | EXODUS 14:1-29 | PEW BIBLE PAGE 96

Reader: Our first reading is from Exodus, the fourteenth chapter.

<sup>1</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. <sup>3</sup> Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.' <sup>4</sup> And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." So the Israelites did this.

<sup>5</sup>When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, “What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!” <sup>6</sup>So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. <sup>7</sup>He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. <sup>8</sup>The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. <sup>9</sup>The Egyptians—all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots, horsemen and troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon.

<sup>10</sup>As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. <sup>11</sup>They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup>Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

<sup>13</sup>Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. <sup>14</sup>The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

<sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. <sup>16</sup>Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. <sup>17</sup>I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. <sup>18</sup>The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.”

<sup>19</sup>Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, <sup>20</sup>coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

<sup>21</sup> Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, <sup>22</sup> and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

<sup>23</sup> The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. <sup>24</sup> During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. <sup>25</sup> He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

<sup>26</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." <sup>27</sup> Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. <sup>28</sup> The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

<sup>29</sup> But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL | MATTHEW 11:25-30 | PEW BIBLE PAGE 1389**

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

**All: Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

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

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. <sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

<sup>27</sup> "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

*The Apostles' Creed serves as a timeless and foundational expression of the Christian faith, offering a sense of shared identity. We utilize the creed as a statement of belief about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

**All: 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.**



*Adults may be seated. Children are invited to come forward for an age-appropriate message.*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **MESSAGE HYMN | 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.

## **HOMILY | STOP TRYING AND START TRUSTING**

### **OFFERING | [CHRISTLAMESA.ORG/GIVE](https://christlamesa.org/give)**

*Members of Christ Lutheran support the mission through their giving of time, talents, and treasures. If you are a guest joining us, please know there is no expectation for you to contribute.*

## HYMN OF RESPONSE | LSB 918 | GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT REDEEMER

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, be Thou still my strength and shield;  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee;  
I will ever give to Thee.

*Please stand, if you are able, as we lift up our prayers to God.*

## PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Each petition ends with:*

Leader: Lord in your mercy,

**All:     Hear our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayers, we continue with the Lord's Prayer:*

**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.**

## HOLY COMMUNION | ISAIAH 6:1-8; 2 TIMOTHY 4:22; COLOSSIANS 3:1; MATTHEW 26:26-28

*The Sursum Corda (Latin: "Lift up your hearts") is an ancient Christian communion prayer. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have been raised with Christ and now reign with him in heaven. We end this preface with the Sanctus (Latin: "Holy"). The Sanctus is one of the songs being sung in heaven before God's throne. We join our voices with the angels and those who have gone before us in the faith to give glory to God. After the Sanctus, we embrace the ultimate Mystery of Faith, as bread and wine become, for us, the Body and Blood of Jesus.*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

Pastor: It is truly ... evermore praising You and singing:

**All:**

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



Pastor: Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed...

## SHARING OF THE PEACE | MATTHEW 5:9; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20

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

**All: And also with you.**

*Please be seated, and join in singing the hymns, as you reflect on God's love and prepare to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. You can find what we believe about Communion on the bottom of page 2.*

## COMMUNION HYMN | LW 729 | I AM TRUSTING THEE, LORD JESUS

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, trusting only Thee;  
Trusting Thee for full salvation, great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon; at Thy feet I bow,  
For Thy grace and tender mercy trusting now.

I am trusting Thee for cleansing in the crimson flood;  
Trusting Thee to make me holy by Thy blood.

I am trusting Thee to guide me; Thou alone shalt lead,  
Ev'ry day and hour supplying all my need.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus; never let me fall.  
I am trusting Thee forever and for all.

## **COMMUNION HYMN | LSB 715 | JESUS, SAVIOR, PILOT ME**

Jesus, Savior, pilot me over life's tempestuous sea;  
Unknown waves before me roll, hiding rock and treach'rous shoal.  
Chart and compass come from Thee. Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

As a mother stills her child, Thou canst hush the ocean wild;  
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will when Thou say'st to them, "Be still!"  
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

When the sea be smooth and bright, sparkling with the stars of night;  
And my ship's path be ablaze, with the light of better days,  
Still I know my need of Thee; Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

## **BENEDICTION**

## **CLOSING HYMN | LSB 733 | O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST**

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last and our eternal home!

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*Hymns and songs are used by permission: LSB Hymn license no. 110000410; CCLI license no. 254628.  
To watch this service again, or share it with a friend, visit [christlamesa.org/worship](http://christlamesa.org/worship).*

# THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

**Celebrant and Preacher:** Pastor Travis Ferguson; **Liturgist:** Deacon Jacob Sitze; **Children’s Message:** Cheri Selander; **Acolyte & Reader:** Zachary Spicer; **Music Leader:** Kathy Barkett; **Worship Partner:** Bob Maass; **Communion Assistants:** Floyd Hansel, Jerry Price, Michael Welgan, and David Wutke; **Livestream, Sound, and Media:** Stuart Gardner, Craig Barkett, and Kim Fiskratti; **Welcome Team:** Mike McGhen, Dave Rickards, Christina Gardner, Jonah Gardner, and Stella Gardner

# IN OUR PRAYERS

**Celebrating a birthday this week:** Butch Michaels, Jim Koepke, Lynda Muse Kimberly Fiskratti, Jodienne Gresens, Matthew Arita, Kelley Rabasco **Healing:** Dave Ehlen (home following hospitalization), Valerie Spicer (ankle injury) **Mourning:** The family of Betty Prestage. **Others:** Christian educators. Courage and grace to share the gospel.

# 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



**HOLY COMMUNION FAMILY CLASS | MARCH 3 | 1:00-3:30 PM | LUCAS HALL** – This is a parent/student class that helps baptized students from 5th to 8th grade to understand the significance of the Lord’s Supper and what it means for them as a follower of Christ. Students who go through this class will partake in their First Communion at the Maundy Thursday worship service on the evening of March 28. Scan the QR code to sign up.



**GATHER + GROW LENT EDITION | 5:30-7:00 PM | GYM** – On Wednesday evenings through Lent we will **Gather** to enjoy a meal together and **Grow** as we dive into a study series called “Love in Chaos” by Bob Goff. This week’s supper will feature a variety of Mexican dishes, salad, and dessert. Scan the QR code for online tickets and donations. Tickets are also available at the door. Proceeds benefit Youth Ministry.



**PREGNANCY CARE CLINIC WALK FOR LIFE | MARCH 2 | 8:00AM** – The PCC will hold their annual Walk for Life event in Downtown El Cajon in the Prescott Promenade (201 E. Main Street, El Cajon). Recording artist Michael Sanchez will also be performing. Please contact Phil Lamonica (prlamonica@cox.net) for more information or to make a pledge.



**THE 2024 MEXICO HOUSEBUILD | SATURDAYS IN APRIL AND MAY** –As a church, we partner with AMOR Ministries to build a home for one family in Mexico. Join us on April 13, 27, May 11, and 18 as we help our neighbors to the South! Anyone over 8 years old with a valid passport may come to serve on a build Saturday. Friends and family are welcome to join. Sign-ups will begin in March.



**2024 EASTER OFFERING | HELP US PACK 100,000 MEALS** – Easter is just around the corner... but millions around the world have difficulty thinking about the joys of Easter because their bellies are growling from hunger. Help us change that this Easter. Our goal is to pack 100,000 meals - and we need your help to do it. Make a difference. Donate to the Easter Offering today! At [tinyurl.com/easteroffering2024](https://tinyurl.com/easteroffering2024).

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