

JANUARY 28, 2024 | 10:30AM WORSHIP | FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

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.

THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

During the season of Epiphany, we embark on a journey of revelation and illumination. Epiphany commemorates the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, symbolized by the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. The liturgical color for Epiphany is green, signifying growth, life, and the ongoing revelation of God's grace. During this season, we reflect on the light of Christ shining not only for a chosen few but for all people.

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.

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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL + YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School is encouraged for those 3 years old to 6th 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.

7th-8th Graders meet for Confirmation in Room 202 (second floor of the courtyard) from 9:15-10:15 am. **9th-12th Graders** meet for Senior High Sunday Morning in Youth Center Room 3 from 9:15-10:15 am.

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.

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. More information can be found at christlamesa.org/serve.

+ ORDER OF WORSHIP +

In the "Opening Rite" we prepare our hearts to worship God, first by invoking his name, singing praises to Him, confessing our sins, and receiving forgiveness. Please stand, as you are able, for the invocation and opening song if you are able.

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

OPENING SONG | DON'T EVER STOP

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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 | PSALM 111 | PEW BIBLE PAGE 873

SECOND READING | 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13 | PEW BIBLE PAGE 1631

GOSPEL READING | MARK 1:21-28 | PEW BIBLE PAGE 1425

APOSTLES' CREED

The Apostles' Creed serves as a timeless and foundational expression of the Christian faith, offering a sense of shared identity as we confess our belief regarding the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CROSSFIRE BAND | STAND IN YOUR LOVE

HOMILY | DISCERNING LOVE

OFFERING | CHRISTLAMESA.ORG/GIVE

Giving an offering is an active participation in the redemptive work of Jesus in this world and an act of worship. 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. Your presence today is what matters to us.

OFFERING SONG | LESS LIKE ME

PRAYERS AND LORD'S PRAYER

As we enter the "Liturgy of the Eucharist", our hearts are elevated to heaven as we prepare to celebrate the ultimate mystery of faith, where the bread and wine become, for us, the Body and Blood of Jesus. A more detailed statement on our belief can be found at the bottom of page 2.

HOLY COMMUNION

FIRST COMMUNION SONG | REMEMBER ME

SECOND COMMUNION SONG | I WILL WAIT FOR YOU (PSALM 130)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG | LAY ME DOWN

*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.*

THE CALL OF GOD LIFE GROUP GUIDE | WEEK 4

- Share a moment when you grappled with a decision related to Christian freedom (living not under the burden of the law but under God's grace). How did you navigate it, and what role did love play in your decision-making process?
- Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-13. Summarize the main points of 1 Corinthians 8:1-13. How does Paul address the interplay between knowledge, love, and Christian freedom?
- How can discerning love guide our exercise of Christian freedom, especially in matters that may impact fellow believers?
- Share examples of situations where you've seen Christian love effectively guide decisions related to freedom and conscience.
- Read Mark 1:21-28. How does Jesus' demonstration of authority align with the concept of discerning love in our Christian freedom?
- Discuss the role of love in Jesus' interactions with people, and how it influenced his actions.
- Share some thoughts regarding how we can cultivate a community (at Christ Lutheran and in our homes) where love guides our decisions and actions related to Christian freedom.
- End your time by sharing prayer requests.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Celebrant and Preacher: Pastor Travis Ferguson **Liturgist:** Deacon Jacob Sitze; **Children’s Message:** Cheri Selander; **Acolyte & Reader:** Aaron Lieber; **Music Leader:** Kathy Barkett; **Special Music:** CrossFire Band; **Worship Partner:** Dennis Wetjen; **Communion Assistants:** Mike Buskirk, Bill Roan, Steve Rochester, Georg Winkler; **Media:** Joseph Arzillo, Craig Barkett, and Logan Johnson; **Welcome Team:** LeRoy Loney, Mark Gould, Angelika Winkler and Zissi Winkler

IN OUR PRAYERS

Celebrating a birthday this week: Gio Azzarello, Ethan Nemeth, Tom Egan, Mike Fanolla, Bill Roan, Caryl Holt, Heidi Kingdon, Jeff Paape, Meti Belay, Tricia Brenner, Amelia Woodard, and Karen Loney. **Sick:** Wendy Roan (surgery), Nancy Sierra (health), and Terry Gland (recovery from surgery). **Others:** The Family of Pat Schutte (who entered eternal rest on January 16); Joseph, our President; Gavin, our Governor; Relief Workers, especially those assisting after severe weather

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



2024 WOMEN'S RETREAT – You are invited to join the women of Christ Lutheran Church, School, and Preschool for Never Alone, an overnight retreat. The retreat will take place at Pine Valley Bible Conference Center (approx. 45 minutes from La Mesa) from Friday, March 15, 2024, to Saturday, March 16, 2024. Come connect and restore with us! Reserve your spot online at christlamesa.org/retreat.



GATHER + GROW PARENT EDUCATION | FEBRUARY 4 | 3:30-5:00 PM | GYM – Guest Speaker, Katey McPherson, will share with us practical and evidence-based tips to manage & supervise your child's screen time. This is an excellent opportunity for those parenting kids of ALL AGES who want to grow in their knowledge of how to best parent. Childcare is available for children 0-11 years old by registering at tinyurl.com/ggchildcare.



TEACH ME TO PRAY | FEBRUARY 18 | 8 & 10:30 AM – The Sticky Faith Team is pleased to announce the introduction of a new faith milestone at Christ Lutheran. The 4–6-year-old children will be presenting the Lord's Prayer at the 8 am at 10:30 am service. All are welcome to attend the service that works best for their family. Questions can be directed to Cheri Selander at cselander@christlamesa.org.



PARENT EDUCATION SESSION | FEBRUARY 18 | 9:15-10:15 AM– The Sticky Faith Team is presenting a parent education session on how to pray at home with your children. This is in partnership with the Teach Me to Pray milestone. The Parent Education will take place on the 3rd level of the CLS building during education hour on Feb 18. Coffee and muffins will also be provided. All parents are welcome to come.



SATURDAY IN THE PARK | FEBRUARY 3 10:00-11:30 AM | HARRY GRIFFEN PARK IN LA MESA– Building community as a young family with kids is tough. We take the hard work out of meeting new people. Just show up. Together, we create a welcoming space for parents to support, connect, and build meaningful relationships through regular park gatherings. We'll bring the coffee – you bring the kids.

To see more upcoming events, visit christlamesa.org/calendar.