

DECEMBER 31, 2023 | 10:30AM WORSHIP | FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

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 CHRISTMAS

Marked by the vibrant color of white, signifying purity, the season of Christmas encapsulates the miraculous incarnation of God into human form. During this time, we revel in the heartwarming narrative of the Nativity, cherishing the arrival of the Savior in a humble manger. The season of Christmas leads us into the Season of Epiphany, where we are first reminded of the journey of the Magi, who come and worship Jesus as the Son of God.

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 | RESUMES JANUARY 7

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 | RESUME JANUARY 7

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 | HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING AND KING OF HEAVEN

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

SONG OF RESPONSE | SAME GOD

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 | ISAIAH 61:10-62:3 | PEW BIBLE PAGE 1065

SECOND READING | GALATIANS 4:4-7 | PEW BIBLE PAGE 1660

GOSPEL READING | LUKE 2:22-40 | PEW BIBLE PAGE 1460

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

HOMILY | MY HANDS HAVE HELD. MY EYES HAVE SEEN

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 | PROMISES

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 | AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)

SECOND COMMUNION SONG | 'TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG | JOY TO THE WORLD (JOYFUL JOYFUL)

*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.*

NOTES (OR DOODLE PAGE FOR KIDDOS)

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Celebrant and Preacher: Pastor Travis Ferguson; **Liturgist:** Deacon Jacob Sitze; **Children’s Message:** Cheri Selander; **Acolyte:** Elise Ramos; **Reader:** Don Mathiowetz; **Music Leader:** CLC Praise Band; **Livestream, Sound, and Media:** Joseph Arzillo, Craig Barkett, and Zachary Brenner; **Worship Partner:** Shaun Johnson; **Communion Assistants:** Ron Recksiedler, Bill Roan, Steve Rochester, and Georg Winkler; **Welcome Team:** Dennis Johnson, Steve Kunkel, Julie Brown, Angelika Winkler, and Zissi Winkler

IN OUR PRAYERS

Celebrating a birthday this week: John Hoobs, Jeff Huth, Luke Sheehan, Justine Kibibi, Richard McAndrews, Matthew McCoy, Karen Pechacek, Christe Dushime, Wendy Simon, Steve Kunkel, Steve Rochester, Jacob Sitze; **Sick:** Rev. Art Puls, Pastor David Peterson, Katha Kuspa, those suffering; **Others:** Joseph, our President; Gavin, our Governor; Military Members; First Responders; Those in the Service Industry

OUR STAFF



Travis Ferguson
Pastor



Jacob Sitze
Deacon



Patti Maass
Director of Operations



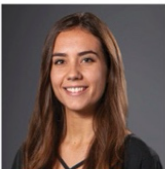
Cheri Selander
Director of Youth Ministries



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



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. This provides a great opportunity to connect your friends with Christ Lutheran in a non-threatening atmosphere.



MISSION TRIPS TO SOUTH AMERICA – Su Refugio mission trip planning is underway for 2024. Consider going to **Paraguay** June 28-July 6, **Peru** August 1-10, or **Argentina** October 3-12. Grants for \$1,000 are available to members of Christ Lutheran who want to help bring the Good News to those in South America. For more information, visit surefugio.org or contact Sandy Cole at colesj@hotmail.com.



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.



CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL - Named Premier Parent Choice Award Winner for 2022-2023, our Christ-centered and accredited School and Preschool have been committed to academic excellence since 1958. You get tradition and legacy with a bright and exciting future with Christ Lutheran. If you are interested in enrollment, visit lutheranschool.org or call (619) 462-5211, ext. 3, and schedule a tour today!



GRIEF JOURNEY - During difficult times, we all need a community where we feel safe and heard. Grief Journey, at its core, is a safe place for the grieving to talk openly in a support-group environment about the loss of a loved one. The group provides emotional and moral support to one another with love. Grief Journey meets the 1st Wednesday of every month from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church in Youth Center Room 1 (Parking Lot 1 area).

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