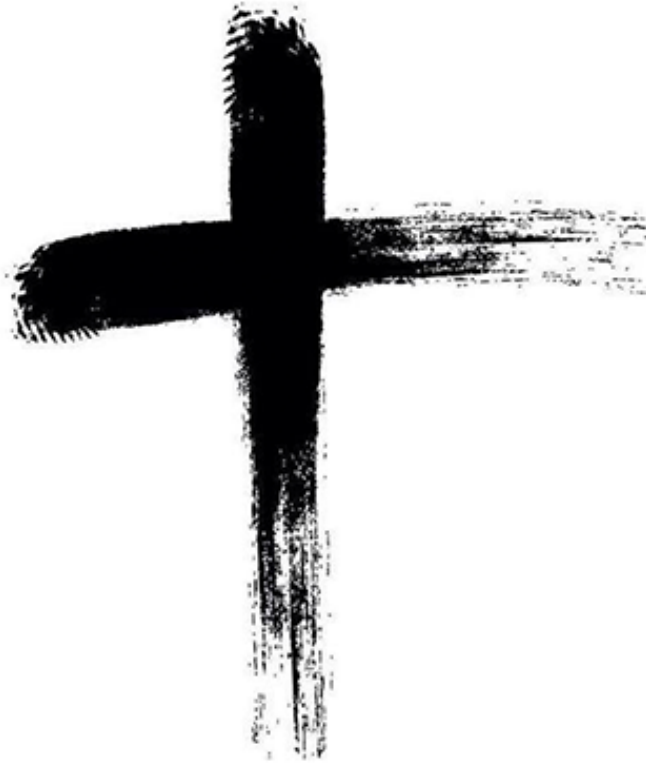


FEBRUARY 14, 2024 | 7PM WORSHIP | ASH WEDNESDAY



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

## 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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## THE MEANING OF ASH WEDNESDAY

As we embark on the sacred season of Lent, we begin with Ash Wednesday. The outward sign of ashes flows from an inward look at our sin, an upward look to the cross, and an outward reminder Jesus came for all people. Though no one is required to receive ashes, the ashes serve as a physical and tangible reminder of the sin that Jesus Christ comes to die for.

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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.

# + 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 915 | TODAY YOUR MERCY CALLS US

Today Your mercy calls us to wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass, whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us and make us clean today.

Today Your gate is open, and all who enter in  
Shall find a Father's welcome and pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten, a present joy be giv'n,  
A future grace be promised, a glorious crown in heav'n.

O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without You when heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us, to drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open, one ear will hear our prayer.

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

Pastor: Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times the season of Lent

has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

But first, 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.*

Pastor: Hear our plea, O Lord...

**All: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

## **BLESSING OF ASHES**

Pastor: O God, you desire not the death of sinners, but our conversion. Mercifully hear our prayers, and in Your kindness be pleased to bless + these ashes. We receive them upon our heads to acknowledge we are but ashes and shall return to dust, so that we may, through a steadfast observance of Lent, receive newness of life as we worship Your Son, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*The imposition of ashes is a voluntary observance. The outward sign of ashes flows from an inward look at our sin, an upward look to the cross, and an outward reminder Jesus came for all people. If you desire to receive a mark of ashes, you may come forward by the center aisle as directed by an usher.*

## **IMPOSITION HYMN | LSB 570 | JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA**

Just as I am, without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## **IMPOSITION HYMN | BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE**

Before the throne of God above I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is Love,  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heaven He stands,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart, no tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my sin  
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free  
For God the Just is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me,  
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb my perfect, spotless righteousness  
The great unchangeable I Am, the King of glory and of grace  
One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased by His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God  
With Christ, my Savior and my God

## 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 2:1-10 | PEW BIBLE PAGE 79

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

<sup>1</sup> Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, <sup>2</sup> and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. <sup>3</sup> But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. <sup>4</sup> His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

<sup>5</sup> Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. <sup>6</sup> She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

<sup>7</sup>Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

<sup>8</sup>"Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. <sup>9</sup>Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. <sup>10</sup>When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING | 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21 | PEW BIBLE PAGE 1648**

Reader: Our second reading is from Second Corinthians, the fifth chapter.

<sup>16</sup>So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup>that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

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 sixth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup> “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup> “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

<sup>16</sup> “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

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.*

## **MESSAGE HYMN | LSB 732 | ALL DEPENDS ON OUR POSSESSING**

All depends on our possessing God's abundant grace and blessing,  
Though all earthly wealth depart. They who trust with faith unshaken  
By their God are not forsaken and will keep a dauntless heart.

Many spend their lives in fretting over trifles and in getting  
Things that have no solid ground. I shall strive to win a treasure  
That will bring me lasting pleasure and that now is seldom found.

If my days on earth He lengthen, God my weary soul will strengthen;  
All my trust in Him I place. Earthly wealth is not abiding,  
Like a stream away is gliding; safe I anchor in His grace.

## **HOMILY | BIG THINGS WITH SMALL STUFF**

## OFFERING | [CHRISTLAMESA.ORG/GIVE](http://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.*

## SANCTUARY CHOIR | TO DUST

*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  
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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, 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 | LSB 606 | I LAY MY SINS ON JESUS

I lay my sins on Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God;  
He bears them all and frees us from the accursed load.  
I bring my guilt to Jesus to wash my crimson stains  
Clean in His blood most precious till not a spot remains.

I lay my wants on Jesus; all fullness dwells in Him;  
He heals all my diseases; my soul He does redeem.  
I lay my griefs on Jesus, my burdens and my cares;  
He from them all releases; He all my sorrows shares.

I rest my soul on Jesus, this weary soul of mine;  
His right hand me embraces; I on His breast recline.  
I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;  
Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.

## COMMUNION HYMN | LSB 610 | LORD JESUS, THINK ON ME

Lord Jesus, think on me and purge away my sin;  
From worldly passions set me free and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, by anxious thoughts oppressed;  
Let me Your loving servant be and taste Your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me nor let me go astray;  
Through darkness and perplexity point out Your chosen way.  
Lord Jesus, think on me that, when this life is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see and share Your joy at last.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

## BENEDICTION

## CLOSING HYMN | LSB 563 | JESUS, THY BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness my beauty are, my glorious dress;  
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, with joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in that great day, cleansed and redeemed,  
No debt to pay;  
Fully absolved through these I am from sin and fear,  
From guilt and shame.

Lord, I believe Thy precious blood, which at the mercy seat of God  
Pleads for the captives' liberty, was also shed in love for me.

When from the dust of death I rise to claim my mansion in the skies,  
This then shall be my only plea: Jesus hath lived and died for me.

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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

**Preacher:** Deacon Jacob Sitze; **Celebrant and Liturgist:** Pastor Travis Ferguson; **Acolyte:** Zachary Spicer; **Reader:** Mike McGhen; **Music Leader:** Kathy Barkett; **Worship Partner:** Terry Gland; **Communion Assistants:** Floyd Hansel, Phil Lamonica, Bill Roan, Steve Smith; **Livestream, Sound, and Media:** Shaun Johnson, Craig Barkett, and Hannah Maass; **Welcome Team:** Dallas Johnson, Joel Voss, Abby Cott, Alissa Cott, and Emily Cott

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## 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 | 1:00-3:30PM | 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** – Take intentional time throughout Lent to connect with others and learn more as you grow in your faith. Join us on Wednesdays for our Gather + Grow nights from 5:30-7:00 pm in the Gym. We will be studying a series called “Love in Chaos” by Bob Goff. Life Groups – we invite you to take a break throughout Lent and join in on these Gather + Grow nights. All proceeds from the meals benefit Youth Ministry.



**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](mailto: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.



**2024 MISSION TRIPS TO SOUTH AMERICA** - Is God leading you to serve on a Su Refugio short-term mission trip this year? Come join us on **Sunday, February 18 at 9:15 a.m. in Youth Center Room 1** to learn more about trips to Paraguay (June 28-July 6), Peru (August 1-10) and Argentina (October 3-12)! For more information contact Sandy Cole at [colesj@hotmail.com](mailto:colesj@hotmail.com). Or sign up at <https://www.surefugio.org/join-us>

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