

JANUARY 7, 2024 | 8AM WORSHIP | FEAST OF 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.

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## THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

Epiphany follows the celebration of Christmas and lasts until the beginning of Lent. The liturgical color for Epiphany is white, symbolizing purity and the divine light that Christ brings to the world. As we celebrate Epiphany, we are reminded of the journey of the Magi and the recognition of Jesus as the Son of God by the Gentiles. May this season inspire us to share the light of Christ with others and recognize His presence in our lives.

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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, as 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 395 | O MORNING STAR, HOW FAIR AND BRIGHT

O Morning Star, how fair and bright!  
You shine with God's own truth and light,  
Aglow with grace and mercy!  
Of Jacob's race, King David's son,  
Our Lord and master, You have won  
Our hearts to serve You only!  
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious,  
All victorious, Rich in blessing!  
Rule and might o'er all possessing!

Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,  
And deep within our hearts now shine;  
There light a flame undying!  
In Your one body let us be  
As living branches of a tree,  
Your life our lives supplying.  
Now, though daily Earth's deep sadness  
May perplex us and distress us,  
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.

Almighty Father, in Your Son  
You loved us when not yet begun  
Was this old earth's foundation!  
Your Son has ransomed us in love  
To live in Him here and above:  
This is Your great salvation.  
Alleluia! Christ the living,  
To us giving Life forever,  
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!

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

Leader: Brothers and sisters, 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.*

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

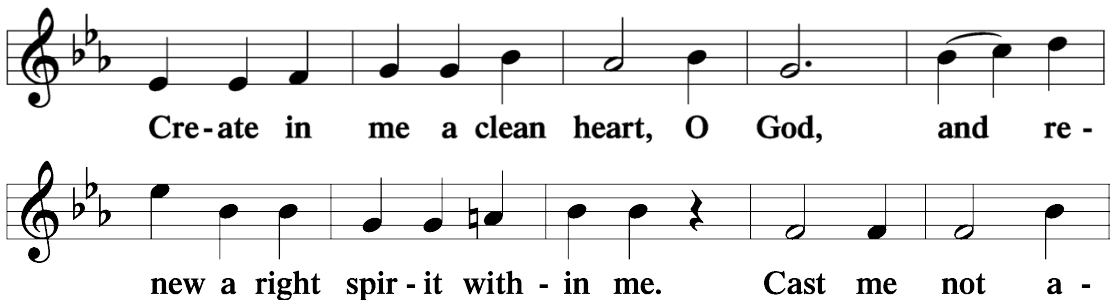
**All: Lord have mercy.**

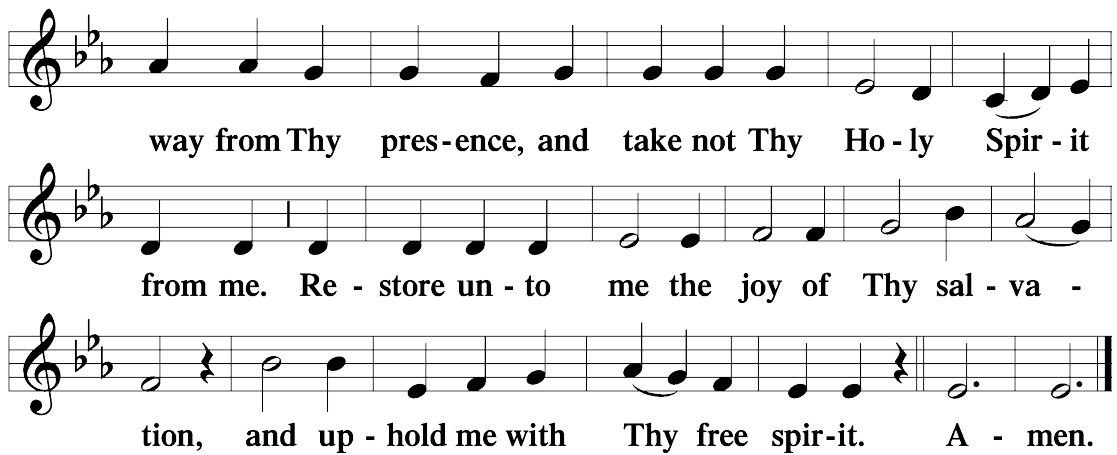
Leader: For what we have done, and what we have left undone, Christ have mercy.

**All: Christ have mercy.**

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

**All: Lord have mercy.**





## 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 | ISAIAH 60:1-6 | PEW BIBLE PAGE 1063

Reader: Our first reading is from Isaiah, the sixtieth chapter.

<sup>1</sup> "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. <sup>2</sup> See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. <sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup> "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. <sup>5</sup> Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. <sup>6</sup> Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING | EPHESIANS 3:1-12 | PEW BIBLE PAGE 1666**

Reader: Our second reading is from Ephesians, the third chapter.

<sup>1</sup> For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup> Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup> In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup> I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL | MATTHEW 2:1-12 | PEW BIBLE PAGE 1374**

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

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

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

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

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem<sup>2</sup> and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup>”“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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 412 | THE PEOPLE THAT IN DARKNESS SAT

The people that in darkness sat a glorious light have seen;  
The light has shined on them who long in shades of death have been,  
In shades of death have been.

To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness, the gath'ring nations come;  
They joy as when the reapers bear their harvest treasures home,  
Their harvest treasures home.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace, the Everlasting Lord,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor, the God by all adored,  
The God by all adored.

His righteous government and pow'r shall over all extend;  
On judgment and on justice based, His reign shall have no end,  
His reign shall have no end.

## HOMILY | WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM

## 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.*

## HYMN OF RESPONSE | LSB 397 | AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glory hide.

*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;



*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 702 | MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.  
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away; O let me from this day  
Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart; my zeal inspire!  
As Thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to Thee Pure, warm, and changeless be,  
A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread, be Thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray  
From Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll,  
Blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove; O bear me safe above,  
A ransomed soul!

## **COMMUNION HYMN | LSB 409 | HAIL, O SOURCE OF EVERY BLESSING**

Hail, O Source of ev'ry blessing, Father of our human race!  
Gentiles now, Your grace possessing, in Your courts obtain a place.  
Grateful now, we fall before You, in Your Church rejoice to live,  
See Your glory and adore You, thankful for the grace You give.

Once far off but now invited, we approach Your sacred throne,  
In Your covenant united, reconciled, redeemed, made one.  
Now revealed to eastern sages, see the Star of Mercy shine,  
Myst'ry hid in former ages, myst'ry great of love divine.

Hail, O all-inviting Savior! Gentiles now their off'rings bring,  
In Your temples seek Your favor, Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.  
May we, body, soul, and spirit, live devoted to Your praise,  
Glorious realms of bliss inherit, grateful anthems ever raise.

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

## **BENEDICTION**

## CLOSING HYMN | LSB 394 | SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,  
Manifested by the star to the sages from afar,  
Branch of royal David's stem in Thy birth at Bethlehem:  
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Sun and moon shall darkened be, stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;  
Christ will then like lightning shine, all will see His glorious sign;  
All will then the trumpet hear, all will see the Judge appear;  
Thou by all wilt be confessed, God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, present in Thy holy Word—  
Grace to imitate Thee now and be pure, as pure art Thou;  
That we might become like Thee at Thy great epiphany  
And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest.

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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).*

## NOTES (OR DOODLE PAGE FOR KIDDOS)

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## NOTES (OR DOODLE PAGE FOR KIDDOS)

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# THE CALL OF GOD LIFE GROUP GUIDE | WEEK 1

- Share a brief personal experience of a time when you've felt "lost," spiritually or physically. How did you feel? How did you respond? How did things work out in the end?
- Read Matthew 2:1-12. What stands out to you in this passage?
- The Wise Men followed the star to find Jesus. Wouldn't it be nice if a bright star led our way today? Wouldn't it be nice if a sign in the sky flashed RIGHT or WRONG when we were making decisions? How are you "seeking Jesus" today? What guides you? Is that *in contrast* or *in line* to how non-Christians around you are being guided?
- Though perhaps history has mislabeled these three individuals who come to Jesus as "Wise Men" (theologians prefer to use the term "magician" or "Magi"), who are the wise Christians whose example you seek to follow? How have they impacted your life?
- Ephesians 3:1–12 discusses the mystery of Christ revealed to the Gentiles. How does this relate to the Wise Men, who were likely Gentiles, and what can we learn about the universality of God's call?
- Consider the gifts the Wise Men brought to Jesus—gold (representing his kingship), frankincense (a symbol of his priestly role), and myrrh (a prefiguring of his death and embalming). How have you seen people offer their "gifts" to God in their life? How might you be challenged to use your gifts to extend God's kingdom?
- What are practical ways you can "seek Him" in your daily life? Where are you struggling to "seek Him" now?
- 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:** Mia Rall; **Music Leader:** Kathy Barkett; **Worship Partner:** Mike McGhen; **Communion Assistants:** Dave Blackford, Bob Maass, Mike Maass, and Kent Schwartz; **Livestream, Sound, and Media:** Eric Berg, Craig Barkett, and Hannah Maass; **Welcome Team:** Jeff Paape, Erik Selander, Abigail Cott, Alissa Cott, and Emily Cott

# IN OUR PRAYERS

**Celebrating a birthday this week:** Towanda Fleer-Sauer, Linda Hoobs, Brittany Davis, Rev. Bob Maass, Jeff Lundstrom, and Xavria Schwarz. **Sick:** Nancy Sierra, Rev. David Peterson, all those suffering in silence; **Others:** Joseph, our President; Gavin, our Governor; Military Members; First Responders; Peace throughout the world

# 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



**GOD SQUAD (4<sup>TH</sup> TO 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)** - This pre-teen youth group builds faith by providing a monthly gathering filled with high-energy games and enthusiastic time in God’s Word. God Squad’s next meeting is this Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. For more information, visit [christlamesa.org/youth](http://christlamesa.org/youth).



**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](http://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](http://lutheranschool.org) or call (619) 462-5211, ext. 3, and schedule a tour today!



**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](http://surefugio.org) or contact Sandy Cole at [colesj@hotmail.com](mailto:colesj@hotmail.com).



**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](mailto:mattrochie7@gmail.com). This provides a great opportunity to connect your friends with Christ Lutheran in a non-threatening atmosphere.

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