

JANUARY 14, 2024 | 10:30AM WORSHIP | FIRST SUNDAY IN 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

As we enter 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.

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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 +**

*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.*

## **WELCOME AND INVOCATION**

## **OPENING SONG | HOUSE OF THE LORD**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

## **SONG OF RESPONSE | OCEANS**

*We now 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 | 1 SAMUEL 3:1-10 | PEW BIBLE PAGE 384**

## **SECOND READING | 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20 | PEW BIBLE PAGE 1628**

## **GOSPEL READING | JOHN 1:43-51 | PEW BIBLE PAGE 1510**

## **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 | AWAKENING TO GOD'S VOICE**

## 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 | SPEAK, O LORD

## 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 | O COME TO THE ALTAR

## SECOND COMMUNION SONG | COME AS YOU ARE

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

## BENEDICTION

## CLOSING SONG | THERE'S NOTHING THAT OUR GOD CAN'T DO

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To watch this service again, or share it with a friend, visit [christlamesa.org/worship](https://christlamesa.org/worship).*

# THE CALL OF GOD LIFE GROUP GUIDE | WEEK 2

- What is something that you used to love to do or be a part of that has grown rarer in your life?
- Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10. What stands out to you in this passage?
- When Eli tells Samuel that God is the one speaking, he finally responds with: “Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.” Where has “seeking the voice of the Lord” proven beneficial in your life? Where have you plugged your ears and tried to figure it out yourself?
- When have you struggled to recognize God’s voice (His will expressed through His Word)?
- Read John 1:43–51. What stands out to you in this passage?
- How does Nathanael's journey parallel Samuel's experience, and what lessons can we draw from it?
- Reflect on the idea that Jesus is the ultimate call from God. How does this concept shape our understanding of God's voice in our lives?
- Discuss specific ways we can actively listen and respond to God's call in our day-to-day lives. Consider what it might look like to carve away time for spiritual disciplines such as prayer, fasting, and reading God’s Word.
- 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:** Nathaniel Brenner; **Music Leader:** Kathy Barkett; **Worship Partner:** Tom Small; **Communion Assistants:** Andy Floros, Greg Giles, Marc Harris, and Jerry Price; **Livestream, Sound, and Media:** Joseph Arzillo, Craig Barkett, and Eric Berg; **Welcome Team:** Dennis Johnson, Steve Kunkel, Suzi Davis, Chuck Falk, and Joanene Falk

# IN OUR PRAYERS

**Celebrating a birthday this week:** Lori LeFeuvre, Renea Aswegan, Bob Johnson, Kathryn Converse, Jackson Muench, Maddison Shelby, Nancy Sierra, Joel Voss, and Carolyn Koepk; **Sick:** Nancy Sierra, Rev. David Peterson, all those suffering in silence; **Others:** Joseph, our President; Gavin, our Governor; Teachers; City Administrators; Dana Peterson (daughter of Sharon and the late Richard Burkey) at the birth of her son, Grady.

# 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



**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).



**REFUGE (7<sup>TH</sup> TO 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)** - As we build faith in youth, Refuge provides a fun environment for Junior High students to be with friends while experiencing refuge and hope in God's Word. Refuge meets the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Youth Center. Students can come starting at 6:30 pm to enjoy the game room. For more information, visit [christlamesa.org/youth](http://christlamesa.org/youth).



**GATHER + GROW PARENT EDUCATION ON FEBRUARY 4 FROM 3:30-5:00 PM** – Guest Speaker, Katey McPherson will share with us practical and evidence based tips to manage & supervise your child's screen time. Childcare is available for children 0-11 years old by registering at [tinyurl.com/ggchildcare](http://tinyurl.com/ggchildcare).



**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).



**LCMS YOUTH GATHERING AMBASSADOR PROGRAM** – If you are 26 years or older, help serve the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering by applying to be a Gathering Ambassador. Ambassadors are servant leaders and trusted voices, helping youth participants and their leaders have a safe and remarkable experience. For more information, contact Elisabeth Heath at [elig\\_23@hotmail.com](mailto:elig_23@hotmail.com) or go to [lcmsgathering.com/volunteer](http://lcmsgathering.com/volunteer) to apply.

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