



good news for

# GRINCHES

from HEARTACHE  
to HOPE

DECEMBER 10, 2023  
8:00am Worship



# CHRISTMAS

## Offerings

Each Christmas, it's our tradition to give our entire Christmas Eve and Christmas Day offerings away to a few different organizations. This year, our offerings will go to:



La Red facilitates transformative development opportunities for people living in social vulnerability who reside in the coastal communities in El Salvador. Donations will go towards their summer camp program for impoverished children.



STEP builds financial self-sufficiency among junior active-duty enlisted members and recently discharged enlisted Veterans and their families facing financial crises through counseling, education, and grants.



LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are working animals, trained to interact with people of all ages and circumstances who are suffering and in need. LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are deployed after traumatic events and visited Christ Lutheran School after a death in our school community in 2019.

# JOIN US

this Christmas  
& Advent Season

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>**

6:00 pm 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Program

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>**

8:00 and 10:30 am Lessons and Carols

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**

6:00 pm 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Program

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>**

10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

4:00 pm Family Worship

7:00 pm Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>**

10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>**

8:00 & 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

**[christlamesa.org/CHRISTMAS](http://christlamesa.org/CHRISTMAS)**

**Let Us Know You're Worshipping With Us!**



***Or visit [christlamesa.org/hello](http://christlamesa.org/hello)***

## **AS WE GATHER**

Welcome to worship! Last week we began a message series called “Good News for Grinches,” utilizing the classic tale for our journey through Advent. We began by looking at the Grinch’s isolation. Today, we hear his rant to the citizens of Whoville, where he criticizes their practices. Though perhaps not the one you want “speaking the truth in love” to you, the Grinch’s rant helps us reflect on our lives and practices.

## **WELCOME AND INVOCATION**

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen!**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**Leader:** We praise You, O God, for this Advent wreath that numbers the days of preparation for Christ's coming. As we light the second candle on this wreath, fill us with love as we wait in anticipation for Emmanuel.

*(The Hope and Love candles are lit)*

**People:** **Give us the light of Your grace so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we may prepare our hearts to welcome Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.**

Leader: Let us pray... Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that at His second coming we may worship Him in purity; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **OPENING HYMN**

## **LSB 344, ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY**

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay.

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

## **WE CONFESS OUR SINS**

Leader: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

*(A time of silence for confession)*

**People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; therefore, I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
 way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

## WE RECEIVE FORGIVENESS

*(Please be seated)*

## FIRST READING

**ISAIAH 11:1-9**  
**PEW BIBLE PAGE 988**

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

<sup>1</sup> A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—<sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy,

with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. <sup>9</sup>They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

**PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11**  
**PEW BIBLE PAGE 1672**

Reader: Our second reading is from Philippians, the second chapter.

<sup>1</sup> Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

**MATTHEW 3:1-12**  
**PEW BIBLE PAGE 1375**

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

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

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

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

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup>and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup>This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

<sup>4</sup>John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup>Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

<sup>10</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**People: 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.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE HYMN****LSB 341, LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES**

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!  
Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation He doth bring;  
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
To God the Father raise  
Your joyful songs of praise.

A righteous Helper comes to thee;  
His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness,  
His scepter, pity in distress.  
The end of all our woe He brings;  
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.  
To Christ the Savior raise  
Your grateful hymns of praise.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple set apart  
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
So shall your Sov'reign enter in  
And new and nobler life begin.  
To God alone be praise  
For word and deed and grace!

**MESSAGE****THE GRINCH'S RANT**

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING HIGHLIGHT

**CHRISTLAMESA.ORG/CHRISTMAS**

Support the Enlisted Project, a local non-profit, builds financial self-sufficiency among junior active-duty enlisted members and recently discharged enlisted Veterans and their families facing financial crises through counseling, education, and grants.

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

**LSB 347, COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE**

“Comfort, comfort ye My people, speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning ‘neath their sorrows’ load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover and her warfare now is over.”

Hark, the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,  
Calling sinners to repentance, since the Kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet Him and the hills bow down to greet Him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked; make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits His holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord now o’er earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token that His Word is never broken.

## PRAYERS AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Leader: Loving God, in this season as we anticipate the birth of Your Son, Emmanuel, we are reminded to give You thanks for the gift You have given through the lives of **Suzi Davis, Angie Robinson, Frank Verbeke, Nate Rabasco, Sue Suelzle, Kathy Coe, Jenn Nemeth, Diane Erzen, Chloe Niedens, and Misty Sullivan**. As they celebrate birthdays this week, remind them of Your unfailing love, and bless their work in the world. Lord in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of all comfort, Your Word alone endures forever. The nations of the world come and go before You, even kings and rulers are like grass before Your breath. Preserve us from placing our trust in that which is temporal. Lord in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, to our prayers for those whose struggle is unrelenting: for the sick, the grieving, the lonely, the hurting. Give healing, courage and perseverance to all who cry to You, that they may find comfort in Your enduring Word and the certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life with Christ. Lord in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, as we in the Church on earth wait for the coming of Your Son, we remember all the saints who have gone before us and now rest in Your presence. Keep us safe in Your arms until You gather Your people together in the new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells. Lord in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, remembering us in Your Kingdom, and teaching us to pray...

**People: 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.**

## PREFACE TO HOLY COMMUNION

**2 TIMOTHY 4:22; COLOSSIANS 3:1**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise You, the Invisible, Almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9)**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

**MATTHEW 26:26-28**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: And also with you.**

*(Please be seated)*

## **WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION**

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.

## **HYMNS**

## **COME, EXPECTED JESUS, LOVE DIVINE**

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious Kingdom bring  
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone  
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

## LSB 801, HOW GREAT THOU ART

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed; **REFRAIN**

**REFRAIN:** Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; **REFRAIN**

But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin; **REFRAIN**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

### BENEDICTION

### CLOSING HYMN

### LSB 924, LORD, DISMISS US WITH YOUR BLESSING

Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each, Your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us; O refresh us, trav'ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration for Your Gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of Your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful to Your truth may we be found.

Savior, when Your love shall call us from our struggling pilgrim way,  
Let not fear of death appall us, glad Your summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever reign with You in endless day.

## THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP AT 8:00AM

**Preacher & Celebrant**

**Worship Leader**

**Children's Message**

**Acolyte**

**Reader**

**Music Leader**

**Worship Partner**

**Communion Assistants**

Pastor Travis Ferguson

Deacon Jacob Sitze

DCE Cheri Selander

Mia Rall

Steve Smith

Kathy Barkett

Dale Mastny

Scott Azzarello

Bob Maass

Gunnar Schalin

Steve Smith

Stuart Gardner

Craig Barkett

Dana Blackford

Kerry Banke

Kathy Coe

Holly Lamonica

Wayne Sieckman

Nancy Sierra

**Livestream Technician**

**Sound Technician**

**Media Technician**

**Welcome Team**

**If you are looking for a place to serve  
here at Christ Lutheran, we have a spot for you!**

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**For more information go to [christlamesa.org/serve](http://christlamesa.org/serve)**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

## **TODAY | December 10**

- 8:00 am—Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
- 9:15 am—Sunday School
  - 3yrs -Grade 6—CLS Back Entrance
  - Confirmation—Room 202
  - Senior High—Youth Center Room 3
- 9:15 am—Christian Education Hour
  - Focus—Room 101
  - Bereans—Room 203
  - Village—Lucas Hall
  - Grace—CLS Teachers' Lounge
- 10:30 am—Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
- 5:00 pm—Senior High Sunday Evening—Youth Center

## **MONDAY | December 11**

- 7:00 pm—Adult Pickleball—Gym

## **TUESDAY | December 12**

- 7:00 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous—Youth Building Room 1

## **WEDNESDAY | December 13**

- 6:00 pm—Grades 6-8 Christmas Program—Sanctuary

## **THURSDAY | December 14**

- 9:30 am—Insights—Lucas Hall
- 6:30 pm—Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
- 7:45 pm—Handbell Rehearsal—Room 200B

## **FRIDAY | December 15**

- 7:00 pm—Refuge—Youth Center

## **SATURDAY | December 16**

- 7:30 am—Men's Bible Study—Lucas Hall



# Prayerfully consider a mission trip in 2024

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**PARAGUAY**

June 28<sup>th</sup> - July 6<sup>th</sup>

**PERU**

August 1<sup>st</sup> - August 10<sup>th</sup>

**ARGENTINA**

October 3<sup>rd</sup> - October 12<sup>th</sup>

For more information, go to [surefugio.org](https://surefugio.org)  
or contact Sandy Cole at [colesj@hotmail.com](mailto:colesj@hotmail.com)



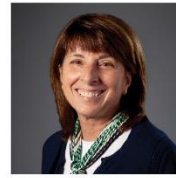
**Travis Ferguson**  
Pastor



**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**  
School 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



- A Family Lounge for parents, infants, and toddlers can be found in the rear of the Sanctuary.
- Room 101 is located on the first floor of the Court-yard.
- Rooms 200A-203, as well as Kids Care, are located on the second level of the Court-yard.

**7929 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa CA, 91942**