# Christ Lutheran Church (ELCA)

**918 S. Litchfield Road**
**Goodyear, Arizona 85338**
**(623) 932-2394**

**Worship Bulletin**

**Access on our YouTube channel**

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On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

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## Readings and Psalms

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

### Next Week's Readings

Isaiah 64:1-9 | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 | 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 | Mark 13:24-37

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## Overview

**Awake to the Grace of God**

We Embody the Presence of Christ. It is possible that the biggest barrier to accepting this as our lifelong vocation is not a lack of faith but a lack of imagination.

On this final Sunday of the liturgical year, we receive a parable from Jesus challenging and inspiring our imaginations to grasp our whole vocation that is celebrated in baptism: to embody Christ in every moment and to engage every part of our world as Christ's redeemed creation. The parable of the sheep and the goats has sometimes been used to instill fear of God's judgment. However, it is possible that Jesus' point here is to urge his disciples to share God's generous saving grace with all. Jesus' parables consistently offer a simple setting and story, but behind them lie a world of rich meaning that takes a lifetime to unpack. For this reason, Jesus' parables are important texts for the postmodern church, which is hungry for story, for connection, and for meaning for our faithful lifelong questions.

With shepherding texts from Ezekiel and the Psalms as well as Ephesians, an epistle written to build faith, we have a constellation of texts that make the shape of God's intimate—even incarnational—love of creation. The parable even suggests that being merely intentional about ministry in the name of Jesus is not the point. After all, both "sheep" and "goats" groups are equally shocked at the news that Jesus was present in those relationships involving thirst, imprisonment, and so forth. Instead, Jesus seems to invite us to wonder what's at the deepest foundation of our presence and purpose—and perhaps even walk away faithfully bewildered at the possibilities of God's kingdom being practiced on earth as it is in heaven.

What if we really do embody the presence of Christ?

## Worship Team

**Pastor:** Jeff Hackler

**Music:** Miloy Cañete

**Assisting Minister:**
Nov 22 & 29 - Patsy

**Greeters:**
Tom Reynolds, Rosemary Vanasco, Judy Turnen

**Readers:**
Nov 22 - Gayle Denny
Nov 29 - Elaine Carlson

**Altar Guild:**
Ken and Karen Olson

**Communion Assistants:**
Nov - Mike and Kathie Coyle

**Ushers:**
Nov 22 - Mary Ellen Crane, Bob Addy, Faith and Emma
Nov 29 - Bob & Sue Addy/Faith & Emma

**Sound/Tech:**
Wes and Jan Yost

**Banners:**
Judy Wandler/Karen Olson

**Flowers:**
Kathie Townsend

# Outreach Update

A note from Su Erickson, Outreach Director

**Did you know that November is National Homelessness Awareness Month?**

In 1990, the ELCA adopted the social message **"Homelessness: A Renewal of Commitment."** This social message has guided our church's advocacy and public witness for nearly four decades. The ELCA is looking for public comment on a reconsidered draft of the social message. To learn more and to download the draft social message, visit **ELCA.org/Homelessness**

**What does our church do to address homelessness?**

Christ Lutheran has served the homeless by being involved in the IHELP program for just over ten years. When Lutheran Social Services discontinued support of the program in March 2025, the Southwest Valley group (five area churches) took on the task of reimagining the program. Our church council voted to support the program. The five churches worked together to obtain a fiscal sponsor, insurance, and funding to restart the program in February 2026. We have served 70 individuals and have a positive placement rate of over 50% (which is outstanding in the industry).

Our church hosts the program twice a month and provides a hot meal, showers, and overnight housing. Fifteen members were trained and serve as hosts, provide a meal, or help with laundry.

Our biggest challenge moving forward is funding. Please prayerfully consider a donation to keep this important program going.

Here's a **link** to our landing page on the AZ Community Impact site, **https://azcommunityimpact.org/#ihelp**.

## Please support the food pantry

Rice & Beans (canned or dry), pasta, canned meat, plastic bags

***Reaching out together!***

## Thank You to City of Hope and Lennox

Lennox conducted a Thanksgiving Food Drive and donated 1060lbs of food and water to our food pantry. Thank you to Brian and Karin Grzanek for picking up the donations.

City of Hope donated a pallet of water and two cases of bananas to our food pantry. The items were left over from the Walk for Hope. Thank you to Tom Reynolds and Su Erickson for picking up after the event.





## Welcome New CELC Members

(See email version)



## Christ Lutheran's Council: Call for Nominations

This is an important time in the life of our church and its ministries, and the Council is looking for a few new leaders who would like to be a part of supporting our future. The Council's aim includes oversight of the church budget, supporting our church staff and overseeing member engagement and services to maintain the life of the church.

As part of our nomination process, our Constitution allows for members to self-nominate should they desire to become part of the Council. The Nominating Committee gathers names for recommendations that are then submitted to the congregation and voted on at our annual meeting. **At this time, we anticipate two open positions for the Jan 2027 – Jan 2028 Council, Evangelism and Health Consultant.**

We ask you to prayerfully consider becoming a Council member. Please feel free to speak with any current Council member about their experience serving on Council.
Thank you for considering joining us in this important work!

Carol Moonan and the Nominating Committee

# Handel's "Messiah" Sing-Along

All Are Welcome!

You are invited to hear and/or participate in our annual Handel's "Messiah" Sing-Along. For those who want to sing, we have plenty of books. We will enjoy having an orchestra accompany us.

**Sunday, November 29 at 3PM**

**Lord of Life Lutheran Church Sun City West, AZ**

Click here for more information

## Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening is almost here. Have your signed up yet?

**Thursday, December 3 in Building B**.

**Click here** for more information or to schedule an appointment, **call 1-800-324-9458**.

***Pre-Registration is required.**







## Advent Dinner

Celebrate the Advent season with friends on Friday, December 11, at Christ Lutheran in the Bldg B Sanctuary. The gathering will begin at 5:00p.m. with appetizers and wine and holiday shopping at the Quilting for Others Boutique. You will also enjoy a delicious meal and gathering with friends to sing Christmas carols.

Click the button below to purchase tickets

**Purchase Tickets**




## Salvation Army Angel Tree

"Bless a Child in Need"

Our Advent outreach project is the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program. The program allows a child to receive a Christmas gift if their family cannot afford them. Select an Angel wish-list ornament from the small tree on the Welcome Table. Gifts need to be returned in early December (exact date will be announced), wrapped, and labeled with the child's Angel Tree ornament. **Questions? Contact the church office at office@christgoodyear.org**

***We remember in our prayers...***

**Members:** (see email version)

**Friends and Family:** (see email version)

**Bishops:** Deborah K. Hutterer, (Grand Canyon Synod), Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry (ELCA church wide)
**Cactus Conference Churches**: St. John's - Glendale and Community of Grace - Peoria
**Campus Churches**: Casa del Rey, Hope Alive, Iglesia Cristiana Valle de Beraca, Vida Nueva
**Service Men/Women** (+ indicates serving oversees)**:** (see email version)

***Submit or update prayer requests by emailing: office@Christgoodyear.org, calling the church office: 623-932-2394, or complete an online prayer request form.***

## Upcoming Events

Nov 26 - Thanksgiving
Dec 3 - Life Line Screening
Dec 11 - Advent Dinner
Dec 13 Children' Christmas Program
Dec 20 - Adoration Choir Cantata
Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Services (Contemporary 4:30pm and Traditional worship 6pm)
Dec 25 - Christmas Morning Worship Service 9am

Church **Directory**
Join Our **Mailing List**
Simply **Giving** Application
Fry's Community **Rewards:** CELC #MW462
CELC **Calendar**
**CELC** Website
**https://www.christgoodyear.org/staff-and-leadership**
Council Meeting Minutes Click on link above
*Click on the highlighted word and it will take you to the link*

***Pastor: Jeff Hackler***
***pastorjeff@christgoodyear.org***
***(314)378-1330***
***Music: Miloy Cañete***
***Council President: Carol Moonan***
***CELC Office Phone: (623) 932-2394***
***Please email office for pastoral care, appointments or special requests at office@christgoodyear.org***

Constant Contact

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