Christ Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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

Worship Bulletin

Access on our YouTube channel

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

Readings and Psalms

This Week's Readings	Next Week's Readings
Isaiah 64:1-9	Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
1 Corinthians 1:3-9	2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 13:24-37	Mark 1:1-8

Overview

Old Problems and New Beginnings

By now the last of the leaves have likely fallen from trees in northern climes, and any still holding on look dry and dead. In some places, snow has arrived, and its thick blanket shows the stains of filth and grime, reminding us of the waste we are pouring over the land and into the water. This is the season we begin a new year in the life of the church and, as with our worship, we begin with a confession of our participation in the world's suffering.

Heavy hearts and burdened consciences will relate to the prophet's confession, "We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away" (Isa. 64:6). Just as nights in the northern hemisphere reach their longest, Mark addresses us with promises that the signs of the coming of the Son of Man will include the darkening of the sun, moon, and stars. Hold on, there is hope!

The promise of Advent is that God is always at work in the world, bringing new beginnings and a new creation to people and powers long bent on destruction. Yet, because we live in the generation that exists between the "already" of Christ's resurrection and the "not yet" of God's full restoration of the creation, we cannot know when that final day will arrive. Instead of becoming

preoccupied with the end times, we are counseled to live our lives in a state of preparedness—trusting that our home is God's home and that God is coming once again to dwell with us. That trust is the strength that sustains us as we "wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:7).

Worship Team

Pastor: Jeff Hackler

Music: Miloy Cañete

Assisting Minister:
Nov 29 - Patsy
Greeters:
Nov 29 - Tom Reynolds, Rosemary Vanasco, Judy Turnen
Dec 6 - Pam Berg and Jan and Wes Yost

Readers:
Nov 29 - Elaine Carlson
Dec 6 – Jeaneite Lorenz

Altar Guild:
Ken and Karen Olson

Communion Assistants:
Nov - Mike and Kathie Coyle

Ushers:
Nov 29 - Bob & Sue Addy/Faith Hanley & Emma
Sound/Tech:
Wes and Jan Yost

Banners:
Judy Wandler/Karen Olson

Flowers:
Kathie Townsend

Please support the food pantry

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

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

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.**





2026 Poinsettias for Christmas

Order a poinsettia to adorn our Christmas altar for this holiday season. You may purchase in honor or memory of a loved one. Order forms will be available at the Welcome Table or you can call the church office at 623-932-2394.

Pastor Jeff's Advent Message

Advent: God Is Not Finished Yet

Advent is the season when the church refuses to believe that the world as we see it is the world as God intends it to be. While the world is busy preparing for Christmas, the church begins somewhere else. We begin with darkness, longing, and the uncomfortable announcement that God is coming. Not simply coming to make our lives a little more pleasant, but coming to interrupt our settled arrangements, challenge our comfortable assumptions, and call us into a new way of living.

Advent is not merely a countdown to Christmas. It is a season of holy impatience. We wait for the God who has promised to come, even when the world seems determined to remain unchanged. We wait for justice in a world accustomed to injustice, for peace in a world addicted to conflict, and for hope in a world that has learned to live with despair.

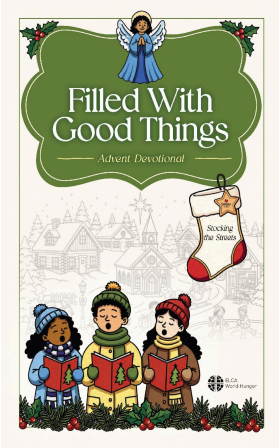
The strange thing about Advent is that God rarely arrives according to our expectations. The Messiah comes not as a mighty ruler but as a vulnerable child. God enters the world not through the corridors of power but through the back door of history, in a stable in Bethlehem.

Perhaps that is why Advent is so important. It reminds us that God is still at work, still coming, still refusing to abandon the world God loves.

So let us wait faithfully. Let us pray expectantly. Let us live courageously. And let us remember that Christmas is not simply the celebration of something God once did. It is the announcement that God is coming again.

ELCA World Hunger Advent Devotional 2026

The first Sunday of Advent is Sunday, November 29. ELCA World Hunger's 2026 Advent devotional is an invitation for all of us to strengthen our relationships with our neighbors by sharing our abundance. We will have printed copies of the "Filled With Good Things" weekly devotional available for families and individuals to use during this season. Printed copies will be available at the welcome table. If you would like an email copy, please email your request to office@christgoodyear.org





Orpheus Christmas Concerts

You are invited to attend the Orpheus Christmas Concert which features a wide array of music. It will definitely put you into the Christmas spirit.

Sunday, December 6, 3pm
American Lutheran Church 17200 N Del Webb BLVD, Sun City
Tuesday, December 8, 7:30pm
1st United Methodist Church 15 E. 1st Avenue, Mesa
Sunday December 13, 3pm
Camelback Bible Church 3900 E. Stanford Drive, Paradise Valley
Tickets and more information available at **www.orpheus.org** | 602-699-4556



Advent Dinner

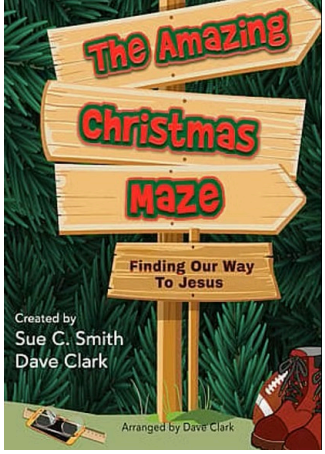
Celebrate the Advent season with friends on Friday, December 11, at Christ Lutheran in the Bldg B Sanctuary. The gathering will begin at 5:00p.m. with appetizers and wine and holiday shopping at the Quilting for Others Boutique. You will also enjoy a delicious meal and gathering with friends to sing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

Purchase Tickets

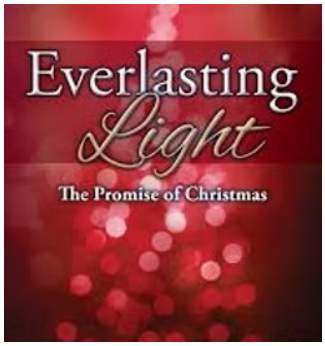
"The Amazing Christmas Maze"

Children's Christmas Program

Join us on **Sunday, December 13,** at the **9:00am service** for our Children's Christmas program, "The Amazing Christmas Maze"
by Dave Clark. Follow five energetic, curious kids as they rhyme their way through a life-sized Christmas-themed maze. They are guided by the guy they usually call the pastor, but on this adventure, he's named himself their "Maze Master." Along the way they'll meet Mary and Joseph, the innkeeper, shepherds, and angels. They'll even get a glimpse of the kings who discovered a



bright new star in the sky and immediately start getting ready to worship. In the end, they'll discover that even though they know the facts of the Christmas story, seeing what the truth of that story can do in a heart is a whole different thing!



"Everlasting Light" with Adoration Choir

Our Christmas Cantata will be held on **Sunday December 20, at the 9:00AM service.** This will be presented by our Adoration Choir along with orchestral accompianment. From the collaborative efforts of Lloyd Larson, Mary McDonald, Jay Rouse, and Larry Shackley, *"Everlasting Light*" showcases the profound significance of the light of Christ come to earth. An insightful narration by Rose Aspinall incorporates scripture and personal reflection to tie together the compelling combination of powerful original music and beloved carols. The work concludes with a robust medley of carols that points back to the opening song. "He is the Light, Everlasting Light; Born a Savior, Born This Night. He is the One, the Everlasting Son; Child of Heaven, He is the Light!" Songs include: *Everlasting Light; He Is the Light (Underscore); Longing for the Light; My Soul Proclaims; Bethlehem, O Bethlehem; Shepherds and Angels; This Child of Light; This Is Christ the King* and *Everlasting Light (Finale).*
Click here for more information.

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: Peace - Peoria; Pan de Vida - El Mirage
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 Holiday
Dec 3 - Life Line Screening

Dec 11 - Advent Dinner
Dec 13 Children's 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

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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

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church | 918 S. Litchfield Road | Goodyear, AZ 85338 US

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