

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Worship Bulletin

Access on our YouTube channel

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

Readings and Psalm

Jonah 3:10—4:11

God's concern for the city of Nineveh

Psalm 145:1-8

The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)

Philippians 1:21-30

Standing firm in the gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

The parable of the vineyard workers

Next week's readings

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 ~ Psalm 25:1-9 ~ Philippians 2:1-13 ~ Matthew 21:23-32

September 20, 2026 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Discomfort: Sign of Grace?

Poor Jonah. The guy never could get comfortable. He was uncomfortable with his God-given call to preach to Nineveh; he was uncomfortable in the arms of the sailors as they hoisted him over the boat's edge and tossed him into the sea; he was uncomfortable as the ocean's raging waves flung him about like flotsam; he was—undoubtedly—uncomfortable in the fish's belly; and he was uncomfortable and downright angry with God's mercy on the people of Nineveh. Jonah had a hard time getting comfortable with himself, and, even more so, Jonah was uneasy embracing the wideness of God's grace.

The same can be said about the laborers in Jesus' parable here in Matthew 20. The laborers who came in the early morning hours grumbled against the landowner because they were paid the same as others who started later and worked fewer hours. These laborers are ill-at-ease with the landowner's choice "to give to this last the same as I give to you" (Matt. 20:14). Like Jonah, they are uncomfortable with the

unchecked mercy offered by the landowner/God. God doesn't play by our rules, and that can be very discomfoting for us all.

Our discomfort with grace manifests itself in all sorts of ways. It can be discomfoting for us to engage the poor and the outcast of our society. It can be discomfoting for us to welcome immigrants into our communities. It can be discomfoting to address the pervasive racism that still surrounds us. And it can be very discomfoting for us to open our lives to the transforming power of the cross of Christ, whereby "the last will be first, and the first will be last" (Matt. 20:16).

Could it be that the more uncomfortable we become with the reckless love of God, the closer we are to understanding the meaning of grace?

Worship Team

Pastor: Jeff Hackler

Music: Miloy Cañete

Assisting Minister:
Patsy Blankenship

Greeters:
Carol Moonan, Sandy Gabel, Judy
Turnen

Readers:
20 - Julie Paisley
27 - Beth Blankenship

Altar Guild:

Mary Ellen Crane & Julie Paisley

Communion Assistants:
Pat Bolka & Tom Reynolds

Ushers:
20 - Gayle Denny & Jim Hill
Faith Hanley & Emma
27 - Gayle Denny & Jim Hill
Joan & Bruce Haroldson

Sound/Tech:
Magan Ratafsky & Ruben Salgado

Banners:
Judy Wandler/Karen Olson

Flowers:
Kathie Townsend

Special Food Pantry needs

Boxes (small-med sized), brown paper bags, **cereal**, canned tuna/chicken

Outreach Boutique needs

Have you cleaned out your linen closets and shoe closets recently? Ardyce is requesting **bathroom towels and men's and women's shoes** for our outreach boutique. Bring donations to church on Sunday or drop off on Monday or Tuesday mornings.

IHELP Meal Sign Up

: Please email the office or talk with Su Erickson if you can provide a meal on one of the dates below.

Oct 2

Oct 16

Nov 6 - Lord of Life team

Nov 13

Nov 20

Dec 4 - Lord of Life team
Dec 20
Jan 1
Jan 15 - Lord of Life team

CELC Book Club

The CELC Book Club will meet on **Thursday, Sept 24 at 2:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Jerilyn will lead the discussion of *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. We have two books remaining for this year - *Mrs. Endicott's Splendid Adventure* by Rhys Bowen, led by Terri, in October and *Grace and Harry's Holiday Movie Marathon* by Matthew Norman led by Stevie, in November.



Vote with Confidence

Bishop's Letter: September 16, 2026

Dear siblings in Christ,
As the November 3 elections approach, I invite every eligible voter to make a plan to participate. Learn about the candidates and questions on your ballot, check your registration, and choose the voting method that works for you. Our votes are one way we take responsibility for the well-being of our neighbors and communities. When we vote, we help shape the decisions that affect our schools, neighborhoods, public institutions, and the lives of people who are too often overlooked. Participating in an election is an act of faithful citizenship and a practical expression of our care for the common good.

In his **call to be trusted messengers this election season**, Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry asks our church to be faithful, informed, and engaged. He also calls us to check information before we repeat it and to help our neighbors find accurate election guidance. That is especially important when questions about voting by mail have left people uncertain.

On September 14, the **U.S. Supreme Court left in place an order blocking a new Postal Service mail-ballot rule** for this election. Voters in our synod can continue to use the mail-ballot processes provided by their state or by the Navajo Nation. Election offices describe those processes as secure. Voters should follow the instructions that come with their ballot, return it on time, and use official election offices to check its status or ask questions.

Please note these dates for the November 3 general election:

- Arizona: Register by October 5. Early ballots begin going out October 7. If you need to request a ballot by mail, do so by October 23. Your completed ballot must reach an election official or official drop-off location by 7 p.m. on November 3. (**Arizona election dates · Mail-ballot instructions and tracking**)
- Utah: Register by 5 p.m. on October 23 to avoid voting a provisional ballot; in-person registration is also available on Election Day. Active registered voters receive a ballot by mail. Mail ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on November 3. (**Utah's 2026 election calendar · Ballot tracking**)
- Nevada: Standard registration by mail or in person closes October 6. Later online and same-day registration options are available, though voters registering close to Election Day may need to vote in person. Mail ballots must be postmarked by November 3 and received by 5 p.m. on November 7. (**Nevada registration law · 2026 election dates and mail-ballot guidance**)
- Navajo Nation: This is a separate election with its own registration and absentee-voting rules. Register by 5 p.m. on September 24. Applications to request an absentee ballot by mail are due by 5 p.m. on October 19. Follow the ballot's return instructions or contact the **Navajo Election Administration** at 1-800-775-VOTE.

Arizona voters who would like a faith-based resource for studying the statewide propositions may also consult **Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona's 2026 Voter Guide**. It is offered as a resource for discernment; each voter makes their own decisions.

Finally, remember that election-night totals are unofficial. Election officials continue counting eligible ballots, checking the totals, and certifying the results afterward. A change in the reported totals during that process is not, by itself, evidence of wrongdoing. The **U.S. Election Assistance Commission explains this process**. When a claim about an election concerns you, seek information from the responsible election office before sharing it.

May our conversations be marked by honesty, patience, and care for one another. Please make your voting plan, help a neighbor find reliable information, and pray for voters and election workers alike.

With you in Christ,

The Rev. Deborah K. Hutterer
Bishop
Grand Canyon Synod of the ELCA

Fall Fest & Quilter's Boutique

Plan to attend CELC's Fall Fest on **Saturday, Oct. 10**, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Come and enjoy German food, beer and wine, desserts and a root beer float stand.
Shop for treasures at the Quilter's Boutique.

Tickets will go on sale soon. They will be sold online and in person before and after worship. Adults - \$10 and Children - \$5



What does it mean to be a Christian in America today? How can Christians love their country while remembering that our ultimate allegiance is to Christ? And how do we engage faithfully with Christian Nationalism without surrendering either our faith or our neighbor?

The **Grand Canyon Growing in Faith Program**, a Mission and Ministry Partner of the Grand Canyon Synod, invites rostered ministers, lay leaders and others across the synod to explore these questions at **“A Different Way: Jesus and the Call Beyond Christian Nationalism — Hope, Courage and Community for Such a Time as This.”**
[View a PDF of event info here.](#)

The one-day symposium will be held **Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Arizona time at American Lutheran Church in Sun City, Arizona**, with both **in-person and virtual participation** available. The cost is **\$25 per person** for either format. Lunch and snacks will be provided for those attending in person.

We remember in our prayers... (see email version)

Bishops: Deborah K. Hutterer, (Grand Canyon Synod), Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry (ELCA churchwide)

Cactus Conference Churches: American - Sun City; Shepherd of the Desert - Sun City

CELC Campus Churches: Casa del Rey, Hope Alive, Inglesia Cristiana Valle de Beraca, Vida Nueva

Service Men/Women: (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

Sept 20 - Blood Pressure Screenings
Sept 20 - CELC Church Council
Sept 24 - CELC Book Club
Oct 10 - CELC Fall Fest/Quilt Boutique
Oct 12 - CELC Office CLOSED (Indigenous People's Day/Columbus Day)
Oct 16 - ELCA World Hunger Day
Nov 14 - Symposium @ American Lutheran Church
Dec 3 - Life Line Screening

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Simply [Giving](#) Application

Fry's Community [Rewards](#): CELC #MW462

CELC [Calendar](#)

[CELC](#) Website

<https://www.christevangelical.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

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

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