

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Interim Pastor Kim Sterner
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Worship Bulletin

Access on our YouTube
channel

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

Readings and Psalm

- [Isaiah 55:1-9](#)
- Everyone who thirsts, come to the water; seek the Lord
 - [Psalm 63:1-8](#)
- O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. (Ps. 63:1)
 - [1 Corinthians 10:1-13](#)
- Israel, baptized in cloud and seas, ate the same spiritual food as Christians
 - [Luke 13:1-9](#)
- Unless you repent, you will perish: parable of the fig tree

Sunday, March 23, 2025
Third Sunday in Lent

Fertilized, Fruitful, and Free

God's word for us today is nutritious and wholesome, though hard to digest. The gospel reading seems oddly brutal alongside the abundance and comfort of the texts from Isaiah ("delight yourselves in rich food") and Psalm 63 ("My spirit is content as with the richest of foods"). Even Paul finds himself using physical sustenance as a metaphor ("they drank from the spiritual rock, . . . and the rock was Christ"). Surrounded by this food imagery, we now find Jesus using some horrific events as illustrations. After the mingled blood and fallen towers, it may be hard to hear the fig-tree parable as the grace-full story it really is. But here is Christ himself as gardener: digging, fertilizing, protecting, and nurturing us. We are fragile creatures, living in a world of tragedy and terror, but God does not punish fragility

with death. On the contrary, God sent Jesus to us so that we may live. Living in that nurtured garden of Christ, tended to and cared for as we grow in that love, how can we keep from blossoming? Live, yes, and live fruitfully, our gospel proclaims! Grow, yes, and grow gloriously! Now the good news of Christ's redeeming mercy becomes clear: we are each treated with boundless mercy, not impartial justice. While the world may want to blame the withering tree for its inability to be productive, our Savior and Lord reaches into our lives, reminds us of our roots, nourishes us with grace, and allows us to bloom, to flourish, to freely share our gifts with the world.

March Worship Team

Interim Pastor: Kim Sterner

Music: Miloy Cañete

Reader: 23rd - Mike Coyle, 30th - Kathy Coyle

Altar/Communion: Carol Moonan, Norma Heinrich 23rd - Patsy Blankenship, Bailey Aguire 30th - Patsy & Emily Blankenship

Ushers: Faith Hanley and Emma, Mar 23/30 - Gene Myers

Sound/Tech: Ruben Salgado & Jim Hill

Flowers: Carole Helland

Banners: Judy Wandler

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

Prayers of sympathy for Jason Blankenship and family as they mourn the death of Jason's brother, Chris

Bishops: Deborah K. Hutterer and Elizabeth Eaton

Area Churches: Lord of Life - Sun City; Gloria de Cristo - Yuma

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 at CELC

Mar 27 - Book Club @ 2pm

Apr 5 - Council retreat

Apr 6 - Special Congregational Meeting to elect call committee

Apr 6 - Book Exchange

Apr 13 - Council meeting

Apr 19 - Youth group meeting @ 10am

May 7 - Life Line Screening

May 8 - Life Line Screening

See below for full Lent and Easter Schedule

Lent and Easter Schedule

Share fellowship and a meal at our Wednesday soup suppers @ 5:00p.m.
followed by Lenten worship with communion @ 5:45p.m.

March 26 - Grief

April 2 - Music (Miloy)

April 9 - Healing service

April 13 - Palm Sunday - Adoration Choir Cantata - *What Wondrous Hope*

April 17 - Maundy Thursday [Seder meal](#) and communion at 6:00 p.m.

April 18 - Good Friday worship service at 6:00 p.m.

April 20 -

- Easter Sunrise contemporary/praise worship at 7:00 a.m.
- Easter [Breakfast](#) @ 8:00 a.m.
- Easter Egg Hunt @ 8:30 a.m.
- Easter Festive Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Update from the Council/Transition Team

A Special Congregational Meeting is being called:

Date: Sunday, April 6, 2025

Time: Immediately after 9:00am Worship Service

Where: Bldg B Sanctuary

Agenda: Congregational Election of Call Committee
(nominated by Church Council)



Easter Basket Raffle

Please sign up and use your imagination to create a
FABULOUS THEMED Basket to be raffled at the
Easter breakfast at 9 am.

Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00

**Proceeds will go to:
Landscaping in the front of the church**

Please bring by March 30th

Some theme ideas....movie night, wine, coffee,
garden or game night



Seder Dinner - April 17

The Thursday during Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, or Holy Thursday, is the day we commemorate as "the night on which he, (Jesus) was betrayed." This we recall by celebrating Holy Communion which was instituted on that first Thursday all those years ago.

What Jesus was celebrating during the Passover Festival was a Seder Meal. Passover is the Holiday and the Seder is the meal Like a Christmas Dinner.

The word Seder, means, Order. This is a meal that is done in order to recall the Passover. It is ordered, structured, in a way that moves us through the Exodus

- Seder Dinner Thursday April 17
6pm - 7:30pm

Pastor Kim will have a special demonstration from 6 - 6:30pm
Dinner 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Menu

Tickets are \$20 for adults,
\$10 for children

Last day to buy tickets is April 13

Easter Lily Orders

Honor or remember a loved one with an Easter Lily. The flowers will adorn our altar on Easter morning and will be available for you to take home after the 10:00 a.m. Easter worship service. The cost of the flowers is \$15. Order forms available at welcome table and may be put in offering basket.



CELC Easter Breakfast

April 20 - 8:00-9:30 a.m. in Bldg A Fellowship Hall
Free will offering

Please consider donating food for our [Easter breakfast](#), April 20. Sign ups will be at the table on Sundays. Items needed include eggs, juice, half & half, potatoes, melons, and shredded cheese (bring by April 13). Egg casseroles and pastries may be brought on Easter Sunday by 7:30 a.m.

Also, there are opportunities for volunteers to assist on Saturday, April 19, with set up & decorating, and cutting fruit, and on Easter Sunday to assist in the kitchen and with clean up.

I would like to take this time to thank everyone who has made these fellowship events possible!!! Any questions or suggestions, please feel free to call me, Valerie Ellis, Fellowship Team Leader.

Join the CELC Evangelism/WELCOME VISITORS TEAM

You are invited to volunteer for specific ways to welcome visitors and newcomers on Sunday Mornings to help be the friendly, welcoming church we want to be to all who find us. For more information contact Sandy Gabel (at the Welcome Table in March)

Welcome Table Greeters:

Prior to Sunday morning worship, sit at the Welcome Table to greet guests, give out welcome brochures/visitor cards, take signups for name tags. You can pick one Sunday or pick a whole month to volunteer. You will need to

arrive by 8:30 a.m. Contact Sandy Gabel

Written Communications: Join Judy Turnen to write personal notes and send cards and special greetings especially at Lent and Advent to our CELC family. Contact Judy Turnen to volunteer.

Parking Lot Greeters: While weather stays good (not too hot, too cold, or too windy!) be an outside greeter. You can perhaps spot newcomers and visitors as they arrive, and offer help. Pick a Sunday, with special needs for Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday and other holy holiday events. Contact Sandy Gabel to volunteer.

Official Greeters/Ushers: Needed every Sunday and for special Lent/Advent season events. You will be given guidelines. Contact Carol Moonan to volunteer.

Youth meeting

The next Youth group meeting will be the day before Easter, Saturday, April 19, 10am-noon in Bldg. B, Classroom C. We will make posters for upcoming youth events and will be helping Magan stuff Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt on Sunday.

On Easter Sunday, youth may assist Magan in hiding eggs and help with the Easter breakfast. We will be having a discussion concerning the rest of the year. Any questions, contact Olga Blanchard, Youth Ministry Team Leader,.

OUTREACH THROUGH SERVICE

I-HELP Meals

- **Mar 25 - Dorothy, Pam, Nancy, Laura, Gail & Marlene**

We are grateful for our volunteers who provide food for 14 people each week. Please deliver the food to Bldg. B at 4:45 p.m.



Canned fruit, cereal, rice, and beans

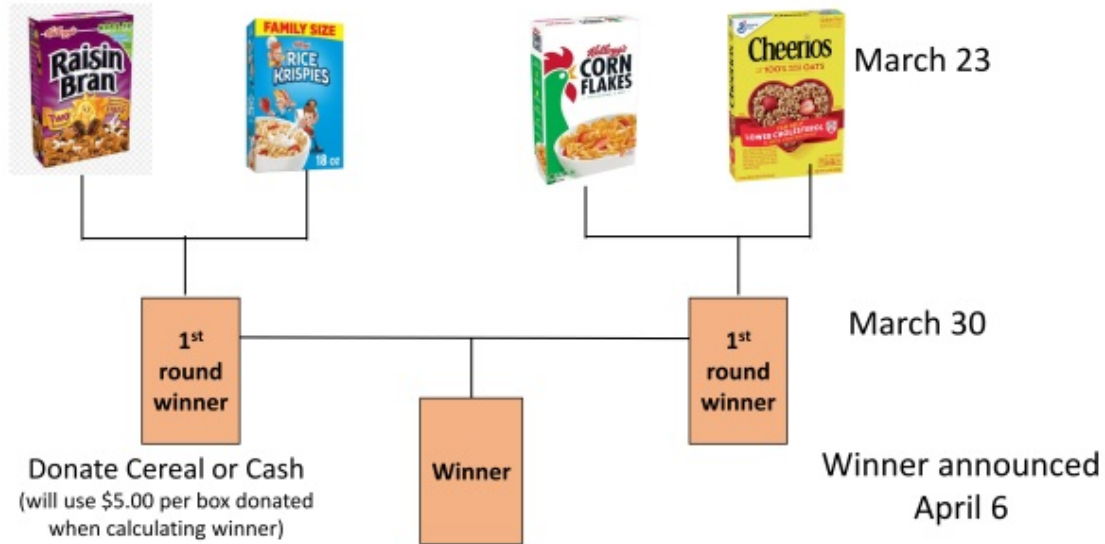
Donations are accepted on Sunday, Monday, & Tuesday mornings 8-10 a.m. or by appointment.

March Madness Cereal Brackets

March Madness has returned to CELC! Grab your favorite cereal to munch on while watching the 2025 March Madness games and another for our Outreach food pantry. Our cereal drive will help provide nutritious cereal to our Outreach

families. This year's contenders are: **Corn Flakes, Cheerios, Rice Krispies and Raisin Bran.** Who will be this year's winner? Will it be another slam dunk repeat by Cheerios, or will one of the other contenders take it all to the rim? Support CELC's Outreach food pantry program by bringing one of these cereals or making a cash donation in the "cereal box" of your choice. Thank you for your support. Let the games begin!

CELC Outreach Cereal March Madness



An uncertain time, some things we know for sure

Update from Arizona Food Bank Network

As we move through changes to federal programs, we'll be sending updates about things we know for sure.

Making the news last week were cuts to the USDA's Local Food Purchasing Assistance program (LFPA) which supports local farmers and supplies food banks in Arizona with fresh local produce, eggs, and dairy. We're grateful that the USDA will honor the commitments already made to farmers through March 1, 2026, and that AzFBN's Friends of the Farm program will continue with funding from the state, too.

We understand that priorities change under different Administrations, but we know that ending hunger is a nonpartisan issue.

Members in Touch

1. Volunteers are needed to greet outside from 8:30-slightly after the start of the church service. Please sign up with Judy Turnen before and after the services or call her, 623-606-6990. You can greatly facilitate entry for people with canes, with donations; and greet all!
2. Crocheters! Knitters! Yarn! All a BIG help! Ellory Christianson, Our Angel of the Prayer Shawls & God's Hugs, needs your help. Call or sign up with Judy Turnen- . Thank you, thank you!!

HELPFUL LINKS

Church **Directory**

Join Our Mailing

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

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Music: Miloy Cañete

Council President: Carol Moonan

CELC Office Phone: (623) 932-2394

***Please email office for appointments or special requests at
office@christgoodyear.org***

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