

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Worship Bulletin

Access on our YouTube
channel

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

Readings and Psalm

- **Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**
- God's law: a sign of a great nation
- **Psalm 15**
- Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? (Ps. 15:1)
- **James 1:17-27**
- Be doers of the word, not hearers only
- **Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**
- Authentic religion

Sunday, September 1, 2024
15th Sunday after Pentecost

The Heart of the Matter

When clay becomes a pot, it must first have a center. As a potter spins, pushes, and pulls the clay into its final form, it can easily lose its center and become misshapen. Having lost its center, it fails to fully be what it is being created to be—a pot, a pitcher, a plate, a thing of beauty, a vessel for others.

Faith and religious practice have lost their center in today's readings. Quoting Isaiah, Jesus calls into question "This people" that "honors me with their lips" but whose "hearts are far from me" (Mark 7:6). Some in the religious community have begun focusing on surface matters (the washing of hands, what one eats, the traditions of the elders) and have forgotten the

core. What really matters is how one's faith is expressed in mercy, in words and actions that build up rather than tear down the neighbor. In the second reading James wonders about those who look at themselves in a mirror and upon walking away forget who they are (James 1:23-24). For James, they are simply hearers of the word and not doers. Their lives do not reflect the love and mercy that has claimed them. And so it is with us. We do not live as the people God has claimed us to be. Our lives lose their center. Our faith practices focus on surface things rather than the core. We fail to be what God has created and is creating us to be—vessels poured out for others. We look at ourselves in the mirror and upon walking away forget who and whose we are. At the heart of the Christian assembly is Jesus—in word, in song, in prayer, in the neighbor, in water, bread, and wine. Jesus, who embodies forgiveness and mercy, is the heart. Again and again, life becomes misshapen. Again and again, the potter reshapes the clay. The splash of a watery cross, the taste of bread and wine: these things center life in Christ. God's mercy washes over us. God's mercy is implanted in us. God creates life anew; deformed hearts are reformed for works of mercy and love.

What's Happening at CELC

Sunday - 9:00 a.m. Worship*

* Live Stream on our YouTube channel

Bring Adopt-A-Cop cards and cans and plastic bottles for recycling

Monday - OFFICE CLOSED in observance of Labor Day Outreach

prep 8-10 a.m.; Quilting for Others 9-Noon

Tuesday - Outreach 7-11:30 a.m.; I-HELP 4 p.m.

Wednesday - Women's Bible Study 12 p.m.

Thursday - I-Help 4 p.m.

Saturday - Bible Study 1:30 p.m.

Plan ahead and mark your calendars

Sunday Sept 8 - Book Exchange; Transition Team meeting

Sunday Sept 15 - CELC Council meeting

Sunday Oct 27 - Reformation, Confirmation & Pr. Jeff's last worship service at CELC before his retirement

Friday Dec 6 - Advent Dinner

*Click to view the full CELC **Calendar***

Submit events and dates to office@Christgoodyear.org

Ministers: All baptized members

Pastor: Dr. Jeff Gallen

Readers

Sept 1 – Sharoll Blodgett
Sept 8 – Stevie Henderson
Sept 15 – Les Stubbs
Sept 22 – Les Stubbs
Sept 29 – Gayle Denny

Sound/Tech

Jim Erickson/Stacy Anderson/Ruben Salgado

Altar/Communion

Rosemary Vanesco
Tom Reynolds
Emily & Patsy Blankenship (Wine)

Ushers

Faith Hanley & Emma
Gayle Denny & Jim Hill

Flowers: Carole Helland

Banners: Judy Wandler

OUTREACH THROUGH SERVICE

I-HELP Meals

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.*

- **Sept 3 - Hope Alive**
- **Sept 10 - Sue Addy & ???**
- **Sept 17 - Barbara Urena**
- **Sept 24 - Cindy Dickinson**

To sign up for a date, check the sign up sheet on the God's Work, Our Hands board, email office@christgoodyear.org, or call the church office. Thank you for your generosity.

Brown paper bags, cereal, dry pinto beans, peanut butter, rice, water



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

Hello Fall

It's that time of year when fall is upon us, cooler weather, pumpkin spice and also, cold and flu season. Just a friendly reminder to get your flu shot. Flu shot clinics are starting up in our community. Check the posted locations and schedules on (maricopa.gov).

Along with the autumn season, comes annual physicals and doctors' appointments. It is important to update your medical information frequently and have it readily available in case of emergencies. I have "File of Life" forms available to those who are interested. This is provided in a magnetic sleeve for you to place on your refrigerator or file cabinet for easy access. Along with this, I also have a medication list card that is very useful to keep in your wallet or purse. I will make these both available on the table before church services.

Health Coordinator, Kathy Williams

Prayers of strength and healing...

(see email - not on web for privacy)

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

All Cactus Conference Pastors & Churches & Bill Miller

Bishops: Deborah K. Hutterer and Elizabeth Eaton

Area Churches: Peace - Peoria; Pan de Vida - El Mirage

Our Service Men/Women: (see email, not on web for privacy)

Church **Directory**
Join Our Mailing **List**
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: Jeffery Gallen
Music: Miloy Cañete
Council President: Su Erickson
CELC Office Phone: (623) 932-2394
Please email office for appointments or special requests
at office@christgoodyear.org

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