

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Worship Bulletin

Access on our YouTube channel

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 44:6-8

There is no other God than the Lord

Psalm 86:11-17

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth. (Ps. 86:11)

Romans 8:12-25

The revealing of the children of God

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The parable of the weeds

Next week's readings

1 Kings 3:5-12 ~ Psalm 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39 ~ Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

July 19, 2026

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Judgment and Mercy

Matthew's gospel knows little compromise: sheep or goats, wheat or weeds, good or evil. Finding the good news of God's love for all people, for all creation, can be a challenge in this book. Today's gospel is no exception. Jesus interprets a parable for the disciples; he announces that all evildoers will be thrown into the furnace of fire, while the righteous will shine like the sun. The "Son of Man" will judge the world. Matthew's phrase "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to . . ." occurs here for the first time in this gospel (Matt. 13:24). Jesus' parable is a genuine metaphor—it is best viewed as a whole with no point-by-point comparison. The kingdom of believers has the same potential as those of the world to do good and to do evil. Jesus' allegorical interpretation encourages believers to strive for righteousness and emphasizes God as judge.

However, in his letter to the church at Rome, Paul focuses on God as merciful judge. He proclaims that all creation will be freed from decay and receive redemption. Paul reminds us that our hope lies with God, our parent through a spirit of adoption. This dichotomous picture of God as judge and giver of mercy began with last Sunday's texts and evidences itself in readings from Romans and Matthew across the next four Sundays. In some cases the God of mercy is highlighted in Paul's letter, at other times in the gospel. This good news, however, is always present!

The exercise of judgment and mercy reflects God's emphasis on justice over fairness. A fair God condemns those who do evil. A just God moves beyond fairness to justice, peace, and reconciliation. As evil-doers, sinners, one and all, we are grateful for God's justice towards us and all people.

Worship Team

Pastor Jeff Hackler

Music: Miloy Cañete

Assisting Minister:

Patsy Blankenship

Greeters:

Gayle Denny & Jim Hill

Readers:

19 - Jim Erickson

26 - Patsy Blankenship

Altar Guild:

Stacy Anderson

Communion Assistants:

Emily & Patsy Blankenship

Ushers:

19 - Walter Rawls, Mary Ellen Crane, Faith Hanley & Emma

26 - Ken & Karen Olson, Faith Hanley & Emma

Sound/Tech:

Jim Erickson & Ruben Salgado

Banners:

Judy Wandler/Karen Olson

Flowers:

Kathie Townsend

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](#).

REMINDER ~ Wear your Name Tag~ REMINDER

Help Pastor Jeff learn who we are by wearing your CELC name tag.



Keep our Outreach food pantry shelves full

Paper bags, cereal, canned fruit, canned tomatoes/pasta sauce, cereal, **beans, rice**, canned meat, **water, Water, WATER!!!**

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## Why We Keep Opening the Bible

There is something wonderfully odd about Christians. We gather around an ancient collection of stories, poems, letters, and prophecies, believing that through these old words the living God still speaks.

That is not how most of the world imagines wisdom works. We are told that truth comes from looking within ourselves, following our instincts, or keeping up with the latest trend. Yet the church stubbornly insists that before we speak, we must listen—and before we decide what kind of people we will become, we open the Bible. This is why Bible study matters so deeply for the church. As Lutherans, we confess that we are sustained by the Word of God. As we wrestle with Scripture together, we learn to recognize God's voice amid the many competing voices that clamor for our attention. We discover that our lives make the most sense when they are interpreted through the gospel rather than through the headlines.

CELC is blessed to have several quality adult Bible studies. In addition to a women's Bible study (Wednesdays at 11:30) and a men's Bible study (Thursdays at 8:00 am) our church offers a monthly study meeting on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 9:00 am. Believing that you can't have too much of a good thing, I will be offering a **pastor's Bible study** beginning **Sunday, August 2 following the worship service**. So, grab a cup of coffee and come with your questions. Come with your doubts. Come after a difficult week or a joyful one. You do not have to know all the answers before you arrive. The invitation is simply to come, to listen, and to let God do what God has always done—speak life through the Scriptures.

Peace,  
Pastor Jeff

## Singles Mingle Fellowship

**August 13** they will meet at the church parking lot around 10:00 a.m. to carpool to OdySea Aquarium at the AZ Boardwalk.

All singles are welcome to join in the activities. Mark your calendars for the monthly events and contact Julie Paisley for more information.

## A direct and compelling headline

## Upcoming In-Kind Drive and Ways to Help Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest

**Back to School Drive:** Help children and families start the school year strong by donating school supplies and classroom essentials.

**Volunteer Needs:** Serve your neighbors through hands-on opportunities that support refugee families, children, older adults, and much more!

**Donate:** Your support makes a real difference. Give through a one-time gift, monthly giving, stock donations, or the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit.

Learn more or get involved at [www.lss-sw.org](http://www.lss-sw.org)

Want to host a drive or start volunteering? Email [volunteers@lss-sw.org](mailto:volunteers@lss-sw.org)

### Free Virtual Family Caregiver Event



**Guilt, Anger, and Resentment Part 2:**  
A Continued Conversation with  
Caregiver Counselors and Coaches

July 23, 2026 | 10 - 11 a.m. PDT/Arizona

After the strong response to our recent three-panelist webinar, we're thrilled to continue the conversation. In this follow-up session, they'll revisit key topics and explore them in greater depth.

#### Why this Conversation Matters?

This webinar will continue to explore some of the most common emotional challenges caregivers face: guilt, anger, and resentment. You will learn insights into these feelings as the three panelists offer practical strategies for managing these emotions. You'll likely recognize your own experiences and leave with new perspectives to support your own caregiving journey.



Register Now:  
[bit.ly/CaregiverEventPart2](https://bit.ly/CaregiverEventPart2)

Watch Previous Webinar:  
[vimeo.com/1196459894](https://vimeo.com/1196459894)



**Shannon Arriola, MC**  
Dementia/End-of-life/Family  
Systems Support



**Susan Stern**  
Board Certified Life Coach



**Michelle Zipser, LCSW**  
Psychotherapist/Cognitive  
Care Consultant

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[info@duetaz.org](mailto:info@duetaz.org)



## Upcoming Events

Aug 2 - Bible Study  
Aug 9 - Blood Pressure Readings  
Aug 13 - Singles Mingle Odysea Aquarium  
Aug 16 - CELC Council Meeting  
Aug 23 - CELC Sunday School resumes  
Sept 7 - Office Closed (in observance of Labor Day)

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

CELCE 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**

**CELCE Office Phone: (623) 932-2394**

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

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