

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Access on our YouTube channel

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

Readings and Psalm

- **Acts 17:22-31**
- Paul's message to the Athenians
 - **Psalm 66:8-20**
- Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (Ps. 66:8)
 - **1 Peter 3:13-22**
- The days of Noah, a sign of baptism
 - **John 14:15-21**
 - Christ our advocate

Next Week's Readings

Acts 1:26-14 ~ Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 ~ 1 Peter 4:11-14 ~ John 17:1-11

Sunday, May 10, 2026 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Not Orphaned

"I will not leave you orphaned," Jesus promises us in today's gospel. God is not some ruthless heavenly spectator judging us as on reality television, relishing our failures, wishing to exchange us for a better or more attractive child, no curmudgeonly "Daddy Warbucks" in the sky. Rather, God comes to love us in Jesus, singularly loving and accepting, seeking our trust, promising to be ever-present with us in the Holy Spirit. This Holy Advocate moves us even when we don't recognize its power, even when it seems "an unknown God" (Acts 17:23). Though we might battle an elemental loneliness, we have not been abandoned.

Many life experiences can leave us feeling orphaned or abandoned. Family can ease that feeling but also magnify it if our family relationships are strained or if our families live far away. Think of those in your congregation who count deployed soldiers among their loved ones in recent years, or construction workers and tradesmen who need to live in hotels far away from their families to keep making money for their families in the recent difficult economy. The Internet, webcams, Skype, and social networking can link people across the miles but can further aggravate loneliness and isolation when these substitute for real intimacy in our highly connected world. How do we experience this loneliness and this longing for home and belonging? How does Jesus' promise that he will not leave us orphaned speak to these real-life concerns?

When Jesus makes this string of promises in John 14, saying that he will remain with us in the Holy Spirit as our Advocate, it's hard to envision how this support comes to us sometimes. When we do not get to see or hear those we love, the simple gifts Jesus offers in body and blood, bread and wine shared with real warm neighbors have great power. Even when life keeps delivering bad news about how far apart we are from another, how broken our relationships are, "I will not leave you orphaned" is the godly reassurance that we are not alone.

Worship Team

Interim Pastor: Kim Sterner

Music: Miloy Cañete

Assisting Minister:

May 10 - Patsy Blankenship

May 17/24/31 - Tony Fabrello

Greeters:

May 10 - Judy Turnen, Jeaneite
Lorenz, Sandy Gabel

May 17 - Maria & Rocky DeRush,
Faith Hanley

May 24 - Norm & Barb Johnson,
Faith Hanley

May 31 - Sue & Bob Addy

Readers:

May 10 - Rae Valabek

May 17 - Emily Blankenship

May 24 - Stevie Henderson

May 31 - Ann Bruce

Altar Guild:

May - Sue Addy & Julie Paisley

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Communion Assistants:

Emily & Patsy Blankenship

Ushers:

May 10 - Faith Hanley & Emma
Joan & Bruce Haroldson

May 17 - Faith Hanley & Emma
Gene Myers & Patti Santrizos

May 24/31 - Faith Hanley & Emma
Renee Myers-Globe & Jerry Globe

Sound/Tech:

May - Magan Ratalaky & Ruben
Salgado

Banners:

Judy Wandler

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: Shepherd of the Desert - Sun City; St. John's - Glendale

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](#).



Until We Meet Again

The countdown has started. Bob is getting the suitcases down from the cabinet in the garage. He is making lists of the things we don't want to forget to pack when we head to Kansas for grandson Sam's high school graduation. There is another countdown that is happening as well.

It is one thing to pick an end date. It is another thing to have the end date show up on the calendar on my wall. This Sunday, May 10th, Mother's Day, will be my last day at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. It is a bittersweet feeling.

Thank you for welcoming Bob and I into your church family. Thank you for making these last 18 months so enjoyable for someone who was supposed to be retired and then found herself not wanting to leave. CELC is an exciting place to do ministry. There is so much going on.

How did I not know you have such an outreach ministry with your Tuesday food pantry? For over 20 years! We also worked with other churches to get IHELP, sheltering homeless folks at the church, back in business. And now you have called a new pastor to come and shepherd you through the next several years. It is an exciting time to be at CELC.

I loved getting to know you. Sharing in your stories as you shared in mine. I have so enjoyed hearing babies talk during church. I'm not going to call it crying. I can't tell you how wonderful it was to have two Christmas programs put on by the Sunday School kids – my heart is full with these memories.

We sang an old hymn a couple of weeks ago, "God Be With You Til We Meet Again." Those words carry the sentiment I am walking around with these days! God is most certainly with you. And we will meet again!

Blessings – Pastor Kim, Interim Pastor signing off.

REACHING OUT TOGETHER



Tuesday Food Pantry

Are you leaving for the summer months? Clean out pantry and freezer before you leave and donate unopened food items to our CELC pantry.

Many of our snowbird volunteers have left for the summer. If you're available on Tuesday mornings this summer, consider volunteering a few hours at the CELC food pantry. Many hands make light work.

Help keep our pantry shelves full

Paper bags, canned fruit, canned tomatoes, canned pasta sauce, beans, rice, canned meat

Southwest Valley IHELP

URGENT REQUEST

Please consider a donation to support the IHELP program and bridge our financial gap until we receive anticipated grant funds. We have applied for several grants, but will not hear of approvals and receive funds for several weeks. Meanwhile, we still have to cover payroll for our night monitors and our Program Director. AZ Community Impact is our parent organization and an Arizona QCO.

Information on how to donate online are found in the link below.

Here's a [link](https://azcommunityimpact.org/#ihelp) to our landing page on the AZ Community Impact site,

<https://azcommunityimpact.org/#ihelp>

If you prefer to donate by check, make the check out to AZ Community Impact and include IHELP in the memo line.

Checks should be mailed to:

AZ Community Impact

22236 Twilight Trail

Buckeye, AZ 85326

If you have questions, please talk with Su Erickson.

Meals are being scheduled for May 29, June 5, and 19. Email the church office if you would like to prepare a meal for IHELP. Su Erickson will contact you to confirm the date.

We also need donations of a sunscreen, foot powder, toothpaste, small shaving cream/razors, and chapstick

Did you know there are 1800 youth are homeless in Maricopa County? 87% of the homeless youth will drop out of school or already have.

CELC youth are collecting items to support the Homeless Youth Connection. Donations are being accepted the whole month of May.

Items needed: soap, laundry pods, toothpaste, hair shampoo, razors, shaving crème. All items must be in an unopened box or container. We will also collect donations of gift cards, including Visa cards and cards from various stores.

Contact Olga Blanchard for more information.

CELC Facilities & Maintenance

Check out new Facilities page on CELC Web site

A new page has been added to the church website. <https://www.christevangelical.org/facilities>

This page has lots of good information about what is happening to our buildings and grounds. Specifically, it has the following:

- Maintenance Request form – use this if you see something around our facilities that you think needs some attention.

<https://www.christevangelical.org/facilities/maint-request>

- Volunteer opportunities – information on how to become involved on facility related projects.
- Near Term Projects – major projects that have been approved by the church council and are either in progress or being actively planned.
- Long Term Projects – major projects that are on a “wish list” to be done, but not approved by the church council. Funding has not yet been identified for these and will probably not be addressed until 2027+.
- Punch List – current list of detailed work items that are open and closed.

We encourage you to check it out and make use of the Maintenance Request form.

Parking Lot Repair and Impact

The church council has approved Parking Lot repairs and refresh. It is scheduled for 5/20 – 5/22. Construction equipment and the work will impact access during this interval.

Wednesday, 5/20, Asphalt Repairs. Lot closed starting 6:00am

Thursday, 5/21, Crack sealing, Seal Coat, stripe – Lot closed

Friday, 5/22, Finish work - Lot closed until 3:00pm

If you have questions, please contact the office or Jim Hill.



Special Project Funding Drive



We have two near term capital projects upcoming. The parking lot is being refreshed with asphalt repair, new sealcoating, and new striping. Building B classrooms/hallways, Building B Exterior Doors, and the Building A sanctuary are getting repairs and a fresh coat of paint. These are not covered by our regular budget. The Council is moving forward with these using designated/reserve funds, but we need to replenish those funds through your contributions.

To contribute to these projects, stop at the welcome table after service and select a square from the "donation" board that reflects the amount you wish to contribute to help pay for these projects. You can mark your envelopes with "Special Projects", put "Special Projects" on the memo line of your check, or if you wish to send electronically via Zelle, contact the office or the finance team for instructions. You can also go to the ["Giving" page](#) on our web site, click on "Give Now", and select special projects. Here you can do ACH from your bank account or use a credit card.

For more information, talk with Ann Bruce, Stewardship.

Single Mingle

All singles are welcomed to attend!

Tuesday May 12, 2026
 1:00 p.m.
 Mission BBQ
 15333 McDowell Rd.
 Goodyear, AZ

Contact Julie Paisley for more information.

Upcoming Events

May 8 - Pastor Kim Celebration dinner
May 10 - Pastor Kim's last day at CELC (WEAR PURPLE)
May 12 - Single Mingle @ Mission BBQ
May 20-22 - CELC Parking Lot closures (repairs/sealing)
May 24 - PENTECOST (wear red)
May 25 - CELC Office CLOSED (in observance of Memorial Day)
Jun 3-5 - Bldg A painting
Jun 9-11- Bldg B classroom/hallway painting
Jun 14 - Book Exchange
Jul 5 - Welcome Pr. Jeff Hackler
Jul 12 - Pr. Jeff Hackler Installation (during worship service)

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

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

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