



Sunday - October 4, 2026
Feast of St. Francis of Assisi



OUR MISSION: God calls us to live and share the amazing love and grace of Jesus Christ with all people.

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. Christ Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes all. May God bless us in Word and Sacrament, music and community in our worship today. The service is complete in this bulletin. The spoken responses are bolded text.

We acknowledge that our building of worship is built upon the territory of xučyun (Huichin), the unceded land stewarded by the Ohlone people who speak to their Creator and loved ones in the language of Chochenyo.

INTRODUCTION

Today we celebrate the festival Creation in Christ on the commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi, with the blessing of animals. Creation in Christ celebrates the ongoing creation of the world in and through Christ, who sustains, unites, and holds all created things. We hear today of the triune God who creates all things: sun and moon, shining stars, sea monsters, creeping things and flying birds—and, yes, even human beings. God-in-Christ still takes care of all things and invites us to join in as caretakers of God's good creation.

PRELUDE: Handbell Ensemble

OPENING VERSICLES

Jesus Christ you are the light of the world; **the light no darkness can overcome;**
Open now my lips to pray; **and my mouth will sing your praises.**
Let your light scatter the darkness, **and shine within your people here.**

MORNING HYMN: *Joyous Light*

All: *a tempo*



1. Joy-ous light of heav-'nly glo - ry, lov - ing
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the
3. You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's
blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and
gold - en ray so bright make us shine with gen - tle



sto - ry, shine on ev 'ry land and race. Now as
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



morn - ing dawns a - round us, we shall raise our songs to
fills the day with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry
God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



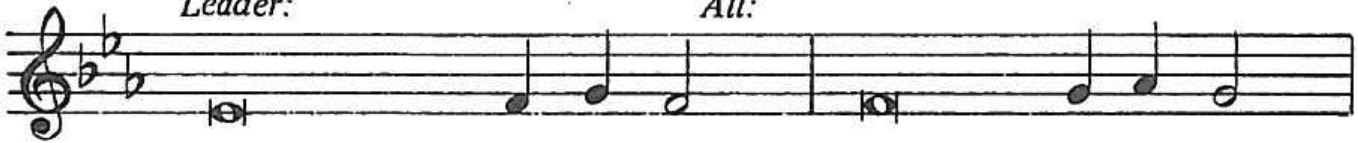
'you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and
soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us
way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us



light our hearts a - new. _____
free and make us whole. _____
on to end - less day. _____

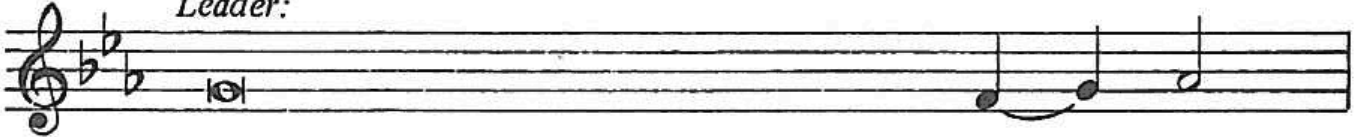
THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

Leader: *All:*



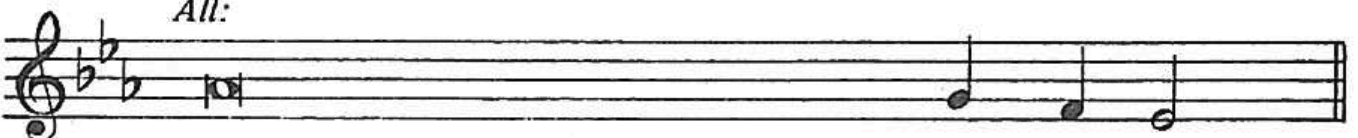
May God be with you all, and al - so with you;

Leader:



Let us sing our thanks to — God,

All:



It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe—from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make existence bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

All:



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

¹When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

^{4a} These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 24 (Sung by the Choir)

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, thereof.

The fish of the sea, and the creatures above, above.

*The heavens sing the wonders of His name, and worship Him,
and so should we.*

On day one, the dark and light created,

on day two, the waters separated,

and then on day three, He made land and trees.

Day four, heaven's lights and all the stars that shine bright.

Day five, fish and birds, the fish and birds in heav'nly flight.

Then upon day six, man made in God's image.

On day seven, rest;

and it was good. We offer our praise to You, Father of Light, of Light,

who gives us the brilliance of morning and shade of night,

Creation shouts glories of Your name, and worships You,

and so, and so should we.

Creation worships You, and so should we. Amen.

SILENCE FOR MEDITATION

SECOND READING: Acts 17:22a, 24-28

^{22a} Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ²⁴ "The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

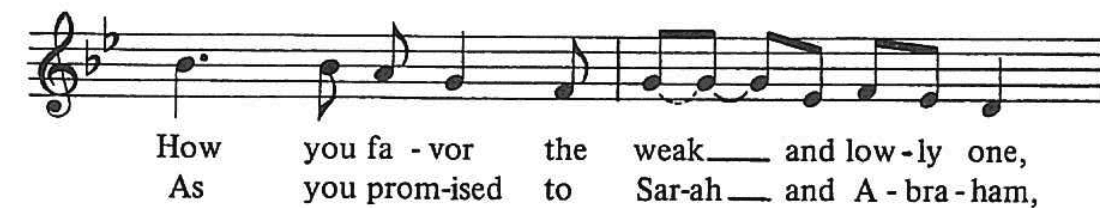
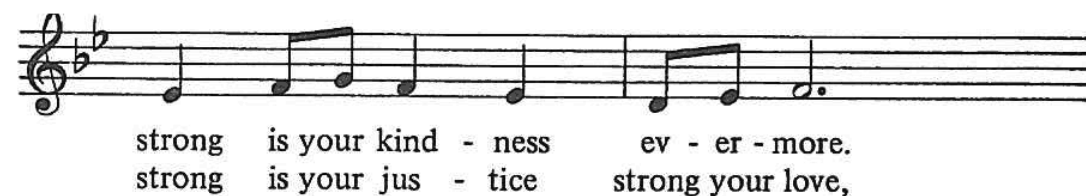
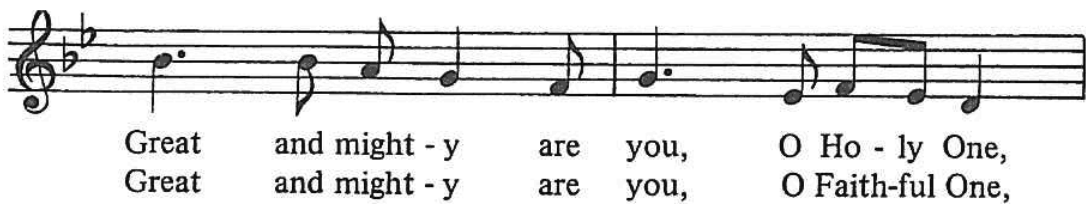
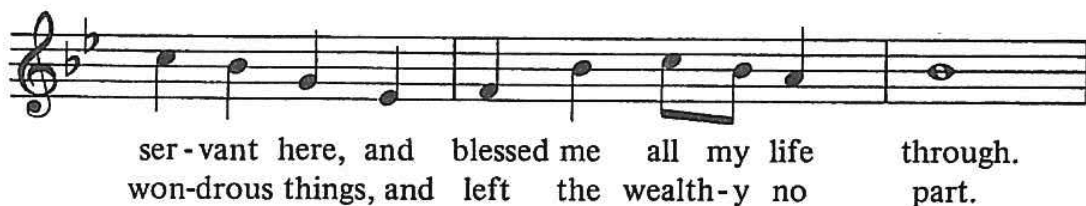
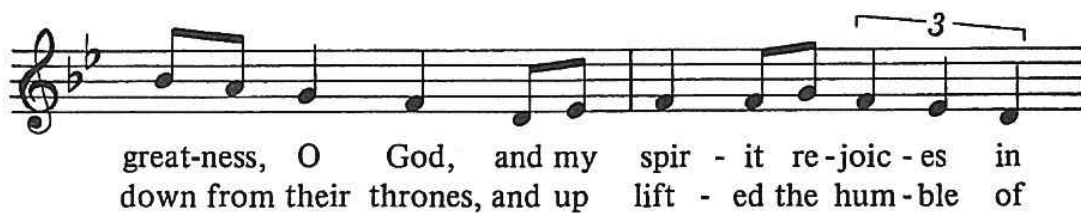
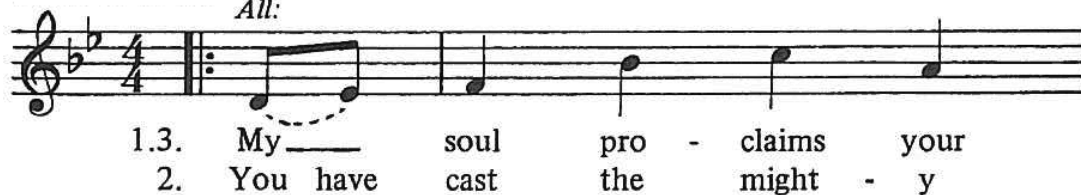
'For we, too, are his offspring.'

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

The light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness has not overcome it.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Magnificat*

All:



GOSPEL John 1:1-5

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O God.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON- Pr. Dee Emmert

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 835 "All Creatures, Worship God Most High!"



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
- 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.

- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The leader may invite each person who has brought pets (or a picture, or toy, in the case of those animals who would not find it a blessing to be present) to come forward individually for a prayer of blessing. When all have returned to their places, the leader offers the concluding blessing.

Gracious God, in your love you created us in your image and made us stewards of the animals that live in the skies, the earth, and the sea. Bless us in our care for our pets and animals. Help us recognize your power and wisdom in the variety of creatures that live in our world, and hear our prayer for all that suffer overwork, hunger, and ill-treatment. Protect your creatures and guard them from all evil, now and forever.

Amen.

LITANY AND PRAYERS

A *All:
Repeat continuously*



(Hmmm)

B



God — of mer - cy, hold us in love.

In peace, in peace we pray to you:

For peace and salvation, we pray to you:

For peace between nations, peace between peoples:

For we who are gathered to worship and praise you:

For all of your servants who live out your gospel:
For all those who govern, that justice might guide them:
For all those who labor in service to others:
Grant weather that nourishes all of creation:
For earth and its oceans, for forests and rivers:
For creatures of field and of sky and of water:
For animals sharing our homes and our labor:
For wisdom to care for the gifts you have given:
Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger:
For all the beloved who rest in your mercy:

Leader:



Help us, com - fort us, all of our days:

All:



Keep — us, hold — us, gra - cious God.

Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

MUSIC AT THE OFFERING: Psalm 141 (All sing)

Let my prayer rise up as incense before you,
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

O God, I call to you, come to me now;
hear my voice when I cry to you. (*Refrain*)

Keep watch within me, God;
deep in my heart may the light of your love be burning bright. (*Refrain*)

All praise to the God of all, Creator of life;
all praise to the Christ and the Spirit of love. (*Refrain*)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

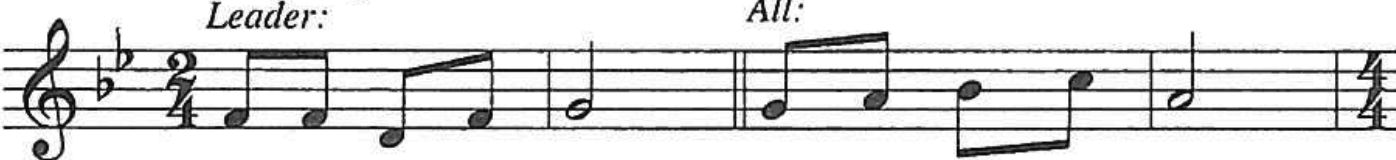
LORD'S PRAYER

God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Leader: *All:*



Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you.

Presider:



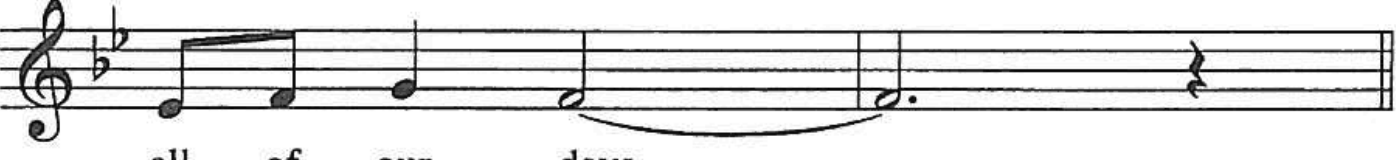
May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may



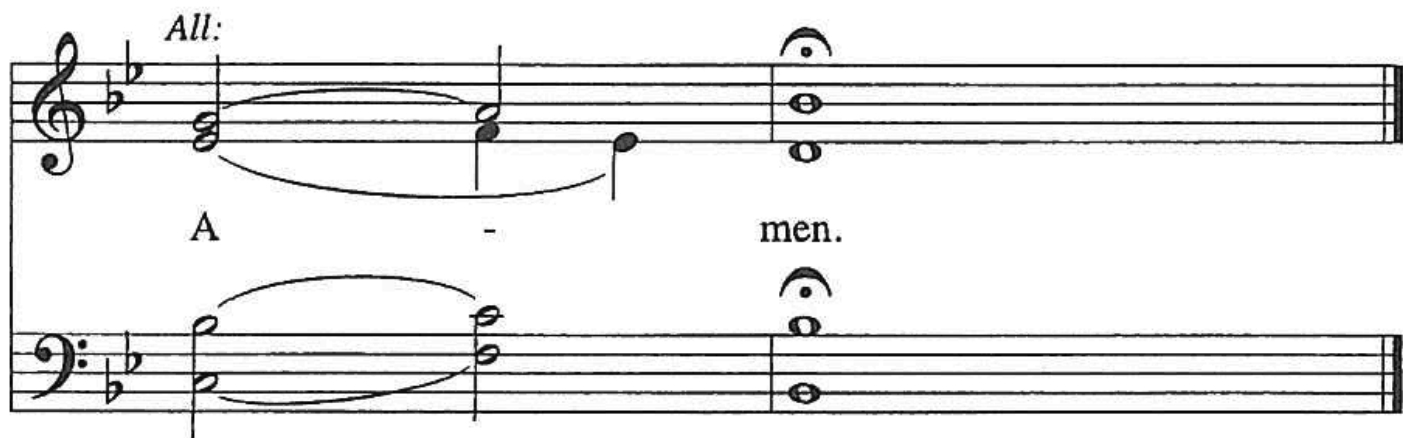
Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the



Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for



all of our days. _____



SENDING HYMN: ACS 1064 "Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom"

1 Earth is full of wit and wisdom,
sounding God's delighted laugh,
from the tiny roly-poly
to the treetop-tall giraffe.

All creation sings in wonder;
even rocks and trees rejoice
as they join the ringing chorus:
echoes of our Maker's voice.

2 Earth is full of wit and wisdom,
woven into harmony.
Ev'ry creature has a purpose,
ev'ry flow'r and bumblebee.
Spider, human, redwood, gecko,
monkey, chicken, mouse, and snake
live within a single fabric:
cloth that only God could make.

3 Earth is full of wit and wisdom:
penguin, platypus, and snail,
cactus, sea slug, oak, and algae,
from the microbe to the whale.
In this great and strange creation,
with a breath God gives us birth:
born of soil to live as stewards,
called to love and serve the earth.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Flourish with creation. **Thanks be to God.**

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP**PRESIDING/PREACHING**

Pr. Dee Emmert

BRIDGE PASTOR

Pr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero

MINISTER OF MUSIC & LITURGY

Daniel Alley

GUITARS

George Fosselius & Randy Mayer

LECTOR**WORSHIP ASSISTANT****COFFEE HOUR****This Week at CLC****Today**

9:20 AM Choir Rehearsal

10 AM CLC Worship

11:15 Bible Study

1:30 PM Greater Love Worship

Monday

9 AM- 3:00 PM Senior Center

7 PM- 8:30 PM The Scouts

Tuesday

10 AM-3:00PM- WCCAE Respite Care

4:30-6:30 PM CCCT

7 PM Lady AA Meeting

Wednesday

4:30-6:30 PM CCCT

Thursday

4:30-6:30 PM CCCT

7 PM Handbell Rehearsal

Friday

4:30-6:30 PM CCCT

Saturday

6 PM Millennium AA Meeting

Next Sunday

9AM Choir Rehearsal

10 AM CLC Worship

11:15 Bible Study

1:30 PM Greater Love Worship

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:

Diane L.
Lysle P.
Mike S.
The Vale Community
Robin & Wendy
George F.
Jimmy D.
Vince

Laurie P.
Carolina S.
Karen H.
Fred W.
Chad B.
TJ B.
Carla L.
Mark

Chris
Phil C.
Scott F.
Christine H.L.
Thelma & Mike G.
John Z.
Pr. Sharon

DON'T FORGET YOUR OFFERING

Thank you for your continued financial support of Christ Lutheran. It is very much appreciated. Options for giving include bringing offerings in person, mailing checks, or giving electronically with Tithely. For the latter, simply click the "Giving" tab on the church website. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amy Tieku at 510-290-2125

WORSHIP FROM HOME Livestream: [Facebook.com/clec.org](https://facebook.com/clec.org). Bulletins can be found at christlutheranelcerrito.org/bulletins Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-709536