



Love of Christ Lutheran Church

1525 North Power Road
Mesa AZ 85205

Fax: (480) 832-2583
Office: (480) 981-6199

Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

2nd Sunday of Lent, March 1, 2026



“You Must Be Born Again”

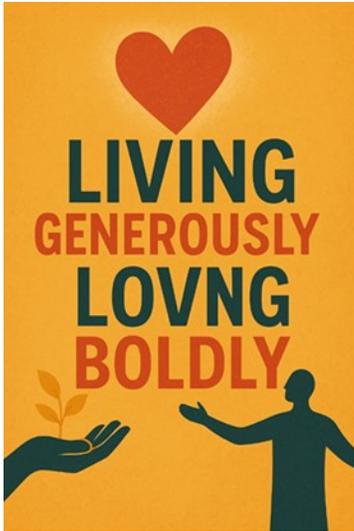
How do you react to the phrase “You Must Be Born Again”? If you hear this phrase being yelled across the way, do you immediately want to avoid that person? Do you instantly have prickles going up and down your spine? Or are you ready to confront the person and say, “I Am Born Again... and again... and again! In our gospel reading for Sunday, Nicodemus is having a difficult time understanding what Jesus is saying. Not only about being “born again” but also in understanding how the Spirit works. Perhaps many of us have felt like Nicodemus in trying to understand the mystery and power of God. We see Jesus in this encounter challenging Nicodemus to move from theory to practice, from knowledge to faith, from curiosity to commitment.

Thank you for your Participation!



At the 2/22/26 Annual meeting we elected to the Love of Christ Lutheran Church Board of Directors to an initial three-year term: Richard Boldt (7:50) and Mike Jones (10:30). JoAnn Grant (9:00) was elected to her second three-year term.

We elected to serve on the Endowment Committee: Pat Grogg (9:00) and Bill Warren (10:30) to their second two-year terms. Treasurer Elizabeth Danielson presented and we approved both the 2025 Financial Report and the 2026 Mission Spending Plan/ Budget.



First LoC Endowment Gifts to be Distributed!

At the February 10 LoC Board meeting, the recommendation came from the Endowment Committee to distribute the first gifts from the Love of Christ Endowment Fund. This fund was established to primarily support mission outreach through the Grand Canyon Synod, the national and global expressions of the ELCA, as well as assist with some capital or maintenance needs of LoC. The Fund has grown to a balance of over \$137,000. It has earned over \$13,000 in investment income which the Committee could recommend giving in gifts. At this time the Committee recommended to the Board using \$5,000. The Board approved gifts of \$2,000 to the LoC 40th Anniversary Gift which will be shared to support mission outside our walls. \$2,000 to be given to support Young Adults in Global Mission of the ELCA, which allows 21–35-year-olds to spend a year learning and accompanying one of our Lutheran Global Companion churches. \$1,000 to used to purchase needed Audio/Visual equipment for LoC. If you want to learn more about our LoC Endowment Fund and how you might support this fund, check out our website <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/endowment>



We will again be offering midweek Lenten services on Wednesdays during Lent. We will be using a Taize' service of meditative song and each week focus on themes from "Lent in Plain Sight." A soup supper will be available at 5:30 in Rooms 48-49 in the Center of Compassion, followed by the service in the Sanctuary at 6:15PM. Following the service, we hope to continue the practice of our Faith in Action team bringing in some of our mission partners for sharing updates and answering questions of how we are joining others in loving our neighbors and making the love of Christ known.

Wednesday during Lent sharing our Outreach Ministries:

You are invited to stay after our Wednesday evening Lenten service for coffee and cookies and to learn more about our Outreach Ministries. This year we will hear from some of our ministry leaders. Here is our schedule:

Lenten Education beginning Wednesday, February 25

Feb. 25- Sleep in Heavenly Peace- ELCA Good Gifts- LSS-SW Refugee Family Update

March 4- Preschool, Hospitality, RSM, and Reverse Advent Boxes

March 11- LAMA—Solveig Muus will be here to share about this exciting ministry.

March 18- Ted Taylor from Family Promise

March 25- Egypt Highlights, Pastor Nanette and Mark Christofferson



Welcome Beth Hesse as our new part-time Office Assistant!

As most of the congregation knows in August 2025 our long-time Office Manager, Darlene Fleischhauer, suffered a serious stroke. At the end of 2025 she decided to take a medical retirement. Conversation with the pastors, Dianne Oien, Dick Beckman, and Sarah Margalis, our Pre-school Director took place to determine what was needed to support our day-to-day operations. A position description was approved at the 2/10/26 Board meeting. Because Beth has had a long history of doing all our staff and volunteer background checks, has served as our back-up payroll and leave clerk, has provided other administrative assistance, and has strong office work experience the team extended the position to her. Beth starts this position on Monday, February 23 and will be working MTTTF from 9:00AM-Noon. Long-time Wednesday office volunteer, Katherine Schultz, will continue to be in the office on Wednesday mornings.



Blood Drive Sunday, March 15th —7:30 to 11:30 Located next to Columbarium in South Parking Lot. Please sign up to donate blood! Go to our website (loveofchristchurch.net) and scroll down to find link to sign up. If you have any questions, you can contact Dianne Oien at dianneoien@loclc.org. Donor Eligibility Link: <https://vitalant.org/blood-donation-requirements>. Donor Eligibility Phone: 877-258-4825

Donor Preparation: • #1 deferral for women is low iron. Women begin eating iron rich foods. • Begin drinking lots of water – hydrate, hydrate, hydrate! • Eat prior to donation (no fasting) • Bring Photo ID reflecting first and last names • Visit restroom prior to beginning the donation process • Donors may take their health history the day of donations. Fast Track Health History Questionnaire Link: <https://www.vitalant.org/health>



New Member Classes

New Member class will be held on Sunday, March 22nd at 11:45am to 3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served. Any questions, please contact Dianne Oien at dianneoien@loclc.org

Music Notes....



Handbell Ringers Needed

Do you read music and count beats? We would love to have you join our Handbell Choir! We are looking for ringers for monthly Sunday performances.

Rehearsals are held **Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Greenroom**. If you're interested, please let me know—we'd love to ring with you! You can contact me at jungmusic@loclc.org

We can't wait to celebrate this wonderful season of music, fellowship, and joy with all of you.

With gratitude and excitement,
Jung Lee



Calling All Bakers

Cookie Ministry is looking for people who like to bake. The Cookie Ministry is part of the Faith in Action programs at Love of Christ. This ministry makes cookies for our various events that are held here on our campus and beyond our campus. If you are interested in baking cookies for this ministry, please contact Eunice Ketterling at ketts14az@gmail.com

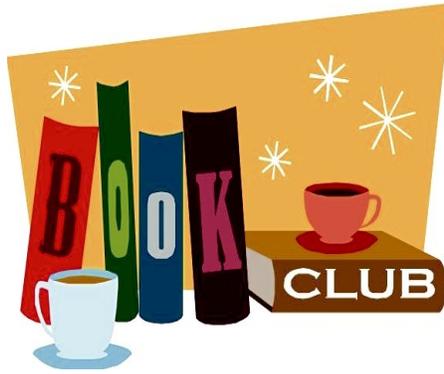
Community Garden News



Come join us and grow something beautiful. Questions, contact Nancy at Dntoll74@gmail.com



Naomi Circle will meet on March 9th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome—invite your friends!



The next meeting of the LOC Book Club will be held on Sunday, March 22nd in the Leadership Room after the 9:00 am service.

We will be discussing **The Glassmaker** by Tracy Chevalier. Here is a synopsis of the book:

In 1486, Orsola Rosso is the eldest daughter in a family of glassblowers in Murano, Italy. As a woman, she is not meant to blow glass - but when her father dies, she teaches herself to make beads in secret, and her work becomes the cornerstone of the Rosso family fortune. Skipping through six centuries, we follow the Rosso family as they live through creative triumph and heartbreaking loss. From a plague in Venice to Continental soldiers stripping its palazzos bare, from the domination of Murano and its glass maestros to the transformation of the city of trade into a city of tourists, we experience it all.

In every era, the Rosso women ensure that their work and their bonds endure.

Please join us on March 22nd as we explore the beauty of glassmaking and the family who endured through centuries of change.

Grab a cup of coffee and a treat in the Hospitality Room and head over to the Leadership Room located next to the church offices.

Happy Reading!

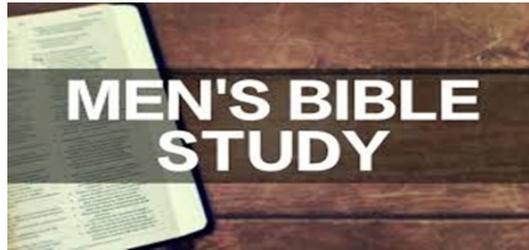
Love of Christ is Turning 40



On April 12, we will join together at 9:00 to celebrate this milestone in the life of our church congregation. There will be just one combined worship service in the Center of Compassion with Bishop Deborah Hutterer preaching the word. A time to celebrate and share memories will follow the worship service.

More details will follow as we get closer to April 12.

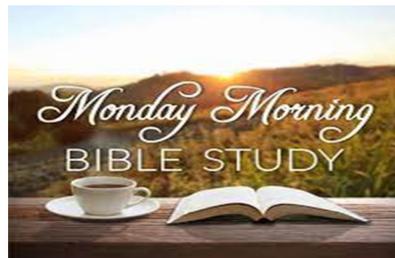
If you would like to help with preparations for the 40th Anniversary celebration, please contact Elizabeth Danielson at 480-710-5032 or ekdanielson@gmail.com.



Pastor Steve Talmage is leading the Monday Men's Bible Study on 1st Corinthians at 6:30-7:30AM in the Leadership Room. Men of all ages are welcome to participate.



Online Video introductions provided by our pastors of Sunday Lectionary readings are offered each week. They may be found on Facebook, YouTube or loveofchristchurch.net



Monday Morning Bible Study is offered in the Leadership Room, 10:30-Coffee Fellowship, 11:00AM Bible Study.



Prayer Share Care Women's Bible Study

All women are invited to a weekly Bible study group called Prayer Share Care. This group meets on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 in the Leadership Room. This group will be using Marcus Borg's book: ***Reading the Bible Again for the First Time***. Books can be purchased **at class** for \$10. Please contact Ruth Leonard or Margrit Aeschbach at the following emails for more information. (Margrit: mwiss43@gmail.com and Ruth: ruthleonard@icloud.com)



Faith stretch yoga **meets on Thursdays at 9:00am in Outreach room.**
For questions and more information, text Georgia at 406-925-0013 or
email: nonnagg51@gmail.com .



There is hangout this Sunday from 10 to Noon in the Youth Room!
There is Youth Group this Wednesday night from 6-7:30pm in Youth Room!
Contact Mason Weatherly for more info at masonw@loclc.org



Confirmation

Confirmation will be held on Wednesday nights from 6PM to 7PM in the room 48.

Next Confirmation class will be held on Wednesday, March 4th.

Any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at nanette@loclc.org

A brief Overview for 2026 Save the Dates:

2026 Lenten Challenge sign up by March 1, 2026

Wednesday during Lent sharing our Outreach Ministries:

Wednesday, February 25 Highlighting: Sleep In Heavenly Peace, ELCA World Hunger- LSS-SW Refugee Family Update

March 4- Preschool, Hospitality, RSM, and Reverse Advent Boxes

April 12: 40th Anniversary Celebration 9:00 am in the CoC

June 11,12,13: Synod Assembly at LoC

July 6-10 VBS

Lenten Challenge 2026



About the Lenten Challenge

In 2023, the Grand Canyon Synod and the Southeastern Iowa Synod challenged one another to participate in spiritual and physical practices during the 40 days of Lent. This 40-40-40 Challenge was a good-natured way to engage each other and raise awareness of anti-hunger ministry and wellness for both synods. **In 2024**, all of the ELCA synods in Region 2 challenged one another to raise money for ELCA World Hunger in honor of ELCA World Hunger’s 50th year in mission and ministry. **In 2025**, Isaiah 58:11 grounded the year’s Lenten journey, in which the five Region 2 synods challenged one another to explore the intersection of hunger and water while learning of one of our Region 2 Indigenous Ministries, the 70-year-old Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission (NELM) in Rock Point, AZ.

The 2026 Lenten Challenge theme — “Lord, When Did We See You?”

The theme of this year’s challenge derives from Matthew 25:37-40. The passage emphasizes that caring for the poor, sick, and marginalized is an act of service to Christ, and that a person’s treatment of others is a reflection of their relationship with God. The spiritual practices for the six weeks of Lent will focus on stretching our learning, care and advocacy muscles on behalf of underserved communities. The six weeks will be broken up according to the gospel text, as below, with participants focusing on what we know and think about these siblings in Christ, as well as how we act in support and on behalf of these communities. [Refer to the Matthew 25 Lenten Practices Toolkit for ideas.](#)

- **Week 2**, March 1: Lord, when was it that we saw you thirsty and gave you something to drink?
- **Week 3**, March 8: Lord, when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you?
- **Week 4**, March 16: Lord, when was it that we saw you naked and gave you clothing?
- **Week 5**, March 22: Lord, when was it that we saw you sick and visited you?

Week 6, March 29: Lord, when was it that we saw you in prison and visited you?

Why Lent? Lent is a season of 40 days to reflect, remember our dependence on God and one another, and look forward to the ways God calls us to be. Adding one or more of these spiritual practices to your observation of Lent might help you feel more connected. A light-hearted challenge like this could help our synods be the Church together, and to see God's vision and invitation for us to be a church for the world as we share the good news of Jesus Christ.

How does the 40-40-40-40 Lenten Challenge work?

There are 4 Lenten practices to consider, and you commit to 3 of the 4.

Daily Devotion ~ Subscribe to receive devotions every day of Lent via email. These short reflections represent diverse voices and circumstances across our church. [Learn more.](#)

Daily Learning ~ Suggested learnings for children, youth, families and congregations such as reading ELCA social teachings, studying Matthew Chapter 25, joining ELCA networks, group studies, etc. are in the Matthew 25 Lenten Practices Toolkit. [Learn more.](#)

Daily Action ~ Suggested actions, such as volunteering at a food bank, donating clothes and sundries, visiting someone in the hospital, and praying for elected leaders can be found in our Matthew 25 Toolkit. [Learn more.](#)

Daily Donation ~ Pledge to give \$1 a day (or more) to ELCA World Hunger for the 40 days of Lent. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to farm animals, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty. [Ways to give.](#)

[SIGN UP FOR THE 40-40-40 LENTEN CHALLENGE](#)

Refugee Family Co-Sponsorship with Lutheran Social Services:

Our Co-Sponsorship Team has been helping a refugee family from Syria. The help that is needed is working with the adults who are learning English. This team is making wonderful progress and forming some beautiful relationships with the family as well. We have provided back to school clothing and backpacks for each of the four children, along with teaching them English. If you are interested in learning more or think you might like to join this team, please contact Chris Norden at norden6162@gmail.com



Our Sunday School Ministry continues on throughout 2026! For ages 4-2nd grade, Sunday School is from 9:10-9:50. Children are to come to church with their parents and are dismissed for Sunday School after the Children's Message. They return to worship during Communion. For grades 3-6, Sunday school begins at 9:50 and they are done at 10:20. Sunday School takes place in the Godly Play room. For any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at nanette@loclc.org



Grades 4,5, and 6 will meet in the CoC on **Sunday, March 8th**. We will practice for the 40th Anniversary worship service and review of what the different parts of worship mean. Of course we will have a yummy snack of some kind! The fun begins at 3:30 and ends at 5:00! Please contact Laura Ontiveros or Pastor Nanette for more information

WOW! Word on Wednesdays continues!

Children's Musical, Adult Bible Study, and Confirmation/Youth Group begin at 6PM. A light meal will be served at 5:30 in rooms 48 & 49 in Center of Compassion.

Children's Musical—The FAB 4 Kids Show—Rockin' the Gospels All the Way to the Cross!

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 6pm to 7pm in Room 50

Performance: Sunday, May 3rd at 9AM

🌸 MomCo at Love of Christ Lutheran Church! 🌸

Calling all moms! Whether you're in the thick of toddlerhood, navigating teenage years, or somewhere in between — you're not alone.



We're excited to announce that our church will now be hosting MomCo, a community designed for moms, by moms. MomCo is a place where women gather in circles of support, friendship, and faith — because raising humans is both beautiful and hard, and no one should have to do it alone:

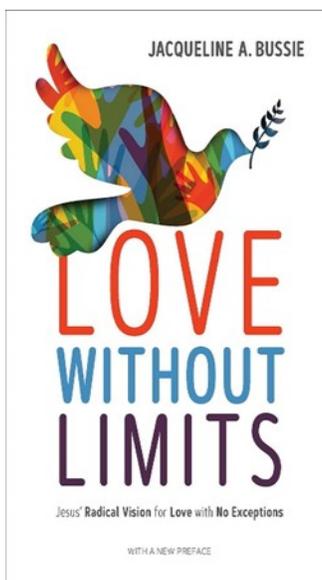
- Build meaningful, lasting friendships
- Encourage and equip moms to lead with love
- Grow the church by nurturing families in faith
- Bring mothers and their families closer to Jesus

Join Us! Location: Love of Christ

📅 When: **Next meeting March 4th**, first Wednesday of the month from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM in Godly Playroom located in entrance to Center of Compassion.

📞 Contact: Kacey Weir or Pastor Nanette Christofferson 🌐

Online Options: - <http://www.themom.co/groups/loveofchristmesa>



Love Without Limits meets again on March 4th at 4:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

In her book, Jacqueline Bussie says nothing is more scandalous than a “love without limits.” How does a love without limits mirror Jesus and the God we are called to serve? How does this echo Jesus’ ministry in Luke 15 (the parables of being lost) or Paul’s proclamation in Galatians 3:28 (There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one Christ Jesus)? This study is open to all women who are interested in learning about our God who loves without limits!



Thank you to everyone who brought Citrus to share! The leftover Citrus went to our local Salvation Army.

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is li-



Young Adults are typically between the ages of 18 and 30-5 ish! We are fortunate to have the above Young Adults interested in gathering and learning together. Our next meeting time will be on **Sunday, March 8**. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette or Laura Ontiveros.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace News

BLANKETS FOR KIDS!!!



As part of our Sleep in Heavenly Peace Ministry, we are again offering a session to learn how to make a blanket.

On March 10th at 10 am in the Outreach room (next to the playground) — Jan Barnett will walk anyone who wants to try this through the steps to make a twin-sized fleece blanket with crocheted edges.

Included in this session are ideas for sewing fleece blankets, quilting blankets or making stuffed animals. We will also have suggestions on where to find fleece and yarn.

Attendance is free and all are invited, so invite a friend.

If you want some hands-on assistance, just bring the following items:

Material List:

- 2 1/2 yards of fleece—mid-weight non-pill is our favorite;
- No. I or J Crochet hook;
- A skein of 4-ply medium weight yarn (it will have a no. 4 on it for weight designation) in a coordinating color or variegated colors;
- Large Scissors (sharp);
- Small scissors for cutting small notches;
- OPTIONAL: A needle and thread in a contrasting color (for basting edges)

Questions? Contact Jan Barnett at: barnett105@gmail.com

With the closure of Joann's Fabrics, we have been searching for places to buy fleece.... Some places we've found are : Hobby Lobby, (but if you purchase on-line, it's been better to purchase in 5 yard lengths, to avoid getting pieces smaller than 2 1/2 yards); YourFleece.com (limited selection),; Some Michael's stores; SAS - 1700 E Apache Blvd. (limited offering but \$4.99/yard); Fabric Depot—solid colors, Caution: some have a thick pile making sewing difficult; picotextiles.com

If you've found more, let us know!

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Genesis 12:1-4
with Pastor Nanette Christofferson
(11 min)

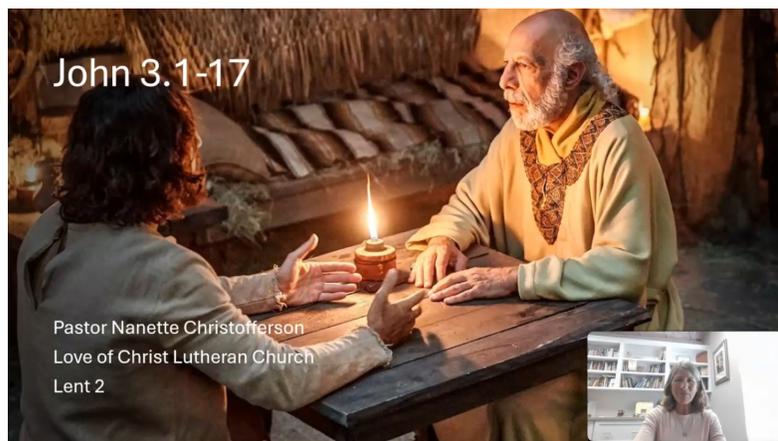


YouTube: <https://youtu.be/OpYepEMlglI>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1428340895403506/>

Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at John 3:1-17
with Pastor Nanette Christofferson
(13 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/3GAAdbMtgTI>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1239238747699739/>

Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

Sunday, March 1, 2026, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on  & 

Pastor Nanette Christofferson “You Must Be Born Again”

Genesis 12: 1-4a

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

Romans 4:1-5

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believe God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.