Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

4th Sunday of Lent, March 15, 2026

The Chaos of a Miracle

Wouldn't one think that upon learning of a miracle of one who was blind but now can see would cause people to jump with joy? For this is such amazing news. In our scripture today it happens. This passage is such a fascinating read! For it demonstrates one community's reaction after someone received a healing. And it is surprising. We see disbelief, we see fear, and we see that a family could be ostracized right out of the synagogue. We have a man who had been born blind, who now can see clearly but it seems that those around him cannot see rightly. All the while we continue to watch the attitude of the religious authorities begins to harden and darken toward Jesus. This narrative tells parallel tales of spiritual and physical blindness and sight, and the chaos it can bring.

Love of Christ Lutheran Board of Directors' Officers for 2026-2027

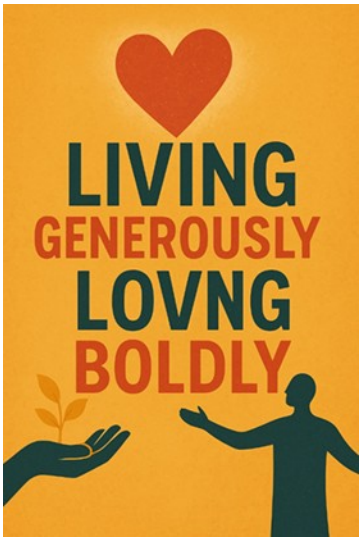
President- Barb Hummel

Vice-President- Jake Solomon

Secretary- Mike Jones

Treasurer- JoAnn Grant

Please keep these officers and the other Board of Directors in your prayers!



As we grow older, we often spend more time reflecting on our past. Sometimes we look to the past through rose-colored lenses or with longing nostalgia of the good ol' days. Many of us have spent our lives doing our best to love God, be a good neighbor, and even taking care of ourselves. Though life is often a mixed bag of sweet and not so sweet memories and experiences, all those have helped shape us into the people we are. How many of us think about the individuals or communities God has used through being examples of living generously and loving boldly? How have those examples moved you to do likewise with the time, the abilities, and the financial resources God has generously provided? At Love of Christ Lutheran Church, we continue to give thanks to God for showing us and teaching us living with an attitude of abundance rather than scarcity allows us as a congregation to be more generous and to risk loving more boldly. Thank you for helping make that a reality however you are able and led to

We are 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-

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

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 2:30pm 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 April 13th, 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!

Fortieth Anniversary Celebration to be Held on April 12

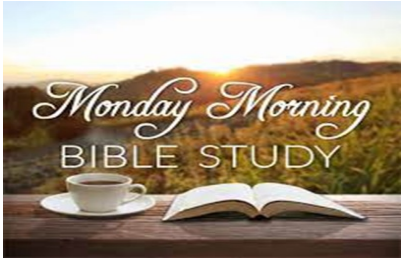
In 1985, Pastor Don Thompson was called as a mission developer to assess the need for a new church in Northeast Mesa. He spent the year knocking on doors and garnered enough interest to hold an initial worship service in September of that year at Fremont Junior High School; 142 people attended. On April 6, 1986, the 247 charter members of the congregation, now officially recognized by the state as a nonprofit organization, signed a charter statement, and in November of 1986, the Lutheran Church in America formally recognized the Love of Christ Lutheran Church and removed it from mission status.

We will celebrate 40 years of ministry on April 12 with one joint worship service at 9:00 in the Center of Compassion. The service will be followed by an open house complete with a variety of snacks and coffee provided by the Hospitality Team; the unveiling of contents of the 1986 time capsule; a video presentation of highlights of our first 40 years; photo displays of the church's ministries over the years; and opportunities to meet old friends as well as new people. Please plan to join us!

Questions or willing to help? Contact Elizabeth Danielson at ekdanielson@gmail.com or 480-710-5032.

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.

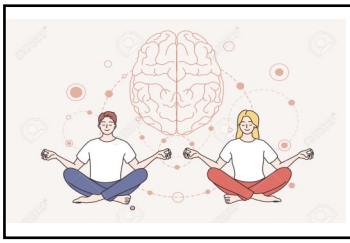
Online Video introductions provided by our pastors of Sunday Lectionary readings are offered each week. They may be found on Facebook, YouTube or loveofchristchurch.net



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***. Please contact Ruth Leonard or Margrit Aeschbach at the following emails for more information. (Margrit: mswiss43@gmail.com and Ruth: rutholeonard@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 .

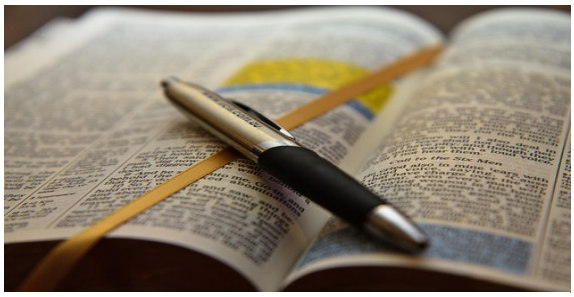
YOUTH AT LOVE OF CHRIST

CALLED. GATHERED. SENT.

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 25th.

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

Spring/Summer Overview for 2026 Save the Dates:

Wednesday evenings during Lent.

April 12: 40th Anniversary Celebration at 9:00 am. This is the only service we are having that day! Come and celebrate!

May 3: Children's Musical

June 11,12,13: Synod Assembly at LoC

July 6-10 VBS

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March 18- Ted Taylor from Family Promise

March 25- Egypt Highlights Pastor Nanette and Mark Christofferson

You Might Ask What Is LAMA?

What is public policy advocacy?

Public policy is, broadly speaking, the laws and regulations created by the government in response to a particular issue or problem. Public policy advocacy is the work of raising awareness, organizing and working to influence how the government and its representatives approach and solve a problem or issue.

Why does the ELCA care about advocacy?

As members of the ELCA, we believe God is calling us into the world to serve together. Through our direct service, we aid immediate needs before us. Through our advocacy work, we impact systemic, long-lasting change.

The public policies our officials write, amend and ultimately adopt can have ongoing effects on our neighbors who are struggling with hunger and living with poverty, as well as God's creation. By urging our lawmakers to advance legislation that reflects our commitment to justice, we are helping create opportunities to overcome poverty, promote peace and dignity, and defend God's creation.

What are the ways we do advocacy?

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona works with ELCA congregations and supporters in the Grand Canyon Synod to educate and mobilize people of faith to make their voices heard with lawmakers on issues that matter. There are many ways to "do" advocacy, which makes it very easy to get involved!

- Write a letter to your lawmaker
- Call your lawmaker
- Meet with your lawmaker

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- Write a letter to the editor
- Use social media

Find your Arizona Legislator

Find Arizona Legislative Roster and Leaders

Find your Congressional representative

New! Tips for Virtual Visits

Tips for engagement.

Through baptism, we are called to serve our neighbors and steward God's good creation. As Lutherans, our attention turns to the policies that make a broader difference in our lives and the lives of our vulnerable neighbors. It is important that we add our voice into the process. Learn about six tips to engage your elected officials through the ministry of advocacy. elca.org/advocacy

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

Young Adults are typically between the ages of 18 and 30-5 ish! We are fortunate to have these Young Adults interested in gathering and learning together. Our next meeting will be **on Sunday, April 26th** at 12:15 at Got Sushi on N. Power Rd and McDowell, where we will discuss Buddhism and Confucianism. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette or Laura Ontiveros.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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, April 12th at 9:00** to be a part of the 40th anniversary worship service. 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 with 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.

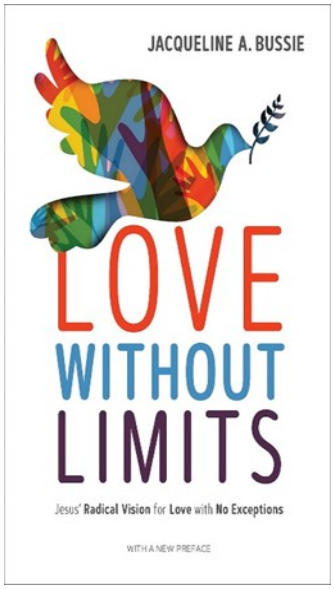
We're excited to announce that our church will now be hosting MomCo, a community designed for moms, by moms. MomCo is a place where women gather in circles of support, friendship, and faith — because raising humans is both beautiful and hard, and no one should have to do it alone:

- 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 April 1st,** 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 will meet on Wednesday, April 8th 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! They will be discussing Chapter 6.

Scripture Lesson

A Brief Look at 1 Samuel 16:1-13

with Pastor Nanette Christofferson

(11 min)

YouTube: https://youtu.be/cpsyz_er3-A
Facebook: https://facebook.com/reel/1189760013027764/

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

Scripture Lesson

A Brief Look at John 9:1-41

With Pastor Nanette Christofferson

(15 min)

YouTube: https://youtu.be/vcVAXJwbTPA

Facebook: https://facebook.com/reel/26450404681242431/

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

Sunday, March 15, 2026, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on & YouTube

Pastor Nanette Christofferson "The Chaos of a Miracle "

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome.
The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light [a] is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

John 9: 1 – 41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

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So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.