



# Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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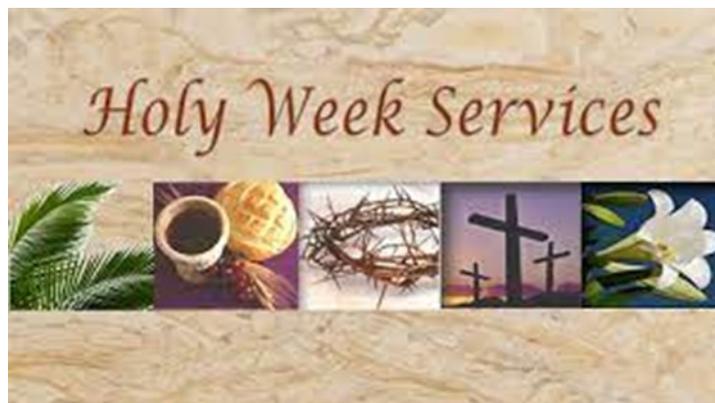
## Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 29, 2026



### God's Love for Humanity

When we look at the human actions in the longer Gospel reading for today, we see many depictions of normal life, including among others: betrayal, meal preparation, distress over the presence of evil even at a table of friends, deception revealed, boasting, failure to help someone in need, using a kiss to signal its opposite meaning, physical hurt, desertion, an arrest, deviousness, abuse of a beloved teacher, denial of friendship, bitter self-contempt, repentance, suicide, confusion on the part of a political leader, receipt of a prophetic dream, mocking a vulnerable and abused person, murder, and attempting to keep a lid on the zeal of Jesus' followers. Whew, talk about an emotional roller coaster, for this is a lot of treachery for one Sunday. But we must always look to the other side of the coin, and this calls for a litany of what God is doing out of love for humanity.



**Maundy Thursday, April 2, Noon in the Sanctuary and 7PM Re-enactment of the Lord's Supper in the Center of Compassion**

**Good Friday, April 3, Noon in the Sanctuary/7PM in the Center of Compassion**

**Easter, April 5, 6:00AM on the Center of Compassion Patio, 7:50AM in the Sanctuary, 9:00 and 10:30 in the Center of Compassion.**

## A Word of Thanks

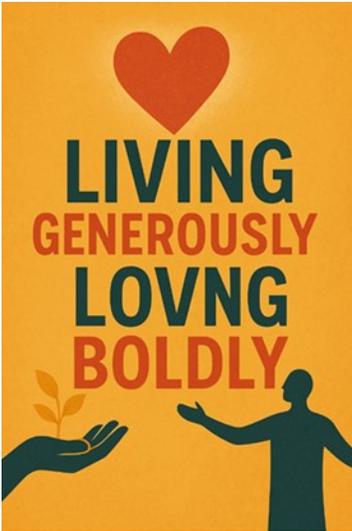
"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." **Colossians 2:6-7**

Dear Rev. Talmage, Rev. Christofferson, and Love of Christ Lutheran Church,

With overflowing thankfulness, we have received your fiscal year 2026 - 2027 Mission Support Plan. Your commitment to giving **\$91,600** in congregational mission support reflects the deep roots your congregation has in our shared mission. Thank you!

This year, as we ground ourselves in **'Rooted in God's Story,'** our strength comes from being rooted in Christ, built up together, and strengthened in the faith we share. Paul calls us to be rooted in abundance rather than scarcity, in partnership rather than isolation, in hope rather than fear. Your faithful commitment embodies that call, and we are grateful to be writing God's story together.

The Rev. Deborah K. Hutterer, Bishop - Grand Canyon Synod – ELCA  
Mr. Mark Myers, Vice President - Grand Canyon Synod - ELCA



Easter Lily or Mum flowers will be decorating our chancel areas. Order forms are available in the Sanctuary and Center of Compassion. Return it to the church office or place in the Sunday offering by March 29th. You can also email [dianneo-ien@loclc.org](mailto:dianneo-ien@loclc.org) with information on where or who you would like to give the flower in memory of or given to the Glory of God or in honor of.

Please make check out to "Love of Christ Flowers" The cost is \$18.00 per plant. Thank you for sharing this Easter blessing to decorate our chancel on Easter Sunday.



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:**

**Lenten Education-**

**March 25- Egypt Highlights, Pastor Nanette and Mark Christofferson**



### 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](mailto: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](mailto:ketts14az@gmail.com)



#### **Community Garden News**

Come join us and grow something beautiful. Questions, contact Nancy at [Dntoll74@gmail.com](mailto:Dntoll74@gmail.com)



**Naomi Circle will meet on April 13th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome—invite your friends!**

#### **Signing of the Official Charter**





**April 6, 1986, the Official Charter of Love of Christ Lutheran Church to organize as a congregation was signed by the faithful, trusting the Lord wanted to plant a new Lutheran Church in NE Mesa. On April 12, 2026, we will celebrate the vision, courage, faithfulness and generosity of those upon whose shoulders we stand.**



### **Fortieth Anniversary Celebration to be Held on April 12**

*Do not dwell on the past. But the Lord says, "See I am doing a new thing. Now it springs up. (Isaiah 43: 18-19)*

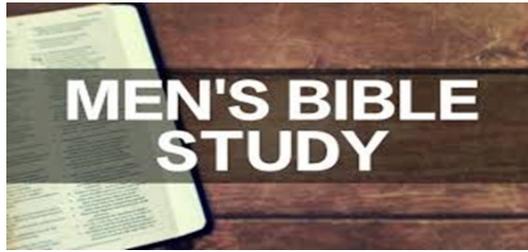
Love of Christ has a history of mission outreach to our community and the larger world, including support of Global missionaries, helping a South African community ravaged by AIDS, building Habitat for Humanity houses, packing meals for Feed My Starving Children, welcoming refugees and those experiencing homelessness, ministering to those in prison, and the list goes on.

While we celebrate the activities of the past, we also look to the future. As part of our upcoming anniversary celebration, we will launch a new challenge—to raise funds in support of two local ministry partners: Crossroads Lutheran Church in San Tan Valley and First Place, a ministry of First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mesa. Pastors Ryan Marsh and Luis Ochoa will be present for this announcement.

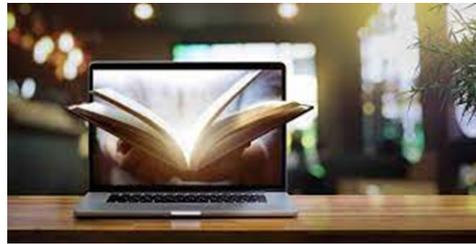
Please plan to join us on April 12 as we celebrate 40 years of the ministry of Love of Christ Lutheran Church and look to the new things God is doing in our community. There will be one joint worship service at 9:00 in the Center of Compassion.

Plan to stay following the service for a time of informal fellowship and celebration.

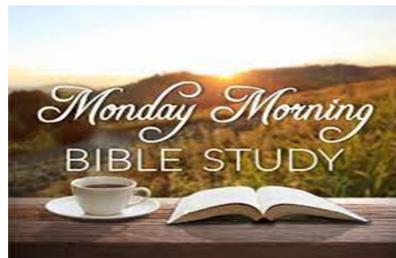
Questions or willing to help? Contact Elizabeth Danielson at [ekdanielson@gmail.com](mailto:ekdanielson@gmail.com) or 480-710-5032.



Pastor Steve Talmage is leading the Monday Men's Bible Study on 1<sup>st</sup> 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, will return the week of April 13.** They may be found on Facebook, YouTube or [loveofchristchurch.net](http://loveofchristchurch.net)



**NO 11AM Monday Morning Bible Study until April 13.**



### **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](mailto:mswiss43@gmail.com) and Ruth: [ruthleonard@icloud.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:nanette@loclc.org)

## Spring/Summer Overview for 2026 Save the Dates:

**March 25 Presentation on Egypt- Pastor Nanette and Mark Christofferson**

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

**May 3: Children's Musical**

**May Family Promise 5/10-17. We will need meals, overnights, and hosts.**

**June 11,12,13: Synod Assembly at LoC**



**March 25- Egypt Highlights Pastor Nanette and Mark Christofferson 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

### About Family Promise

In Operation since 2000, Family Promise – Greater Phoenix has provided more than just shelter for families. For the past 19 years, the programs at Family Promise have helped more than 500 families. These programs have enabled families to move from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

***The Family Promise Mission is providing emergency shelter and social services to help families move toward independent housing and self-sufficiency.***

***Vision: The Vision of Family Promise is a community of whole and healthy families.***

At Family Promise, we give families the tools and training to care for their children, find employment and housing, and become independent and successful. We strive to provide a safety net for children and their families before they drop into a cycle of endless shelters, loss of school attendance, unemployment, family instability and foster care.

Family Promise provides basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter, but we also provide a safe, encouraging, and constructive environment for families that feel lost and scared. Family Promise's long-term goal is to break the cycle of homelessness and create a sense of community for the families that participate in the program and the thousands of volunteers that have contributed to this program over the years.

### Congregations

Congregations are at the heart of our work. More than two dozen congregations provide temporary shelter, meals, activities and compassion to our families. Up to four families are housed on the campus of each congregation for a week at a time, providing a safe, accepting environment. Each morning, a Family Promise van takes family members to the Family Center, where the children may depart for school, some adults may head to work and others continue their job search. Each evening, the families return to the congregation for dinner, activities and an overnight stay in their own room or area.

“A chance for volunteers at congregations to live their faith. It's a wonderful mission outreach program that takes place right in the safe environment of your congregation.”

## 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](mailto: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 26<sup>th</sup>** 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.



Our Sunday School Ministry continues for ages 4-2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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**

**WOW! Word on Wednesdays will resume on Wed. April 8<sup>th</sup>** with Children's Musical, Adult Bible Study, and Confirmation/Youth Group. Beginning at 5:30 there is a light meal with everything else starting at 6:00 pm.

**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:

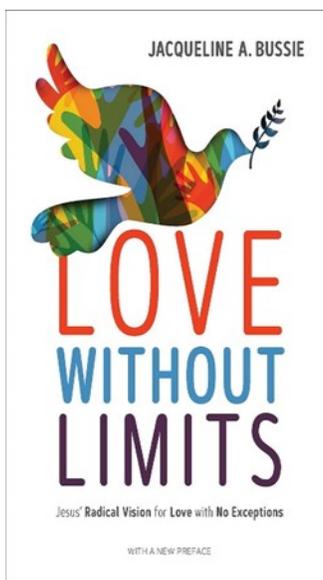
- Build meaningful, lasting friendships
- Encourage and equip moms to lead with love
- Grow the church by nurturing families in faith
- Bring mothers and their families closer to Jesus

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## BLANKETS FOR KIDS!!!



Questions? Contact Jan Barnett at: [barnett105@gmail.com](mailto:barnett105@gmail.com)

- 2 Methods of finishing the edges of the blankets
- Sewing around the edges
- Crocheting around the edges
- Both methods start the same

Lay Fabric on a table trim off the Salvage edges of the fleece;

- Sewing around the edges

Fold  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 inch around the edge ;

Pin the folded edges all around the edge;

Choose a decorative stitch on sewing machine and start sewing

If your machine only does Zig Zag that is great also.

- Optional--Baste  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of fold around the edge of the fleece with a needle and thread (Optional)

OR

- Just fold the fabric over about  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an inch and cut very small slits in the fold;
- Slits should be no more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch in length and around  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch from the each other
- If you basted around the edges

Remove the basting from the fleece

- If you have a rotary cutter your can purchase wheels that will cut the slits in the fleece material the same distance and the slit created is large enough to slip the crochet hook through. Then follow the remaining directions.
- If you just folded and cut the slits;

Start crocheting around the edge. (I start 6 or 7 inches from the corner of the fleece to make turning the first corner easier.)

1. Start by creating a slipknot.
2. Insert the crochet hook through a slit in the fleece and pull the loop of the slip knot through;
3. Chain 3 times (create a chain by yarning over the hook and pulling it back through the initial loop.); chain only 2 times if you have used the rotary cutter;
4. Push the crochet hook through the slit next to the one just used (back to front) and pull a loop back through the slit. (You will have 2 loops on the crochet hook.)
5. With the 2 loops still on the hook, yarn over the hook and pull through both loops. Now chain 2 more times.
6. Proceed around the fleece using steps 4 and 5.
7. To turn a corner follow steps 4 and 5, but insert the hook again in the same slit and do 1 chain and then insert the hook again and perform steps 4 and 5, Then you should be on a new side of the blanket and proceed following steps 4 and 5

There is an additional set of slides which have instructions on how to start crocheting. If you do not need those instructions, ignore.

**Scripture Lesson**  
**A Brief Look at Isaiah 50:4-9**  
**with Pastor Nanette Christofferson**  
(9 min)



**Isaiah 50.4-9**

Pastor Nanette Christofferson  
Love of Christ Lutheran Church  
Lent 6

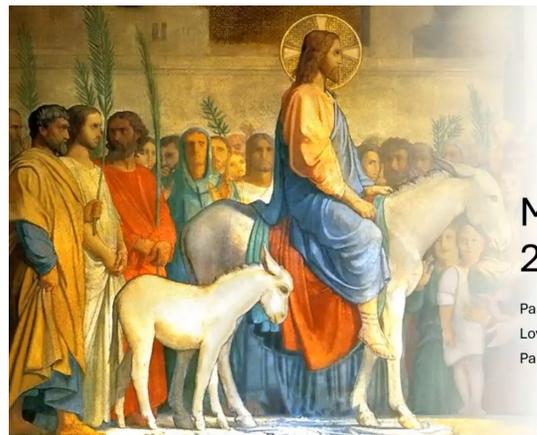


YouTube: <https://youtu.be/gK4TSDxJBNg>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1493356215465718>

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

**Scripture Lesson**  
**A Brief Look at Matthew 21:1-10**  
**With Nanette Christofferson**  
(13 min)



**Matthew  
21:1-10**

Pastor Nanette Christofferson  
Love of Christ Lutheran Church  
Palm/Pas:



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/9oFeATTcUOg>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1733232274304215>

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

**Sunday, March 29, 2026, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,**

**some on**  **&** 

**Pastor Nanette Christofferson “God’s Love for Humanity”**

Palm Sunday Reading is from:

Matthew 26:14-27:66