



Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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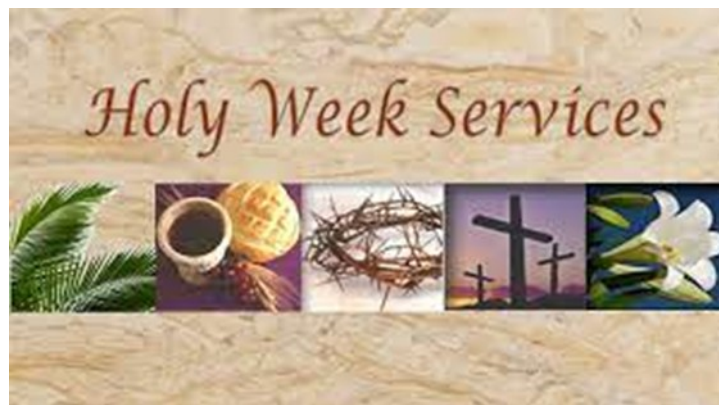
Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026



Fear to Great Joy

In the wee hours of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. The women approach the tomb filled with fear and uncertainty as they witness an earthquake, and the guards shake as they became like dead men. An angel of the Lord makes an appearance and tells them Jesus has been raised from the dead. The women are amazed and filled with fear as well. But fear does not have the final word. When they encounter the risen Christ, their fear is transformed into great joy. The joy in learning that their Messiah still lives. This significant moment proclaims God's victory over death and fills us with hope, reminding us that resurrection joy shapes our faith and our lives.



Maunder 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.



“I Have Seen the Lord”

Mary Magdalene plays a critical role in the gospel writer John’s account of the resurrection of Jesus. She is the first to go and find the tomb empty. Then Peter and John get in a foot race to see who can get to the tomb first. They see signs of Jesus’ burial, but no body. John sees these signs and believes Jesus is risen and alive; from Peter we get no such confession. Oddly, they just go back to their homes. Good thing John does not end there. Mary Magdalene goes back again to the tomb weeping about the potential of some body snatchers taking her Lord’s body away. Two angels or messengers from God interrupt her weeping with, “Woman, why are you weeping?” Then the gardener shows up, but not just any gardener. He asks, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Still looking for an answer to where Jesus’ body has been taken, the gardener we know as Jesus calls her name and her weeping turns to joy. With news too great to keep to herself, she went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord.” Because of her testimony and the witness of countless others over the centuries who dared to trust and believe the tomb is empty and Jesus is risen, we gather with billions of others this Easter to rejoice the tomb is empty, and because he lives, we can face tomorrow with hope!

A Word of Thanks

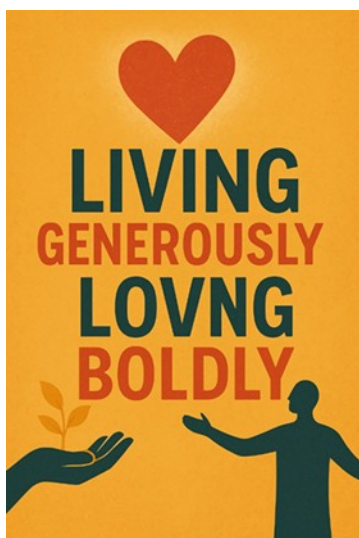
"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." **Colossians 2:6-7**

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





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.

Music Notes....

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!

40th Anniversary Celebration is next Sunday, April 12 with ONE worship service in the CoC at 9:00AM.

Just as a faithful gathering of children and adults forty years ago said, “Yes,” to the Spirit’s leading them to start a new Lutheran congregation we will be receiving new members at our anniversary worship service. Individuals who are saying “Yes” to continue sharing the love of Christ through this congregation planted so long ago, daring to claim the name Love of Christ. At our anniversary we will also launch our \$40,000 Mission Challenge Appeal. Our Board believed it was important as the initial planting of this congregation require gifts from our denomination and sister congregations; we wanted to do likewise in response to our milestone anniversary. Our Board in 2025 placed \$20,000 into a restricted fund to challenge the congregation to raise another \$20,000 so we can support new ministries in our area. Since the initial \$20,000 gift, our Endowment Committee has added a gift of \$2,000, and our LoC Preschool is looking to make a \$3600 gift. It is hoped by the end of 2026 we will be able to gift the new mission plant in San Tan Valley-Crossroads Lutheran with a gift of \$20,000 and First Place, an outreach of First Evangelical Lutheran in Mesa with another \$20,000. At our celebration and in the months following, you will learn more about these two mission efforts of sister communities. If you want to support this effort, you can do it online using the 40th Anniversary donor line or mark checks or envelopes with 40th Anniversary.



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.

Our Fortieth Anniversary Celebration!

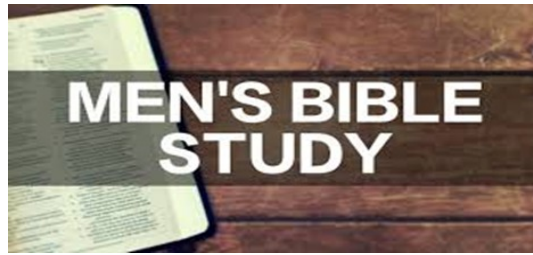


On Sunday, April 12, we will celebrate the first 40 years of Love of Christ Lutheran Church with one joint worship service at 9:00 in the Center of Compassion. Following the service, all are invited to share in the celebration of this milestone. A variety of snacks and coffee will be provided by the Hospitality Team and a video showing some highlights of the church's early days will be playing in both the Center of Compassion and the sanctuary. The 1986 Time Capsule was removed from behind the cornerstone of the original building, and the contents will be displayed on a table in the sanctuary/fellowship hall.

The planning committee invites you to browse through these photo displays of the church's ministries—past and present.

- Scouts
- Children & Youth Activities
- Confirmation
- Preschool
- Resurrection Street Ministry
- Family Promise/IHelp
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- The Center of Compassion
- Music Ministry
- Young Adults
- Share/Prayer/Care
- Hospitality
- Book Nook
- Building the new sanctuary
- Pastors who have served LOC
- Ordinations
- Habitat For Humanity
- Women's Retreats
- Hiking group
- Community Garden
- South African mission trips
- Navajo Nation VBS
- Feed My Starving Children
- Fall Festival
- Naomi Circle/WELCA
- Stephen Ministry

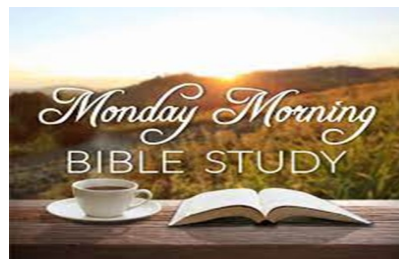
Questions? Contact Elizabeth Danielson at ekdanielson@gmail.com or 480-710-5032.



NO Monday Men's Early morning Bible Study. **Will resume on Monday, April 13.**



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



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 and Ruth: ruthleonard@icloud.com)



New 4-Session Adult Study to start Wednesday, April 15 at 6PM in the Fellowship Hall.

We will be looking at several examples of how God used ordinary people to be tremendous agents of healing and change in a time of great fracture, division, and suffering. Participants will be introduced to Francis of Assisi, Ella Baker, Oscar Romero and others.



Church Staff will be taking a post-Easter Holiday on Monday, April 6. The Office will reopen on Tuesday, April 7. The Preschool will be open on Monday.



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 .



No Youth Hang Out on Easter Sunday

Youth and Confirmation will Resume on Wednesday, April 8th at 5:30 for dinner and 6:00 for
Confirmation

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, April 8th.

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

Spring/Summer Overview for 2026 Save the Dates:

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

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

June 11,12,13: Synod Assembly at LoC

July 6-10: VBS

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



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.



No Sunday School on Easter Sunday! Happy Easter!



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

NO WOW, April 1st. Word on Wednesdays will resume on **Wed. April 8th** 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:

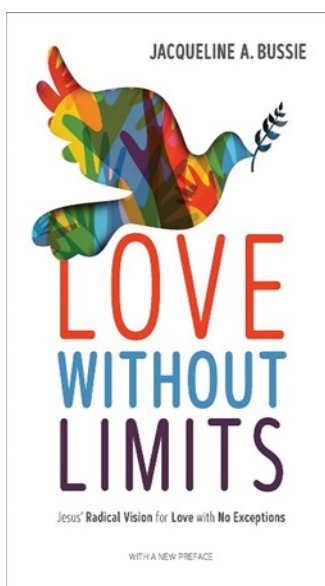
- Build meaningful, lasting friendships
- Encourage and equip moms to lead with love
- Grow the church by nurturing families in faith
- Bring mothers and their families closer to Jesus

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>, - www.themom.co/join (use Code: M1WH)



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.

BLANKETS FOR KIDS!!!



Questions? Contact Jan Barnett at: 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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, you 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.