



Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

Fifth Sunday of Easter Sunday, May 3, 2026



“Disciple Confusion”

Jesus looks upon his disciples and knows that he is to prepare them for his death, resurrection and life beyond his resurrection. He is trying to offer them words of comfort. Jesus tells them he must leave and prepare a place for them. He tells them not to let their hearts be troubled. Jesus offers these words to help them understand there is nothing to fear. He tells them in vs. 6 **“I am the way and the truth and the life.”** These words do not seem to be enough, for the disciples seem confused by this conversation. Perhaps they are asking him questions, questions in which it seems Jesus is a little shocked. For they are not acting like disciples who have been with him for three years. They do not appear to be comprehending what their Lord and Savior is trying to communicate. I believe we can all understand the disciples and their confusion. For sometimes the words of Jesus do confuse us and trouble us. I wonder if Jesus still is amazed at our lack of understanding! Praise God for his patience and compassion when it comes to our lack of comprehension!



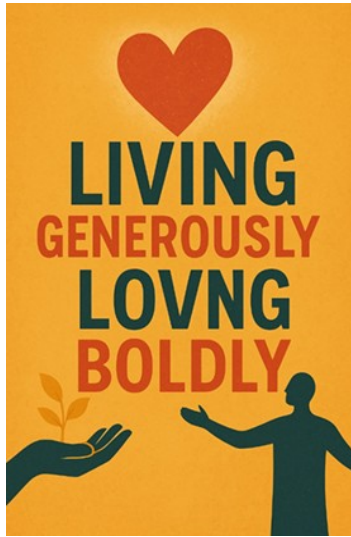
Thank you Luke Margarlis, Tony Margalis, and Dan Barenz for our new pergola in the Community Garden.

Luke chose this service project as a part of achieving his rank of Eagle Scout with Troop 301.



Last Adult Study this Wednesday, May 6, at 6 PM 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. This week we look at Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador, who was martyred because he stood up to the injustice, oppression, and corruption in his country.



40 Years > \$40,000 Mission Outreach Challenge

Some of you may remember back in the old days of 2019. Love of Christ Lutheran Church was burdened by a mortgage totaling \$1,798,836.01. The Board courageously recommended we seek to live generously and love boldly by tackling this debt and increasing our mission benevolence outside our walls. We ambitiously hoped to raise \$650,000. None of us could imagine the coming of Covid-19 in March 2020. But the commitment to live generously and love boldly during a pandemic and beyond continued to be practiced. Unused land was sold, a senior saint who strongly disliked debt and was giving 30% of his income away, donated \$50,000 from the sale of his home as he relocated to the Midwest. Then upon his death he left the congregation \$250,000 to apply to debt reduction. Individuals and families made over and above gifts to our internal "Vision 2020" campaign. By March 2023 the congregation owed \$300,000 and one of our quiet saints walked into Dick Beckman's office and wrote a check for \$300,000, so we could announce on Easter morning of 2023 - "Christ is Risen; He is Risen, Indeed. Alleluia" and join with that and "We are Debt-free!" Many that day asked, "how did this happen?" There were many words of shock and disbelief that living generously and loving boldly will always result in God providing what we need to do God's work. With gratitude, the Board of Directors immediately redirected the \$3,000 a month we were paying in debt-service to support our growing to a tithe (10%) of our offering income to the Grand Canyon Synod and the ELCA churchwide organization. Over the past 7 years we have witnessed the power of using what the Lord has first provided not just for ourselves, but to be blessing to others. During this year of our 40th anniversary, we seek to continue the tradition of those who received the benevolence from others to start this congregation to raise \$40,000 in 2026 to bless Crossroads Lutheran in San Tan Valley, and First Place at First Evangelical Lutheran in Mesa. Thank you to all who are open to share some over and above regular offerings to support this mission outreach!



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 ketts4az@gmail.com



Community Garden News

The community garden is starting to wind down for the summer off-season.

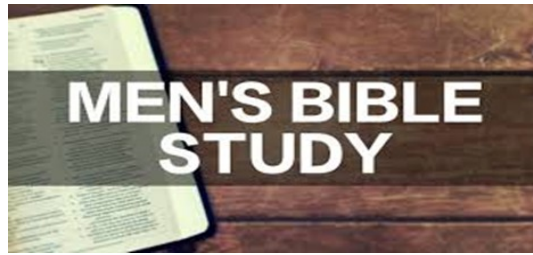
There have been enough cherry tomatoes to harvest and share. The weeds were never a problem and the automatic watering system makes it easy.

Think about trying out a garden in the fall. We are all learning new things and getting to know new people in the fresh air.

Contact Nancy. Dntoll74@gmail.com



Naomi Circle will meet on May 11th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome—invite your friends!

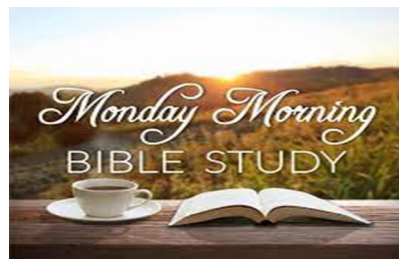


Monday Men's Bible Study on 1st Corinthians at 6:30-7:30AM in the Leadership Room.

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 in the Leadership Room.

Coffee Fellowship at 10:30, Bible Study at 11AM

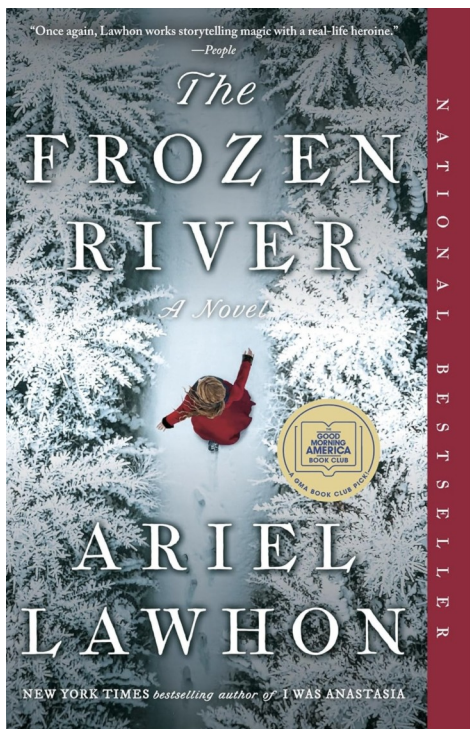


Prayer Share Care Women's Bible Study

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)

The LOC Book Club will be meeting on May 17th to talk about, The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon. This book won the award in 2025 for best in historical fiction. We look forward to seeing you in May.

To help you get started, here is a short synopsis of the book:



Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she is privy to much of what goes on behind closed doors in Hallowell. Her diary is a record of every birth and death, crime and debacle that unfolds in the close-knit community. Months earlier, Martha documented the details of an alleged rape committed by two of the town's most respected gentlemen—one of whom has now been found dead in the ice. But when a local physician undermines her conclusion, declaring the death to be an accident, Martha is forced to investigate the shocking murder on her own.

Over the course of one winter, as the trial nears, and whispers and prejudices mount, Martha doggedly pursues the truth. Her diary soon lands at the center of the scandal, implicating those she loves, and compelling Martha to decide where her own loyalties lie.

Clever, layered, and subversive, Ariel Lawhon's newest offering introduces an unsung heroine who refused to accept anything less than justice at a time when women were considered best seen and

not heard. *The Frozen River* is a thrilling, tense, and tender story about a remarkable woman who left an unparalleled legacy yet remains nearly forgotten to this day.

Baby Shower

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest hosts a baby shower each Mother's Day for their clients. They are in need of baby items for about 80 mothers. You can participate in this drive by purchasing needed items from Amazon and having them delivered directly to LSS-SW. Follow this link to make a gift:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/37KGGTWYMD24A?ref=wl_share

Questions? Contact Elizabeth Danielson @ ekdanielson@gmail.com



On **May 9th**, the LOC Women's Hiking Group will be traveling to **Flagstaff** and visiting **Walnut Canyon Nat. Monument**. The paved Island Trail has more than 700 steps that lead 1 mile in and out of the lush natural area. Back up top, the Rim Trail (3/4 mile) is a flat, paved walkway that features spectacular overlooks of the canyon plus a partially rebuilt pueblo and pit house. Will meet at 7:00 am. for a day of adventure. Contact: Pat Shaw at 480 334-9123 (call or text).



Youth and Confirmation will be on Wednesday, May 6th 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, May 6th.

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

Spring/Summer Overview for 2026 Save the Dates:

May 3: Children's Musical 9:00

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

Contact Patti Delaney at pattidelaney03@gmail.com for meals, Jackie Rensel for hosting at jackie.rensel@icloud.com and Pastor Nanette at nanette@loclc.org for overnight volunteering.

June 11,12,13: Synod Assembly at LoC

June 15-19 Music Camp ages 5 and up

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 brings 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.”



Summer is coming and how can we help those who are experiencing homelessness?

Last year we donated water to the City of Mesa and to Grace in the City Lutheran Church. The money that is donated will be purchased for these two organizations. If you would like to donate water, please place money in the offering plate labeled “Water Donation” or go online and specify water donation or bring a gift card.

The Faith In Action Team formed a sub-committee called Living Water to see how we might be able to help those who are experiencing homelessness during the hot summers. This team was formed because of a request from the City of Mesa asking for help during the summer for people who are out in the heat. The team learned that there are three ways in which the City of Mesa partners with faith communities and 5013c’s to help offer water, a place to cool off, and receive some nourishment. Below are the three ways faith communities and other organizations are helping:

Hydration Station where people can fill up their water bottles and use the rest rooms. (These places are only open during certain hours.)

Cooling Station offers a place to cool off, have some food, and receive water. Most Cooling Stations are open a few hours during the day.

Respite Center is a place that offers showers, a place to sleep, a meal, and a sack lunch. This is open all day long. Last summer we had a group of volunteers that helped with Resurrection Street Ministry. (RSM is a respite center) We hope to be able to help RSM again.

The group would like to explore what it might look like to offer a Cooling Station here at Love of Christ. Jason Flam from the City of Mesa will be here on Thursday, May 7 at 6:30 pm to give us more information. This meeting is open to anyone who is interested, and we will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall.



Our Sunday School Ministry for ages 4-2nd grade 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 .

Faith Food and Fun (Grades 4,5, and 6)



Grades 4,5, and 6 will meet in the CoC **on Sunday, May 17 at 3:30 pm**. Please contact Laura Ontiveros or Pastor Nanette for more information.

WOW! Word on Wednesdays

Word on Wednesdays will continue until Wednesday, May 6th, 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 7:30pm in Room 50

Performance: Sunday, May 3rd at 9AM

KIDS Summer MUSIC CAMP



**JUNE
15-19**



**SPECIAL
OFFER**

\$300
Enroll multiple kids
save \$50!
Sign up Online!

Musical "The Kingdom
Connection",
Art, Dance & Sports

Grades K-8 welcome!



For More information, contact Ms. Jung
junglee@maestromasterclasses.com

Love of Christ Lutheran Church
1525 N. Power Rd. Mesa, 85205

We are excited to share that our **Summer Music Camp** is coming up soon! 🎵 🎶

📅 **June 15–19**
🕒 **8:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

This special week is designed to give children a joyful and meaningful experience through **music, creativity, and fellowship**.

🎵 **Camp Activities Include:**

- **Musical theater** (singing, acting, and performing)
- **Arts & crafts**
- **Sports & games**
- **Dance classes**
- **Soccer (every day!)**
- **Yoga class**
- **Fun team activities & friendship building**

🎭 The week will conclude with a musical performance, “**The Kingdom Connection**,” presented during our **Sunday service on June 21 at 9:00 AM**, followed by **cookies and ice cream** for fellowship! 🍪 🍦

We are looking for **volunteers** to help make this event a success. You do not need to commit to the entire week—we truly appreciate **any amount of time** you can offer.

👥 **Volunteer Opportunities:**

- **Morning:** 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- **Afternoon:** 12:00 – 3:00 PM
- Help with activities, guide children, assist with snacks, or simply **encourage and support the kids**

We would also love to make this camp accessible to all families.

💖 **Scholarship Support Needed:**

- Donations help children attend who may not otherwise be able to
- Support provides **materials, supplies, and quality activities** for all campers

📌 **Additional Ways to Help:**

- Donate **snacks or supplies**
- Keep the children and volunteers in your **prayers**
- Help **spread the word** to families who may be interested

This camp is a wonderful opportunity to **impact young lives through music, creativity, and faith**, and we are so grateful for your continued support.

✉ **If you have any questions, would like to volunteer, or would like to donate, please contact me directly.**

Thank you so much for being such a **supportive and caring church family**. ☐

With gratitude,
Jung Lee

🌸 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:

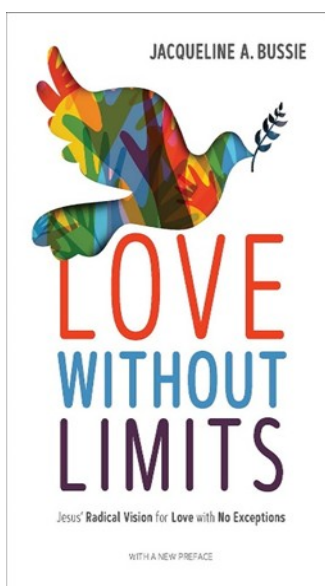
- Build meaningful, lasting friendships
- Encourage and equip moms to lead with love
- Grow the church by nurturing families in faith
- Bring mothers and their families closer to Jesus

Join Us! Location: Love of Christ

📅 When: **Next meeting May 6th**, 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, May 6th 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 9.

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 30-5ish! We are fortunate to have Young Adults interested in gathering and learning together. Our next meeting will be **on Sunday, May 17**, at 12:00 in the CoC, where we will discuss Hinduism. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette or Laura Ontiveros.

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;

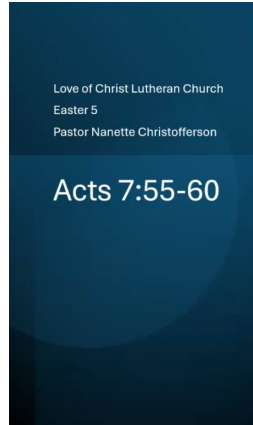
Start crocheting around the edge. (I start 6 or 7 inches from the corner of the fleece to make turning the first corner easier.)

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.

Scripture Lesson

A Brief Look at Acts 7:55-60 with Pastor Nanette Christofferson (12 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/2Wb5FpkSaZ8>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1310507951145541/>

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

Scripture Lesson

A Brief Look at John 14:1-14 With Pastor Nanette Christofferson (13 min)



YouTube: https://youtu.be/i_TUIPJYaFl

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/971427642446172/>

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

Sunday, May 3, 2026, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on



&



Pastor Nanette Christofferson “Disciple Confusion ”

Acts 7:55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” and “A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness

into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

John 14:1-14

Jesus the Way to the Father

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.