



Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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Mesa AZ 85205

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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

Sixth Sunday of Easter Sunday, May 10, 2026



“The Gift of an Advocate”

We get the promise of the Holy Spirit being provided to those who love Jesus. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Advocate. An advocate supports, promotes, maintains, defends, and pleads the cause or case of another. Over the course of our lives, we may have found ourselves the beneficiary of an advocate or in the role of an advocate. Jesus knows the limitations of his followers. Jesus knows their need for assistance to face what they and even we face in living out and sharing the faith. In the gift and mystery of the Holy Trinity, we are given the assurance of the presence of the God we confess as Creator, Savior, and Advocate. We need not fear but simply trust as we live out the path loving one another as Jesus has loved us; a holy presence is there to enlighten, reveal, and empower.



A prayer for mothers: "Lord God, we lift up all mothers to You. Grant them the strength to face the daily challenges with courage and the wisdom to guide their children towards a life of faith and service. Encourage them when they are weary and inspire them when they feel overwhelmed. Bless them with Your peace and love, now and forever. Amen."



LoC Board of Directors meets Tuesday, 5/12 at 6PM in the Leadership Room.



The Love of Christ Endowment Committee meets this Tuesday, 5/12 at 5PM in the Leadership Room.



Resurrection > Being Raised from the Deadened Weight of Fear

Author Diana Butler Bass recounts how fear continued to accompany the disciples well after the resurrection:

If you remember back several weeks, you might recall the reading for the first Sunday of Easter:

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”... Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you....” When he had said this, he breathed on them.... [John 20:19–22].

.... **The end of the Easter season is also the end of the first half of the Christian year.** The cycle of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter focus on the story of Jesus—the promise of his coming, his birth, the light he brings to the world, the seriousness of his mission, his execution, and the mystery of his resurrection....

And here’s the odd thing, something I never really noticed until this year. **Fear is foundational to the first half of the year.** It isn’t just that the disciples were afraid after Jesus died. The story began—way back in Advent—with the angel telling Mary, “Fear not!” ...

Six months later in the church year, Jesus’ story ends with “**Peace I leave with you ... do not let your hearts be afraid**”....

As the author of 1 John later wrote, “**There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear**” [1 John 4:18]. I think that is the point of Jesus’ life, the story we retrace in the first half of the Christian year, the culmination of which is the Easter season: **Perfect love casts out fear.**

Butler Bass acknowledges that fear is a biological response and universal experience, but that Jesus’ assurance is also true:

“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you....’ When he had said this, he breathed on them...”

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.”

The door opens toward love—the love of God, the love of neighbor.

I can’t explain it. All I know is that it is right. And I feel it. When I’m scared, I breathe. My breath. Sacred breath. Spirit breath. The in, out, in, out, in, out of life. My heart slows and opens, making room for the other, giving space to love. In, out, in, out. Breathe in peace. Breathe out love.

Peace, love. Peace, love. **Cont’d next page...**

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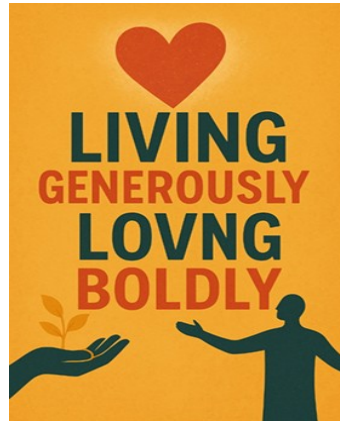
Fear abates.

Perfect love casts out fear.

I think of the first words of scripture, how “in the beginning” there was nothing but chaos. Then, God breathed. Chaos was transformed by that breath into a world of beauty and sustenance.

Easter began in confusion and terror behind a locked door. Now, it comes to a quiet conclusion in the breathing ... the promise and possibility of new creation. Peace, love.

Perhaps that's what is meant by resurrection. Being raised from the deadened weight of fear to love.



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 Director’s 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 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!

Faith In Action

Thank you!

LOVE OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

One of the ELCA's Most Generous Congregations

ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response

Your generosity makes a difference to our neighbors
in the United States and around the world.

Thank you.

Daniel Riff

The Rev. Daniel Riff
Director, Congregational Generosity
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

April 2026

Date



ELCA
World Hunger



Lutheran
Disaster Response

Music Notes....



Please contact Jung Lee at jungmusic@loclc.org for how you can be involved with the music program.

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

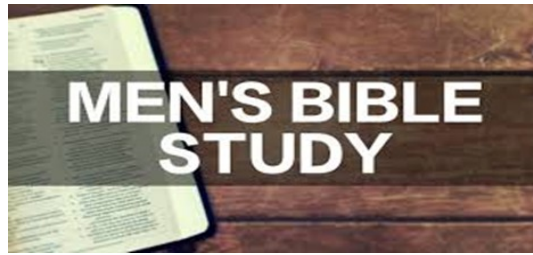


Join us for a gathering on Sunday, May 17th at noon in the fellowship hall.

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!

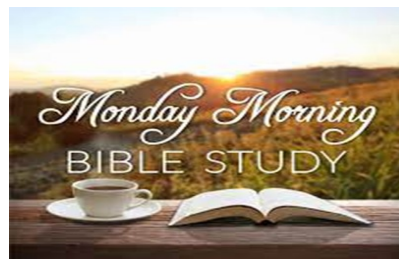


Monday Men's Bible Study on 1st Corinthians at 6:30-7:30AM in the Leadership Room.

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

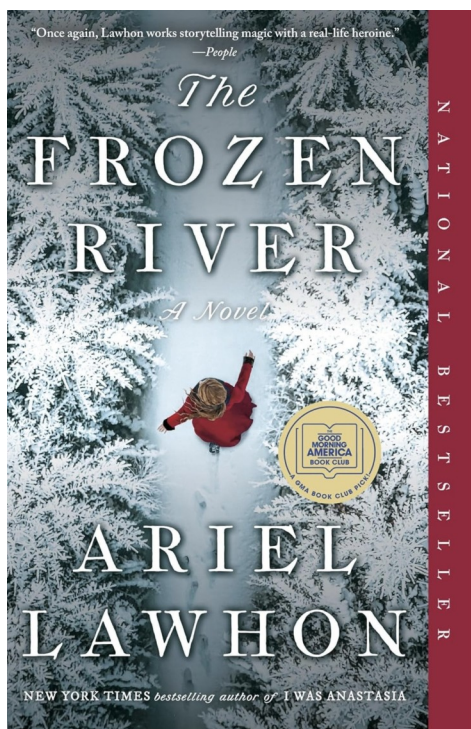


Prayer Share Care Women's Bible Study

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: mwiss43@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 Family Promise 5/10-17

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.

The LoC Board of Directors will be discussing a proposal for a Cooling Station on Tuesday, May 12, at 6:00 pm. It will be the first thing on the agenda. This meeting, like all of our Board Meetings, are open to the Love of Christ community



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 Music, Confirmation/Youth Group. Beginning at 5:30, there is a light meal with everything else starting at 6:00 pm.

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:

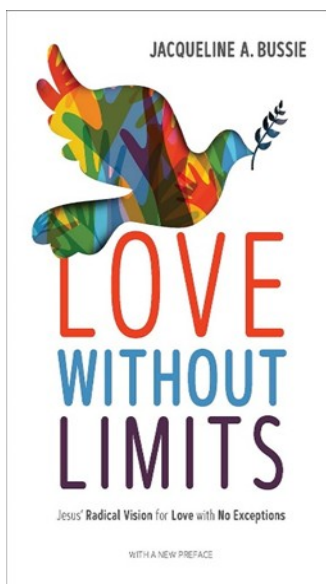
- Build meaningful, lasting friendships
- Encourage and equip moms to lead with love
- Grow the church by nurturing families in faith
- Bring mothers and their families closer to Jesus

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 17:22-31

with Pastor Steve Talmage

(13 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/4GS4Tszd4DA>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/4518848685060454/>

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

Scripture Lesson

A Brief Look at John 14:15-21

With Pastor Steve Talmage

(10 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/yULr6U7u-HQ>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1650837339522210/>

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

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

some on



&



Pastor Steve Talmage “The Gift of an Advocate ”

Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

“Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect. Main-

tain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

John 14:15-21

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”