



Love of Christ Lutheran Church

1525 North Power Road
Mesa AZ 85205

Fax: (480) 832-2583
Office: (480) 981-6199

Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 17, 2026



Before the World Existed

Our reading today takes us to Jesus praying for his disciples. This is the last chapter of Jesus' farewell discourse. If we take a close look, we see that Jesus is praying for his disciples and for the unity of his disciples in a hostile world. Though these verses speak only of the disciples of Jesus' lifetime, these verses helped sustain the Christian communities that followed, as they saw themselves in this prayer as well.

In this prayer we hear Jesus offering words of comfort, truth as to who he is, and compassion for his followers. He lifts them up to the Father and prays for their protection and wants, more than anything, for them to continue to act as one. In this prayer we see a window into the heart of Jesus, displaying for all disciples, the intimate bonds of love that connect the Father, the Son, disciples from age to age, and all flesh, being caught up in the life of God now and forever. And I wonder, how does this prayer of Jesus for his disciples shape and inform the lives of us disciples today who continue to follow him?



Pastor Steve will be on vacation Friday, May 15-Tuesday, May 19.



Over the past 1700, years how have Christians understood engaging in War?

Just war theory is historically rooted in Western thought, often attributed to thinkers like Saint Augustine (354-430CE) and Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274CE), and consists of two main and one secondary branches:

Jus ad Bellum (Conditions for Going to War):

Just Cause: War is allowed to fight for justice, typically for self-defense or correcting a severe wrong.

Legitimate Authority: War must be declared by a lawful government or body, not private actors.

Right Intention: The goal must be to achieve a just peace, not for territorial expansion or vengeance.

Last Resort: All non-violent alternatives must have been exhausted.

Proportionality: The good achieved by war must outweigh the expected death and damage.

Reasonable Chance of Success: A war that is hopeless is immoral because it causes senseless deaths.

Jus in Bello (Conduct During War):

Discrimination/Non-combatant Immunity: Weapons and tactics must distinguish between combatants and civilians.

Proportionality in Action: The violence used in any specific action must not exceed what is necessary to achieve the military objective.

Jus Post Bellum (Justice After War): This newer branch focuses on the morality of peace settlements, reconstruction, and ensuring the long-term peace is better than the alternative.

Key Principles and Modern Applications

Self-Defense: The most common justification for war, often comparing states to individuals who have the right to protect themselves from attack.

Modern Relevance: The framework remains crucial in assessing modern conflicts, such as the invasion of Ukraine, where Russia's actions are considered unjust and Ukraine's actions as defensive.

Limitations: Modern weapons (such as nuclear weapons) are often argued to be impossible to use within the constraints of jus in bello (discriminate, proportionate).



Time of war

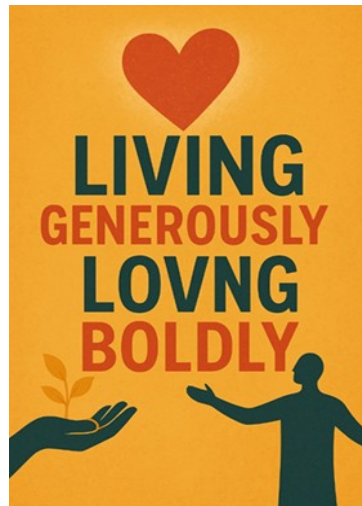
Eternal God, whose steadfast love never ends, we ask that you look upon the nations now engaged in war and hasten the day of peace. Look in mercy on those exposed to peril, conflict, sickness and death; and show compassion to the dying. In your good providence, remove all causes and occasions of war. Incline the hearts of all people to follow the path to peace and concord, that war may cease and the day of reconciliation may come quickly, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Those Who Suffer from War

Merciful God, you grieve amid the pain, fear and suffering of your children. Look with compassion on all who endure the miseries of war. Be mindful, too, of those who day and night face peril in defense of our nation. Guide them in their duties as they seek justice for those subjected to tyranny and liberty for those who are oppressed. Eternal Protector of the helpless, hear the cry of the distressed and grant speedy deliverance in a new day of peace and concord. Amen.

Those in the country's service in a time of war

Almighty God, let your protection be upon all those who are in the service of our nation. Guard them from all danger and harm; sustain and comfort those at home, especially in hours of anxiety, loneliness, and sorrow. Prepare the dying for death and the living for your service. Uphold those who bear arms on land and sea and in the air; and grant unto us and all nations a speedy, just and lasting peace, the glory of your holy name. Amen.



Lessons from Philippians 4:10-19

Of all the churches Paul affirmed as an example of a community which lived generously and loved boldly it was the Philippians. Read these words of thanksgiving the apostle affirms so others might learn from their example:

I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. 11Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. 12I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances

I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. 13I can do all things through him who strengthens me. 14In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress. 15You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you alone.

16For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my needs more than once. 17Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that accumulates to your account. 18I have been paid in full and have more than enough; I am fully satisfied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. 19And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus

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

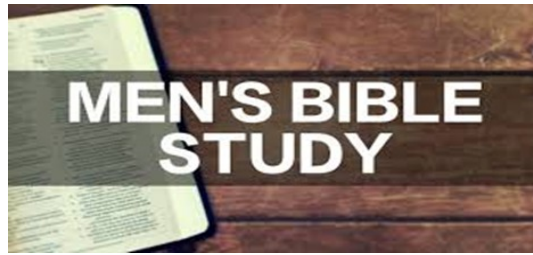


Join us for a gathering on Sunday, May 17th at noon in the fellowship hall.

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 June 8th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome—invite your friends!

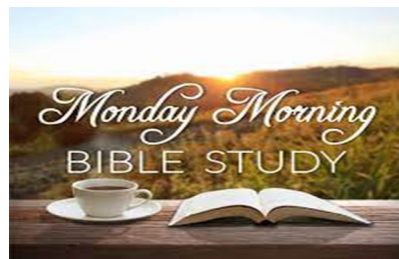


Monday Men's Bible Study on 1st Corinthians at 6:30-7:30AM in the Leadership Room.

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



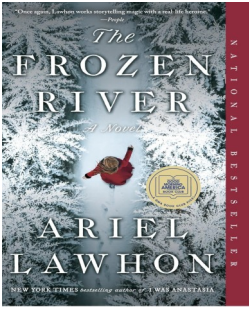
Monday Morning Bible Study in the Leadership Room.

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 at in the Leadership room (next to church office) tat 10:00 to discuss, The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon. This book won the award in 2025 for best in historical fiction. We look forward to seeing you.



Youth meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in Youth room.
Contact Mason Weatherly for more info at masonw@loclc.org



Confirmation

Confirmation will resume in September. Any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at nanette@loclc.org

Spring/Summer Overview for 2026 Save the Dates:

May Family Promise 5/10-17 Next Family Promise August 2-9.

June 11,12,13: Synod Assembly at LoC

June 15-19 Music Camp ages 5 and up

July 6-10 VBS



Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped make Family Promise such a success! For those who made the yummy meals, from the Hosts making everyone feel welcome, to the people who went shopping for groceries, to the overnighters! Each of you are such a blessing to this ministry. Our next Family Promise event will be August 2 to August 9. Please mark you calendars if you would like to serve by welcoming others, bringing in a meal, or by spending the night.



Last Day of Sunday School until Fall! 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.



Cooling Center at Love of Christ

Over the past several months, a sub-team from the Faith in Action Team, along with several interested congregational members, has been prayerfully discerning “**what is needed**” in our community during the intense summer heat. As followers of Christ, we continue to ask how we are called to love our neighbors in practical and compassionate ways, especially those who are most vulnerable.

As part of this discernment, members of the group visited “Friends at First,” a Methodist church in downtown Mesa that offers a Cooling Center ministry. Through this visit, they learned about both the growing needs within our community and the meaningful difference a place of welcome, rest, and safety can provide during the hottest months of the year. Members of the team also attended a City of Mesa Heat Relief workshop to better understand the challenges facing our city and the opportunities for churches to serve.

On Tuesday, our LOC Board unanimously agreed to the proposal that the Living Water Team presented. This is what they approved:

- The Cooling Center at Love of Christ is only ***on a trial basis*** for the month of July. **The center will be open for three hours only on Sunday afternoons from 2:00-5:00.**
- The Cooling Center will have resource information for those who come in.
- There will be a paid off-duty Police Officer present when the center is open.
- The volunteers will go through training.
- There will be a camera set up in the Outreach Room and Valley Metro Bus Passes will be available for anyone who needs one.
- Volunteers must be in place before June 20th. Or the Center will not open.
- The Cooling Center will provide water and a sack lunch for those who may want it.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact any LoC Board member. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Charles Martiny (cmartiny@cox.net) or Pastor Nanette (nanette@loclc.org).

As we continue to seek God’s guidance in how we serve and love our neighbors, we pray for open hearts, wisdom, and discernment as we consider how God may be calling Love of Christ to serve the least, the lost, the little, and the lame.

The Living Water Team: Melissa Riner, Hugh Kirchway, Cindy Wallin, Patti Delaney, and Charles Martiny

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:

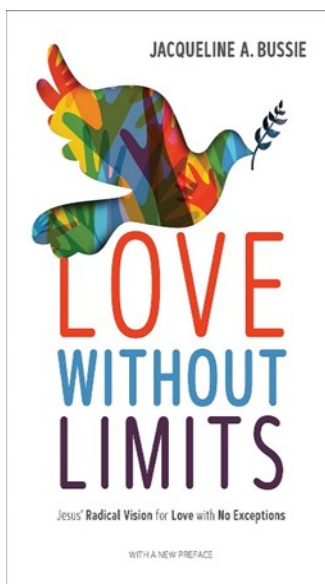
- Build meaningful, lasting friendships
- Encourage and equip moms to lead with love
- Grow the church by nurturing families in faith
- Bring mothers and their families closer to Jesus

Join Us! Location: Love of Christ

📅 When: **Next meeting June 3rd**, 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, June 3rd 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 1:6-14
with Pastor Nanette Christofferson
(13 min)

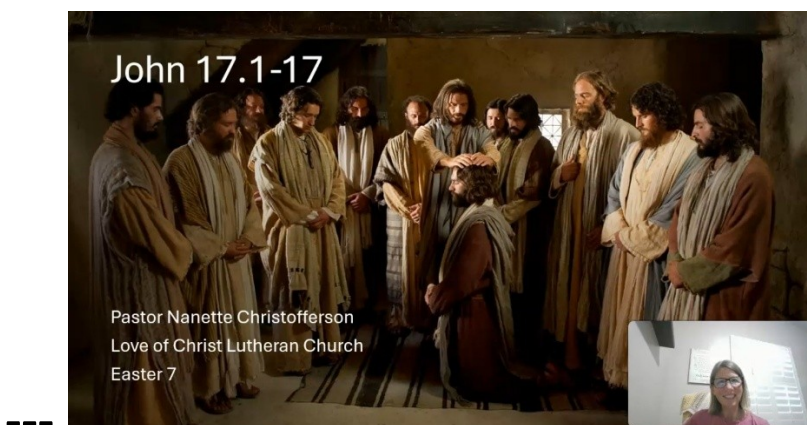


YouTube: <https://youtu.be/HThQr04SDdU>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1511645663682142/>

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

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at John 17:1-11
With Pastor Nanette Christofferson
(11 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/DJz6WvoCqZ8>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1511928830464556/>

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

Sunday, May 17, 2026, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on  & 

Pastor Nanette Christofferson “Before the World Existed ”

Acts 1:6-14

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

1 Peter 4:12-14: 5: 6-11

Suffering as a Christian

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

John 17:1-11

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.