



# Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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## Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

E-News for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Pentecost, June 7th, 2026



### **“I Desire Mercy, not Sacrifice”**

Easter is followed by the season of Pentecost. Half of a year is devoted to lessons from Jesus about what the kingdom or reign or realm of God is like, what does it mean to be a follower of his, and how broad and inclusive Jesus' love really is. We return to Matthew, our primary Gospel for this church year. Coming out of Easter, we move backwards to pre-resurrection and pre-Pentecost, to relearn just like the disciples would do and eventually share as they were sent out. We are invited to pay attention to who Jesus invites to join him, whom he dines with, and who receives the gift of healing. We will witness the Jewish Scriptures, our Old Testament, be fulfilled in the words and actions of Jesus.



**Board of Directors meet in the Leadership Room on Tuesday, June 9 at 6PM. Meetings are open to the public.**



Writer Roger Rosenblatt has recently published some wonderful insights which have come through the gift of living to 85:

“Nobody’s thinking about you-they are thinking about themselves, just like you!”

“Is our capacity for our dreams greater than our fears.”

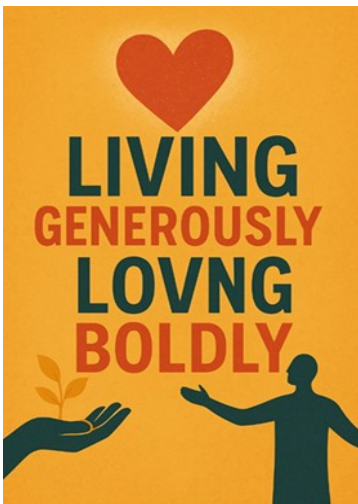
“If you didn’t know that before, you know it now. People you meet casually, those you’ve known all your life, the ones you’ll never see-everyone’s in pain. If you need an excuse to be kind, start with that.”

### “It Just Takes One”

A friend recently shared a story he had used in helping increase the generosity in his former congregation where he was a lay leader. Though I have since learned it more than likely is a story that circulated without any verification. Back in the early days of pro football, the players did not earn the salaries they earn today, so they had to have day jobs beyond the little they were paid for their games.

The story went, many of the Green Bay Packers worked in a pickle factory packing jars of pickles. The linemen were given the job because of their strength to pack as many pickles as they could into the glass jars. They tightly jammed so many together you could turn the jar upside down and no pickle would budge. But when it came time to enjoy that jar of pickles, you just had to manage to get one out of the jar for the whole jar to become accessible.

For many people financial stewardship is like this little story. For a variety of reasons, many believe they must hold tightly to the resources which God has provided, but in reality they never really get to enjoy what they have been given because they are so concerned with holding tightly. The lesson of living generously takes place when one learns to gently and carefully share out of that hoard, and all sorts of amazing things begin to break loose filling one’s life with a previously unknown joy.





### **Mastering Money: Stewardship Webinar on Budgeting, Planning, and Generous Living**

How we manage money is deeply connected to how we live out our faith. The Grand Canyon Synod Stewardship Team invites congregational leaders and members alike to a practical and faith-centered webinar, “Mastering Money: Budgeting, Planning, and Living Generously,” on **Wednesday, July 15, 2026, from 6:30–8:00 PM** (Arizona and Nevada time). Register for the Webinar.

This online conversation will feature Duane Gilson, a retired electrical engineer, athlete, member and leader at Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church in Mesa, Arizona, and a member of the Grand Canyon Synod Stewardship Team. Duane brings both practical experience and a faith perspective to the often-challenging topic of money management.

The webinar will explore ways to approach budgeting and financial planning with intention while considering how generosity fits into a faithful life. Whether you are navigating personal finances, looking for practical tools, or reflecting on stewardship as part of discipleship, this session offers an opportunity to grow in confidence and purpose.

As Lutherans, we understand stewardship as more than finances alone—it is about responding to God’s abundance with gratitude, wisdom, and generosity. Thoughtful planning can help free us to live more intentionally and support the ministries and communities we care about.

Registration is free, but advance registration is requested. Register for the Webinar.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/LbtvPEsDTZK66H2Zojec6w#/registration>

### Music Notes....



Please contact Jung Lee at [jungmusic@loclc.org](mailto: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](mailto:ketts4az@gmail.com)

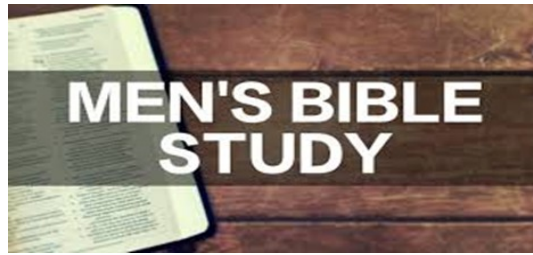
### Community Garden News



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](mailto:Dntoll74@gmail.com)



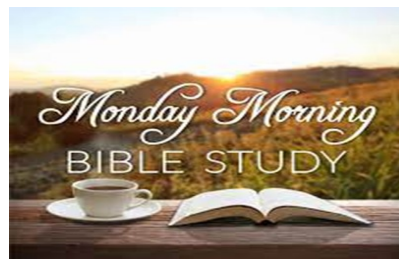
**Naomi Circle will meet on June 8th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome—invite your friends!**



**Monday Men's Bible Study on 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians at 6:30-7:30AM in the Leadership Room. Men of all ages are welcome to participate.**



**Online Video introductions provided by our pastors of Sunday Lectionary readings are offered each week. They may be found on Facebook, YouTube or [loveofchristchurch.net](http://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](mailto:mswiss43@gmail.com) and Ruth: [ruthleonard@icloud.com](mailto:ruthleonard@icloud.com) )



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



### **Confirmation**

Confirmation will resume in September. Any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at [nanette@loclc.org](mailto:nanette@loclc.org)

### **Faith Food and Fun**



Grades 4,5, and 6 will meet again on Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> for an Overnight event in the CoC. Please contact Laura Ontiveros or Pastor Nanette for more information.



Sunday School will begin in August! Children age 4 to grade 2 come to church with their parents and are dismissed for Sunday School after the Children's Message. They return to worship during Communion. For grades 3-6, Sunday school begins at 9:50 and they are done at 10:20. Sunday School takes place in the Godly Play room. For any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at [nanette@loclc.org](mailto:nanette@loclc.org).

**Summer Overview for 2026 Save the Dates:**

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

**June 15-19** Music Camp ages 5 and up. Register online

**July 6-10** VBS ages 4 -12. Register online

**Next Family Promise August 2-9.**

**Summer Donation Opportunities:**

**Donations for Sleep in Heavenly Peace:** New Twin size sheets any color

**Donations needed for sack lunches to be given to Church of Christ respite center and for our own cooling center. Items needed:**

**Tuna or Chicken packs, Vienna Sausage small cans with easy open lids, soft chewy granola bars, boxes of a variety of chips or crackers, Capri-Sun. These items for sack lunches will be collected throughout the summer. (June-September)**

**Vacation Bible School: Back to school supplies including backpacks, notebooks, pencils, markers, erasers, crayons, scissors, and glue sticks.**



**Water Donation:** 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 sent to these two organizations. If you would like to donate water, please place money labeled “Water Donation” in the offering plate, or go online and specify water donation, or bring a gift card.

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

### 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, May 12, the 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:cmartiny@cox.net)) or Pastor Nanette ([nanette@loclc.org](mailto:nanette@loclc.org)).

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](mailto: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:

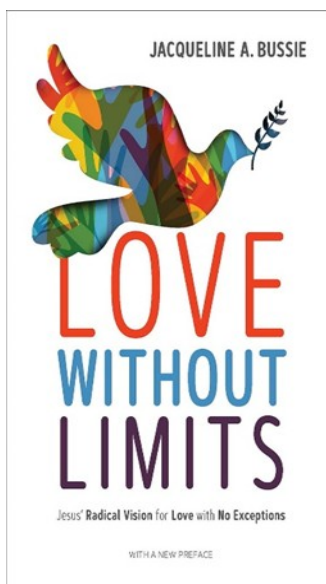
- Build meaningful, lasting friendships
- Encourage and equip moms to lead with love
- Grow the church by nurturing families in faith
- Bring mothers and their families closer to Jesus

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](http://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](mailto:norden6162@gmail.com)



Young Adults will meet again in July and do a service project! They will meet on July 12 at 12:00 in the CoC!



**The LOC Women's Hiking Group ~ June 13th** will be our next hike. You never know how hot June will be, so the plan is to do 2 short hikes close together in Payson. The first one will be **Ellison Creek Cascades. The hike is 1.5 miles RT.** There is no shade on the trail. However, the creek and the waterfall at the end of the trail are definitely worth the walk down the Forest Service Road. You could even cool off in the creek! Second hike will be the **Jimmy Harris Interpretive Trail.** This **interpretive 1.4 mile loop** on the Gila Community College–Payson campus follows a well-worn dirt path around the edge of campus. It's been reported that Elk hang out in this area. **Will meet at 7:00 and should be back by noon. Contact Person ~ Pat Shaw @ 480 334-9123.**

## BLANKETS FOR KIDS!!!



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

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

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

- Sewing around the edges

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

Pin the folded edges all around the edge;

Choose a decorative stitch on sewing machine and start sewing

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

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

OR

- Just fold the fabric over about  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  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

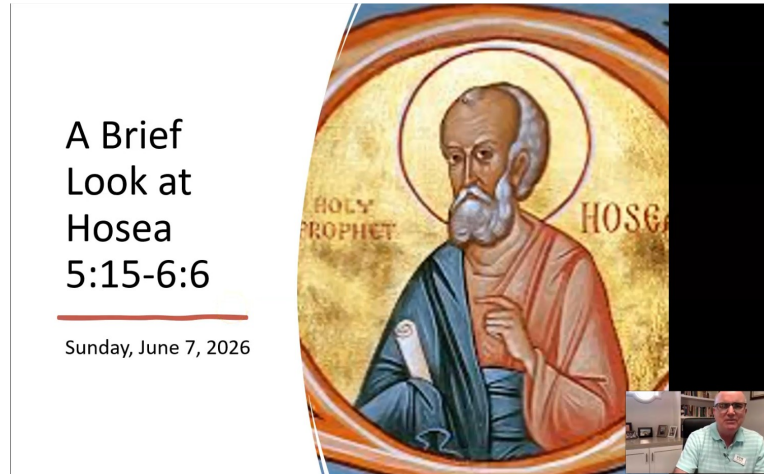
- If you have a rotary cutter, you can purchase wheels that will cut the slits in the fleece material the same distance and the slit created is large enough to slip the crochet hook through. Then follow the remaining directions.
- If you just folded and cut the slits;

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 Hosea 5:15-6:6**  
with Pastor Steve Talmage  
(14 min)

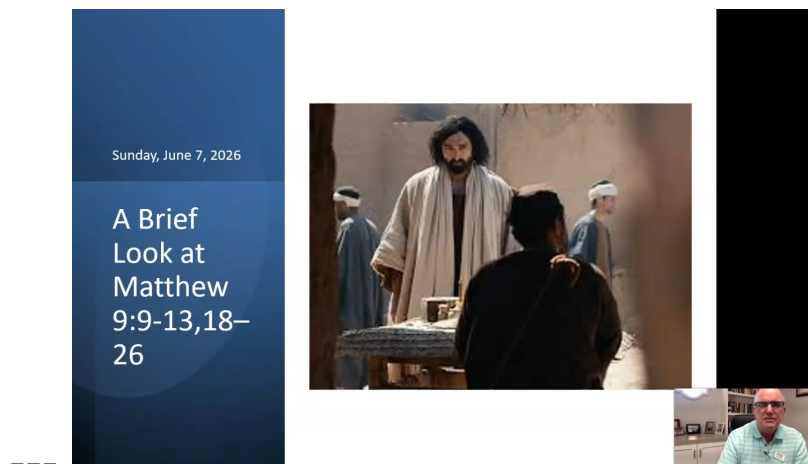


YouTube: <https://youtu.be/DOTMwcoeSCE>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1747779923238026/>

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

**Scripture Lesson**  
**A Brief Look at Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26**  
with Pastor Steve Talmage  
(14 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/AzwZ3FTfg6g>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1576687357541514>

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

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

some on  & 

## Pastor Steve Talmage “I Desire Mercy, not Sacrifice”

### Hosea 5:15-6:6

I will return again to my place  
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face.  
In their distress they will beg my favor:

“Come, let us return to the Lord,  
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;  
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.  
After two days he will revive us;  
on the third day he will raise us up,  
that we may live before him.  
Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord;  
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;  
he will come to us like the showers,  
like the spring rains that water the earth.”

What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?  
What shall I do with you, O Judah?  
Your love is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.  
Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets;  
I have killed them by the words of my mouth,  
and my judgment goes forth as the light.  
For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,  
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

### Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore “it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who

was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

### Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she was saying to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.” Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that moment. When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread through all of that district.