



Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

E-News for the 6th Sunday after Pentecost, July 5th, 2026



“It Doesn't Have to be so Hard”

As we gather following the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, we hopefully paused to acknowledge the freedom we hold so dearly came at great cost. It is easy to get nostalgic about our nation's glorious past, as well as become anxious about our nation's future.

We have been living through a season of unprecedented events and actions which can overwhelm us, tempting us to give up hope. Matthew's words of Jesus were given to a community who were reeling from the destruction of the walls of Jerusalem and the Temple of God in Jerusalem.

The Romans had crushed a Jewish rebellion demonstrating the political and military might of the Empire. People of faith were struggling to remain faithful. Times were filled with great anxiety and worry. Jesus words to his followers, Matthew's telling of those words to his congregation, and now to us are timely words to remember Jesus invites us to find peace, rest, and relief by accompanying us into whatever the day or the future will bring. It doesn't have to be so hard with Jesus sharing all things with us.



Funeral for Bev Gjersvig is on Saturday, July 11th at 9 am in the Sanctuary. Memorials may be given in Bev's name to Love of Christ, designated for either Faith in Action or Music Ministry.



Happy 250th Birthday America!
In Observance of the Holiday the Church Office will be closed Friday, July 3rd

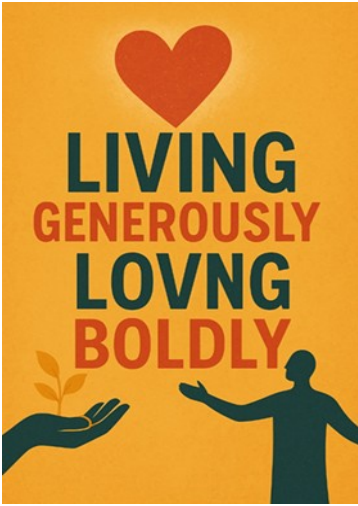
A prayer for our celebration:

Creator God may our nation remember you as the God of mercy and truth; that the fulfillment of your will may be our desire; that we may be healed from the motives of greed and revenge; that we may discover through you a deeper experience of prayer; that we may offer unselfish devotion to the well-being of our nation; that you would uphold and guide our president and all in authority; that you would defend and preserve our soldiers, sailors, and air force; and that all our people may seek courage and a spirit of endurance. Hasten the day of peace; to cast away the threads of hate; to forgive our enemies; to scatter any who delight in war; and renew steadfast faith within us. Amen.

CHIME CAMP!
RING TOGETHER, MAKE MUSIC!
Learn, play, and ring together!
KIDS FROM 3RD GRADE AND UP!
JULY 20 ~ 23
4PM ~ 6PM
IN THE GREENROOM
★ PERFORMANCE: SUNDAY, JULY 26 9AM & 10:30AM
PLEASE CONTACT **JUNG LEE** jungmusic@loclc.org

Summer Chime Camp

Registration is now open for children entering 3rd grade and up. The camp will be held July 20–23 from 4:00–6:00 PM in the Green Room.



40th Anniversary Gift Challenge Update

The Board of Directors chose to honor the 40th anniversary of the ministry of Christ through Love of Christ by challenging our congregation to raise \$40,000 by the end of 2026 to share to support new and emerging missions in our synod. Two were selected. First Evangelical Lutheran Church in downtown Mesa, which for two decades has been seeking to do ministry with its majority Hispanic neighborhood through hosting an LSS-SW Food Pantry, a public charter school, and offering community education offerings. They also continue to provide weekly worship led by Pastor Luis Ochoa. The other mission partner is Crossroads Lutheran Church in San Tan, which runs a coffee shop in downtown Florence, while worshipping in an industrial space shared with a Cross-Fit tenant. San Tan has been one of the fastest growing areas of the metro Phoenix area. Many large retirement communities have been planted in the Florence/San Tan area. Pastor Ryan Marsh has just begun a three-year commitment to develop this ministry to become self-sustaining.

**40th Anniversary \$40,000 Challenge Gift Update as of 6/22/26-
\$29,850.00**



VBS is July 6-10 from 8:30 am to 11:00 am

VBS is full, but we need more volunteers to help.
Thank you so much for all of your help and support; I am so grateful for you!

Laura Ontiveros



Our Hospitality Team takes a break in July. Hospitality in the Outreach Room will resume Sunday, August 2, 2026. Thank you to this servant-leading team for practicing extravagant welcome to all!



The next meeting of the LOC Book Club will be held on Sunday, July 19 at 10:15 am in the Leadership Room. We will be discussing

Theo of Golden by Allen Levi. Here is a synopsis of the book:

One Spring morning, 86 year old Theo arrives in the small Southern town of Golden. He doesn't explain much about where he came from or why he's there - but when he visits the local coffee-house, where pencil portraits of people of Golden hang on the walls, he begins purchasing them, one at a time, and giving each portrait to the person depicted. And so portrait by portrait, person after person, secrets are revealed, regrets are shared, and ordinary lives are profoundly altered.

A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen and the importance of connection and the miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder. Who is this Theo of Golden? Is he too good to be believed?



It seems like school just got out but it's already time to think about new school clothes for our children in need. There is a cardboard cactus in the narthex of the sanctuary and the COC.

On them will be tags with information about gender and size for a child's clothing. Please help yourself to a tag, or more, and bring the purchased clothes back to church and place them in the box labeled Back to School Clothing next to the cactus. The last Sunday for donating is July 12th. There are so many children that don't get new clothes for school. Remember how excited you were when you got to go shopping for new school clothes each summer? We would like to have that happen to children in need. You are a generous congregation and we thank you! If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda Vaglio, 509-741-7115.



Some Ways to consider a gift to the Love of Christ Endowment Fund

Online Will & Trust Builders: Platforms like FreeWill provide user-friendly digital tools to document your final wishes, draft legal wills, and easily include bequests to your favorite charities alongside your family.

Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs): Most Financial institutions like Thrivent, Fidelity, Vanguard, etc., offer DAFs, allowing you to invest appreciated assets tax-free and schedule ongoing charitable distributions or name successors to carry out your philanthropic legacy.

Direct Beneficiary Designations: You can directly name **Love of Christ Endowment Fund** as the beneficiary of traditional IRAs, 401(k)s, or life insurance policies without needing to rewrite an extensive will or estate plan.

For more information: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/endowment>

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

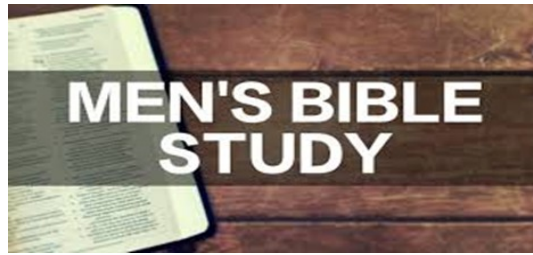
Community Garden News



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



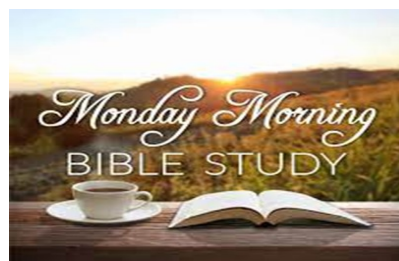
Naomi Circle will meet on July 13th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome—invite your friends!



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)



YOUTH AT LOVE OF CHRIST
CALLED. GATHERED. SENT.

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

Faith Food and Fun



Grades 4,5, and 6 will meet again on Sunday, July 12th for an Overnight event in the CoC. Please contact Laura Ontiveros (laurakuegemann@gmail.com) for more information.



COOLING CENTER

SUNDAYS IN JULY ONLY



2PM – 5PM



Love of Christ Lutheran Church

1525 North Power Road,
Mesa Arizona 85205



**AIR
CONDITIONING**

Cool indoor space
to relax.



WATER

Stay hydrated
with free water.



SNACKS

Light snacks
available.



**SERVICE
ANIMALS**

Service animals
are welcome.



FAMILIES WELCOMED

EVERYONE IS WELCOME.
STAY COOL. STAY SAFE.



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.

Summer Overview for 2026 Save the Dates:

July 6-10 VBS ages 4 -12 Begins this week! 8:30-11:00am

Family Promise August 2-9.

Donation Opportunities

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

Tuna or Chicken packs, Vienna Sausage small cans, soft chewy granola bars, boxes of a variety or chips or crackers, boxes of 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.

Living Water Cooling Center and meals at Christ's Church Respite Center

This July, Love of Christ Lutheran Church will open its doors on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. as a designated Cooling Center, providing a place of welcome, rest, and relief from Arizona's summer heat.

As temperatures continue to rise, many in our community face dangerous conditions, especially those who are unhoused or living in mobile homes and other residences that can become extremely hot during the day. Our Cooling Center will offer a safe, air-conditioned space where neighbors can come to cool down, enjoy a cold drink, and experience hospitality and care.

We are grateful for the overwhelming response from our congregation. At this time, we have all the volunteers needed to staff the Cooling Center throughout July. Thank you to everyone who has stepped forward to serve and to all who have supported this ministry through your prayers, encouragement, and generosity. If you have questions about this ministry please contact Charles Martiny at cmartiny@cox.net.



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.

Love of Christ is also partnering with Christ Church Respite Center, which serves members of the Mesa community who need a safe place of rest and support. In addition to our Cooling Center ministry, we will be helping provide meals on Fridays at the Respite Center. If you are interested in volunteering with this ministry, please contact Cindy Wallin (cgeorgen3199@gmail.com) or Melissa Weiss-Riner (melissa@azfls.com) for more information.

As we did last year we will also be providing sack lunches to Christ's Church Respite Center and for our Cooling Center as well. If you have any questions about this please contact Patti Delaney at pattidelaney03@gmail.com. Items needed for donation are listed above.

These ministries reflect our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul reminds us, "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). Through simple acts of compassion, hospitality, and service, we have the opportunity to care for our neighbors and share the love of Christ in tangible ways.

Please continue to keep these ministries, our volunteers, and all who seek refuge from the heat, hunger, or hardship in your prayers. May God use these efforts to provide comfort, safety, and a reminder that every person is valued, welcomed, and loved.

Company is Coming! Family Promise will be here Aug. 2-9

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.

(cont'd on next page)

Family Promise..cont'd

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.

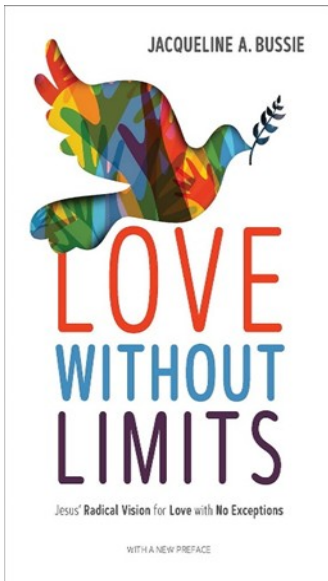
Here are some opportunities in which we can serve our guests:

Join the behind the scenes set up and tear down crew. Please contact Rhonda Vaglio at rvaglio128@gmail.com

Be a host and welcome our guests. Hosts stay for about 2 hours (5:30-7:30) and eat a meal with the families. Elizabeth Danielson is in charge of scheduling our hosts, please contact her at ekdanielson@gmail.com .

Prepare a dinner, or split dinner responsibilities with another friend/member. Patti Delaney is in charge of scheduling our cooks! Please contact her at pattidelaney03@gmail.com

Overnighters: There are not many times when a volunteer can serve the Lord in their sleep! We need people to spend the night as part of the requirement of Family Promise. The overnighiter usually arrives around 7:00 and leaves with the families at 5:30 am! Weekend times are 7:30 am. For more information on becoming an overnighiter please contact Rebecca and Jake Solomon at azsunnysolomons@gmail.com or Melissa Weiss Riner at melissa@azfls.com



Love Without Limits will meet on Wednesday, July 1st at 4:30pm in the Fellowship Hall - after July meeting will resume in September.

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!



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

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

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 Zechariah 9:9-12
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(12 min)

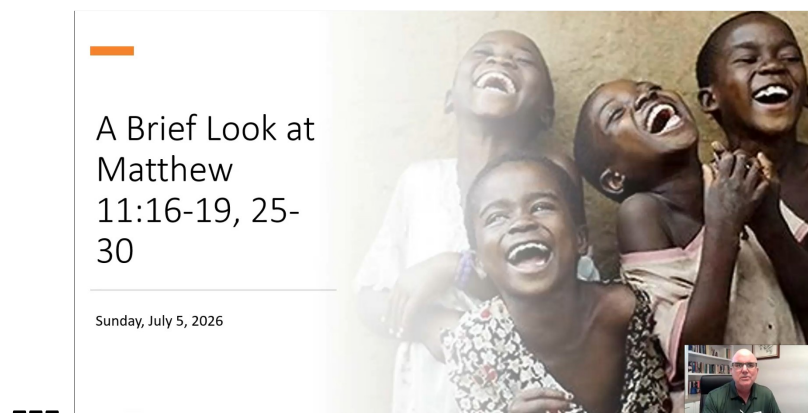


YouTube: <https://youtu.be/pfJDlcXkZCA>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/2434910256921348/>

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

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(7 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/lIAH1eQWWs>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/985433267702953/>

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

Sunday, July 5, 2026, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on



&



Pastor Steve Talmage “It Doesn’t Have to be so hard”

Zechariah 9:9-12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Romans 7:15-25

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”