

Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

E-News for the 7th Sunday after Pentecost, July 12th, 2026



"Parables"

Matthew chapter 13 is filled with many of Jesus' parables. Why does Jesus teach in parables? To fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world." (Matt. 13:35) Parables are an interesting way to teach as they often leave one to use their own imagination.

Perhaps our imaginations will lead us to ponder what the parable may have meant to the first century listener. Wherever our imagination may take us, the beauty of a parable brings new meanings and interpretations to help us to grow and to understand new ways of Jesus.

The parable of the Sower is a popular parable and asks us to think of it in a couple of different ways. Might we enter the understanding of the parable by wondering what does it mean to be a Sower?



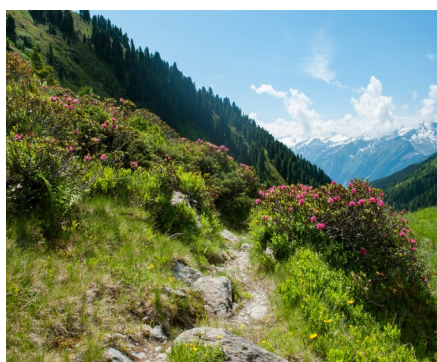
Our Hospitality Team takes a break in July. Hospitality in the Outreach Room will resume Sunday, August 2, 2026. Thank you to all the members of this servant-leading team for practicing extravagant welcome to all!



Lutheran Disaster Response is a trusted partner in helping Venezuela earthquake victims.

Learn more or donate at

<https://www.elca.org/giving/lutheran-disaster-response>

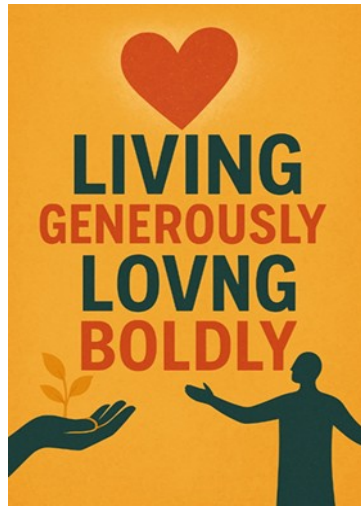


Mark your calendar for our next LOC Women's Hiking Group scheduled hike ~ July 11th, meeting at 7:00am. We did this hike back in August, 2015, at which time, I told Firetower Lookout Lady, Shirley, that we would come back. It's about time!! We will drive to Happy Jack and hike **Baker Butte** to visit her in her tower. Someone reported in May that she's still there and invites you to come on up. Short trail but it's uphill and then the climb up the steps. However, there's a loop she told us about and we can also hike that. **Hike to tower is .7 of a mile and the loop is about 3 miles. Contact by**



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.



Love of Christ Lives Generously and Loves Boldly through Sunday Cooling Center and VBS Service Projects: Backpacks, School Supplies, Friendship Bracelets, Sack Lunches



During VBS the children worked on service projects to help those in need. One of the projects was Blessing Bags. It was explained to the children that these bags were made to give to the homeless. The bags contain small sized hygiene products, non-perishable food, and bottled water.

Did you know that the children made enough Blessing Bags to be available at Love of Christ ALL year long? These bags will be located in the Narthex's in the COC and Sanctuary. Pick up a couple to distribute. Those in need are plentiful. Let's love our neighbor as ourselves.

Thank you,
Barbara Carlson
Jackie Rensel



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?



This Sunday, July 12th, is the last day to bring new school clothing for needy children. If you didn't grab a tag from the cactus, you can still purchase any type of clothing for children. Items can be pants (boy or girl), shorts (boy or girl), shirts (boy or girl), skirts, dresses, socks (boy or girl), underwear (boy or girl). Sizes run from 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, to 18. These children don't receive new clothes very often.

Remember when you were a child and got brand new clothes for school! It was so exciting, at least for me it was! Thank you for any brand new items you can donate. The children appreciate them. The clothing will be brought to Lutheran Social Services on July 13th. If you have any questions, please call 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



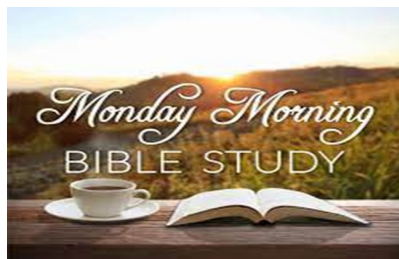
Naomi Circle will meet on July 13th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome—invite your friends!



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 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@locic.org.

Summer Overview for 2026 Save the Dates:

Blessings of the Backpacks 7/26. Bring your school backpack to the 9:00 service and receive a special tag for it.

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. (July-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:

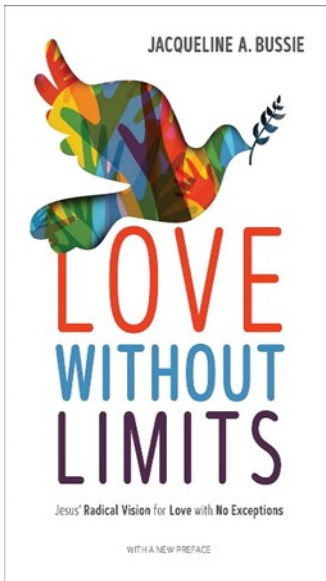
Join the behind the scenes set up and tear down crew.

Family Promise starts August 2nd and we are in need of volunteers for setting up on August 1st at 9:30 a.m., taking down on Sunday August 9th at 10:30 a.m., and laundry angels to wash the sheet sets and towels. Laundry is picked up at 10:45 on August 9th and returned to church during the week after Family Promise or the following Sunday, August 16th. We appreciate anyone that can help. If you can, please email Rhonda Vaglio at rvaglio128@gmail.com. Thank you to this congregation that is so willing to help both by volunteering and financial help. Blessings to all.

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



Women's Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study 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 Isaiah 55:10-13
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(11 min)

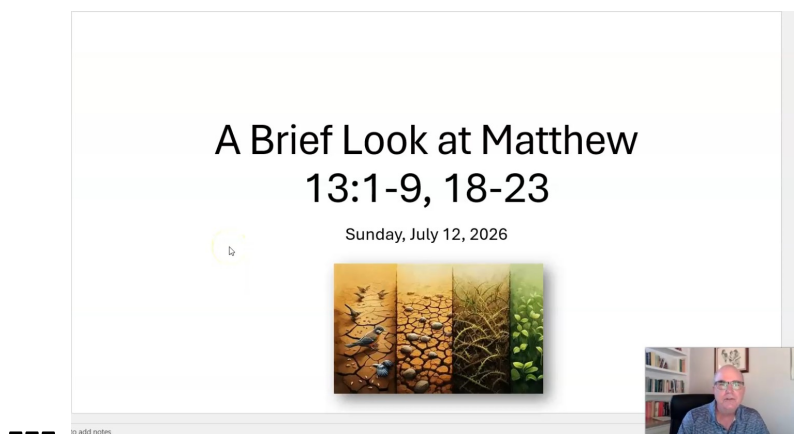


YouTube: <https://youtu.be/sNB8xywp8QY>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1322435160092360/>

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

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(13 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/4jVqHVLs7C8>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1046405021406328>

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

Sunday, July 12, 2026, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on  & 

Pastor Steve Crittenden “Parables”

Isaiah 55:10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the
earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Romans 8:1-11

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he

got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!”

“Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”