

Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

ENews for the 8th Sunday after Pentecost, July 19th, 2026



“Trusting in God’s Judgment”

The key teaching of Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43 (the Parable of the Weeds) centers on the coexistence of good and evil, God’s patience, and final judgment. In this present age, the righteous and the wicked coexist. It is not always possible—or wise—for humans to separate them.

God shows patience, allowing time for growth, repentance, and the full unfolding of human lives. Immediate judgment is withheld for the sake of mercy and preservation of the good. Ultimate justice is God’s responsibility, not ours.

There will be a clear and decisive judgment in God’s time. The task of believers is not to uproot others, but to live faithfully and trust God’s final sorting. This passage teaches that God allows good and evil to coexist for a time, exercising patience, but will ultimately bring about justice and restoration. It encourages humility, trust in God’s judgment, and perseverance in faithful living.



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!

Our Sympathy & Comfort to:

To Scott, Cindy & Bill Bredeson on the loss of Bobbi Bredeson..service on 7/25 at 11AM in Sanctuary.

To the family and friends upon the death of Allan Thompson, LOC Choir Member/ Winter Visitor.





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>

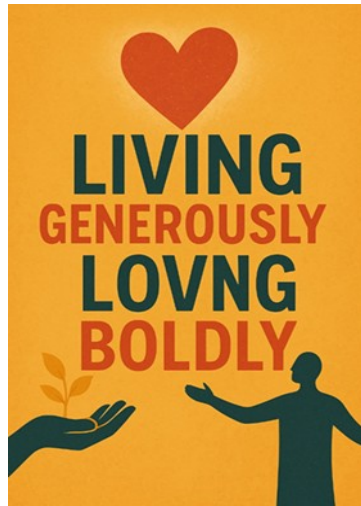


The LoC Board of Directors did not meet in July. Next meet Tuesday, August 11 at 6PM in the Leadership Room



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





The next meeting of the LOC Book Club will be held this **Sunday, July 19 at 10:15 am** in the Leadership Room. We will be discussing Theo of Golden by Allen Levi.



Our congregation goes above and beyond in everything we do. We just finished a back to school clothing drive and as the picture shows, you were awesome! There were eleven bags of clothes for boys and girls sizes 6 to 18. I have to say that at the beginning of the drive there were very few donations. I was concerned. But I should have known you would come through in the end. So many children will benefit from your generosity. If they could visit our church they would give you a huge thank you. But you will have to take the thanks from me on behalf of the children. God bless you all for the generosity you give throughout the year.

Rhonda Vaglio



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

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

If you are 70½ or older, you can direct money straight from your Traditional IRA to the endowment fund.

Tax Advantage: The distribution is completely excluded from your taxable income.

RMD Fulfillment: If you are 73 or older, a QCD counts directly toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for the year.

Annual Cap: You can transfer up to \$105,000 annually (indexed for inflation) without paying income tax on the withdrawal.

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



Thank you for your living generously and loving boldly.

Our June financial report from Dick Beckman:

Income \$73,297 against budget of \$70,100 for **a favorable variance** of \$3,197 or 4.6%

Expenses \$77,947 against budget of \$86,735 for **a favorable variance** of \$8,788 or 10.1%

YTD Favorable Income variance to budget \$16,532 added to Favorable spending to budget \$39,880 totals **a net gain** against our budget of \$56,412.

Thank you for our faithful and regular financial support as we manage what you entrust so we can share the love of Christ inside and outside the walls of this congregation!

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



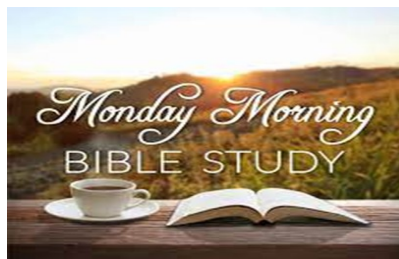
Naomi Circle will meet on August 10th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome—invite your friends!



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, August 9th. 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:

Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, July 26 9:00 am Kids bring your backpack and you will receive a special something to put in 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



Thank
You

Thank you for everyone who helped with Vacation Bible School.

A special thank you to Laura Ontiveros for leading our VBS! We are so fortunate to have had 100 kids who learned about Jesus. Who knows what the Holy Spirit will be doing in their lives! Also, thank you for the many donations for the backpacks, sack lunches, and water bottles! This congregation is "blessed to be a blessing".



Dear Pastor Talmage, Pastor Christofferson, and Love of Christ family and friends,

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."

The Old and New Testaments are filled with callings to care for the physical needs of our brothers and sisters. Through your gift, in memory of Pastor Don Thompson, Love of Christ is answering this calling.

As a family, we traveled to the Navajo Lutheran Mission at Rock Point on the Navajo Nation every summer for 25 years, first with Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church and then with Love of Christ, working in community, building relationships, and learning first hand the generosity, grace, and deep hospitality of the Navajo people. We received more in return than we gave, and with your generosity we are able to show our gratitude to the community of Rock Point, and help provide resources that will help the Mission nourish bodies and foster community.

Your generosity provided a full suite of commercial kitchen equipment to the Hózhó Cafe, which operates out of House of Prayer Lutheran Church at the Mission, providing essential meal services to its community. This gift carries on the legacy of our father and husband Don Thompson, and we are beyond grateful for helping make this possible.

Love in Christ,

Linda, Nathan, Moses, Micah, and Isaac Thompson

www.nelm.org/hozho-cafe





Women's Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, September 2nd at 4:30 in the Fellowship Hall with a study on Ephesians.



Watch enews for next Young Adult meeting!

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 44:6-8
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(11 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/15-cRBO5wBM>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/3559120627598346/>

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

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(11 min)



YouTube: https://youtu.be/iSi48-B_3uk

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1491407376076282/>

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

Sunday, July 19, 2026, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on



&



Pastor Steve Talmage “Trusting in God’s Judgement”

Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?^[a]
Let them tell us^[b] what is yet to be.
Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?

Romans 8:12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness^[b] with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not

sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!