

Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

ENews for the 10th Sunday after Pentecost, August 2nd, 2026



“ All Ate and Were Filled”

The narrative of the feeding of the crowds in the wilderness is notably straightforward. Jesus was moved by compassion for the crowds and healed them. Late in the day, the disciples assessed the situation (in the wilderness there is nothing for the hungry crowds to eat) and perhaps they, too, were moved by compassion when they suggested the crowds be sent to nearby towns where they could buy food. Jesus had another idea: feed them right here with what we have.

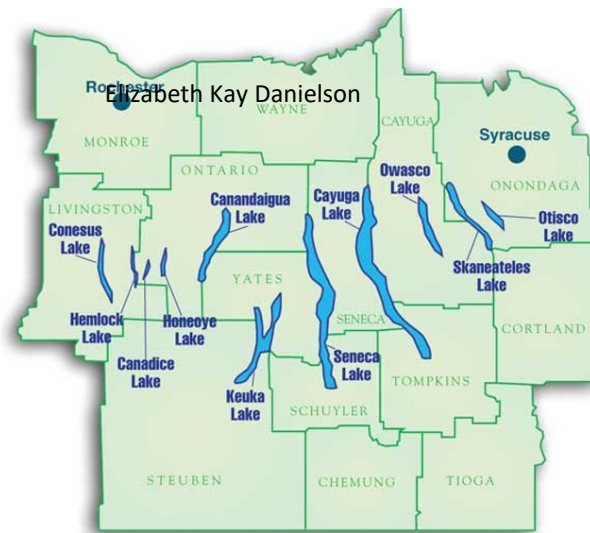
Taking the five loaves and two fish the disciples had on hand, Jesus blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples. The disciples fed the crowds, numbering five thousand men, plus women and children. Everyone had enough to eat, and they gathered up the leftovers. The story does not tell us how the hungry crowd is fed in the wilderness; only that no one leaves hungry. And so the story invites us to use our imaginations. (from Dr. Marilyn Salmon 2008 wp.org)



Thank you to Pastor Steve Crittenden and Board member Laura Ontiveros for providing worship leadership on August 2.



Our Hospitality Room is open today, Sunday, August 2. Thank you to all the members of this servant-leading team for practicing extravagant welcome to all!



Pastor Steve and Barb are on vacation July 27 through August 7. They are celebrating their son's 40th birthday at his home in Geneva, NY at the northern tip of Seneca Lake, in the Finger Lakes region of NY.

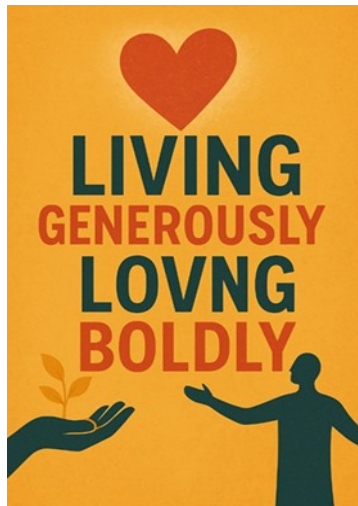
Food Bank

Don't forget our hungry neighbors this summer. We collect donations in boxes outside worship spaces and deliver them bi-weekly to the Lutheran Social Services food pantry at First Evangelical Lutheran Church.

They always need peanut butter and cereal. For individuals experiencing homelessness, the pantry has requested individual servings of food that doesn't require cooking, such as canned or foil-packed meats, fruit cups, drink boxes, granola bars, etc.

Elizabeth Danielson





Ready for the Great Wealth Transfer?

Maybe you've heard: The largest wealth transfer in U.S. history is now under way, with \$124 trillion in private wealth projected to change hands by 2048, according to Cerulli Associates. That's a lot of cash, though it isn't all cash. Over the past century, today's elder generations—particularly Baby Boomers and the Silent Generation—have accumulated considerable wealth in many forms, from stocks and croplands to life insurance policies, business equity and beyond. The so-called Great Wealth Transfer will include it all. Millennials and Generation X stand to inherit most of this wealth, **while an estimated \$18 trillion will pass to charities**, per Cerulli.

What does it all mean for you and your family? The answer depends on whether you expect to pass on or inherit wealth of any kind or quantity in the near future. Regardless of net worth, the most effective way to ensure your wealth goes where you want when you're gone—and long before—is to create a plan. Many have found finding a trusted and certified financial planner can be very helpful.

- Update your beneficiaries
- Plan for non-cash assets
- Write things down
- Talk about Taxes



Lutheran Disaster Response is a trusted partner in U.S Communities impacted by Wildfires and Flooding. Learn more or donate at :

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



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



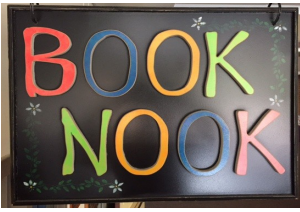
Community Garden News

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



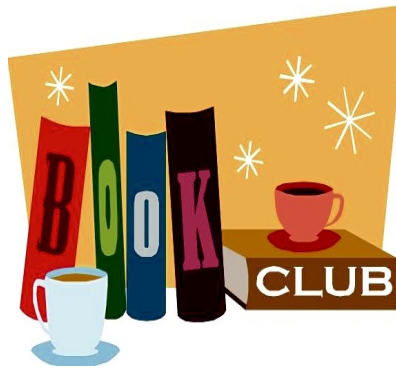
Naomi Circle will meet on August 10th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome—invite your friends!

Book Nook News



The **Book Nook** is looking for donations of new or used books that you no longer need or want to save. Our book supply has not been replenished for a while, and we are looking for books that would be of interest to people shopping in the Book Nook on Sunday mornings. We are especially looking for novels, nonfiction books, and books of a religious/spiritual nature published within the last 10 years which would be from 2016-2026. If you have any to donate, please drop them off at the Book Nook on Sunday morning or they can be dropped off in the church office during weekdays. Barb and I thank you in advance.

Penny Day



The LOC Book Club will meet on Sunday, September 13th at 10:15 am in the Leadership Room (next to the church offices) to discuss **My Friends** by Fredrik Backman.

He has written a number of books that may be familiar to you; **A Man Called Ove**, **Beartown**, and **My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry** to name a few.

Here is a synopsis of **My Friends**:

Louisa, soon to be eighteen years old and an aspiring artist herself, notices three tiny figures sitting at the end of a long pier in the corner of one of the most famous paintings in the world. She is determined to find out the story behind these three enigmatic figures and embarks on a surprise filled cross country journey to discover how the painting came to be.

More than two decades before, in a distant seaside town, a group of teenagers find refuge from their bruising home lives by spending long summer days on an abandoned pier telling silly jokes, sharing secrets and committing small acts of rebellion. They find in each other a reason to get up every morning.

The friendship of these individuals shapes not only their futures but Louisa's as well.

"The world is full of miracles but none greater than how far a young person can be carried by someone else's belief in them".

Please come join us as we explore **My Friends** on September 13th and be sure to stop on the way at the Hospitality Room for coffee and a treat.

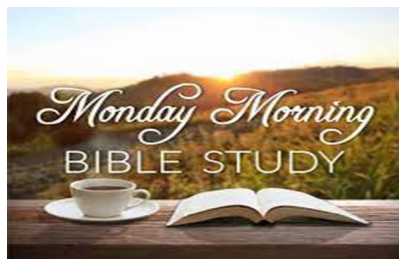
We look forward to seeing you!



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 10:30AM, 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 PM 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 will be meeting on Sunday's for Sunday Morning Hangout beginning August 16th from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

Contact Mason Weatherly 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 3:30-5:00 pm. Please contact Laura Ontiveros (laurakuegemann@gmail.com) for more information.



Sunday School will begin on August 30th! Sunday School is offered for ages pre-K-6th grade. Sunday School takes place in the Godly Playroom. Children come to church with their parents and are dismissed for Sunday School after the Children's Message. They return to worship during Communion. For families that attend 10:30 church Sunday School is offered at 10:00 -10:25. Sunday School takes place in the Godly Playroom. For any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at nanette@loclc.org

Summer Overview for 2026 Save the Dates:

Family Promise August 2-9.

Sunday School Begins August 30

Donation Opportunities

Donations needed for sack lunches to be given to Christ's Church respite 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. (August—September)

Meals at Christ's Church Respite Center

Love of Christ is partnering with Christ Church Respite Center, 933 N.Lindsey Rd, which serves members of the Mesa community who need a safe place of rest and support. We are 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. 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.



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.

**Thank
You**

Thank You for Supporting the Living Water Cooling Station

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make the Living Water Cooling Station a success. We are deeply grateful to the 25 volunteers who were willing to complete training and step forward in service to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Your willingness to try something new was a wonderful witness to Christ's love.

While only four guests visited the center during our trial run, Pastor Steve and I are celebrating something much bigger than attendance. We discovered a congregation that continues to step out in faith and respond to God's call. Most importantly, we discovered new opportunities to partner with other faith communities in locations that may better serve those in need.

Every new ministry begins with a first step. This experience has given us valuable insight and has opened doors to future possibilities. We are excited to see where the Holy Spirit will lead us as we continue to discern new ways to serve our community.

Thank you to everyone who prayed, donated supplies, volunteered your time, and were willing to explore new possibilities. Your generosity has laid a strong foundation for whatever comes next.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to the Living Water Cooling Station Team: Charles Martiny (Chair), Patti Delaney, Melissa Riner, Cindy Wallin, Hugh Kirchway, Rebecca Solomon, Jake Solomon, and Eliza Brunner. Thank you for your leadership, dedication, and hours of planning and preparation. We would also like to extend a thank-you to the LoC Board of Directors for their support in this project as well.

May we continue to welcome all people with the love of Christ, trusting the promise:

"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (Romans 15:7)

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.

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 overnighter usually arrives around 7:00 pm and leaves with the families at 5:30 am! Weekend times are 7:30 am. For more information on becoming an overnighter 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 on Wednesday, September 2nd at 4:30PM in the Fellowship Hall with a study on Ephesians.



Watch enews for next Young Adult meeting!



Backpacks will be delivered to the following locations:

Salk ES

Falcon Hill ES

Wilson ES

La Mesa Family

Thank you to our generous congregation who gave 120 backpacks filled with school supplies. There will be some happy children!

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 55:1-5
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(9 min)

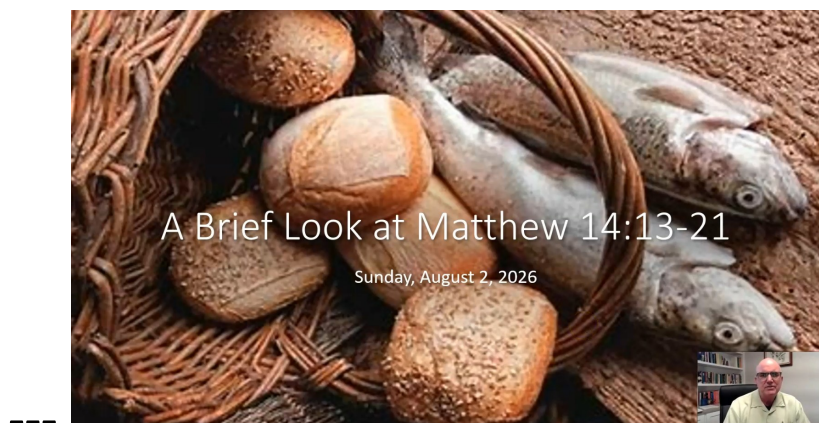


YouTube: <https://youtu.be/ElKhdsRNfIU>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1061532843181225/>

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

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Matthew 14:13-21
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(7 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/ZLvZ7sY9WJw>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/913093665156048/>

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

Sunday, August 2nd, 2026, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on  & 

Pastor Steve Crittenden “All Ate and Were Filled”

Isaiah 55:1-5

Hear, everyone who thirsts;
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is
not bread
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to
you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of
Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Romans 9:1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying;
my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— I
have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my
heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed
and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own
brothers and sisters, my own flesh and
blood. They are Israelites, and to them belong
the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving
of the law, the worship, and the promises; to
them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according
to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is
over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Matthew 14:13-21

Feeding the Five Thousand

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from
there in a boat to a deserted place by himself.
But when the crowds heard it, they followed him
on foot from the towns. When he went ashore,
he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion
for them and cured their sick. When it was evening,
the disciples came to him and said, “This is a
deserted place, and the hour is now late; send
the crowds away so that they may go into the villages
and buy food for themselves.” Jesus said
to them, “They need not go away; you give them
something to eat.” They replied, “We have nothing
here but five loaves and two fish.”

And he said, “Bring them here to me.” Then he
ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass.
Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he
looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the
loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the
disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate
and were filled, and they took up what was left
over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets
full. And those who ate were about five thousand
men, besides women and children.