

Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

E-News for the 12th Sunday after Pentecost, August 16th, 2026



“Faith Where You Least Expect It”

We encounter a contrast in our Gospel this week between religious right thinking and believing leaders focusing on rules and rituals at the expense of relationships. Jesus invites them to consider they are missing God's main point of growing relationships through love not rule-keeping.

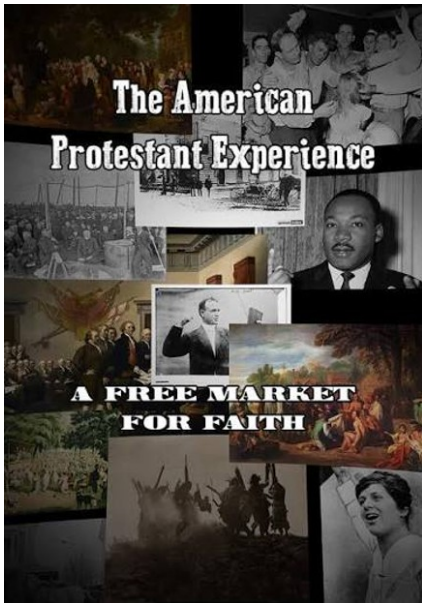
Then we shift to his encounter with a Gentile woman who has a sick daughter. We need to unpack some of the exchange. The woman is a Canaanite, a Gentile outsider, yet she recognizes Jesus as “Lord” and “Son of David.” True faith is not limited to insiders; it can arise where it is least expected. Jesus' initial silence and his statement about being sent “only to the lost sheep of Israel” reflect the historical focus of his mission. His words about “children's bread” and “dogs” sound harsh, but they serve to draw out the woman's response.

Faith is often tested and refined through struggle and apparent resistance. The woman responds with authentic faith. Authentic faith is marked by humility, persistence, and confidence in God's mercy. Jesus' response reveals the expansive inclusion of God's reign on earth. God's saving mercy extends beyond ethnic and religious boundaries, anticipating the mission to the Gentiles.



Our Sympathy & Comfort to:

To Ray Sheaffer, Jim & Terry Reed on the loss of Ray's wife and sister of Terry Reed.
Celebration of Life on Saturday, August 15th at 10am in Sanctuary.



New Adult Study Starting Wednesday, September 9 at 6:00PM in the Fellowship Hall

It's no accident that America is home to a wide range of religious expressions. Immigrants brought their faith with them from around the globe and established churches and denominations. But the most unique quality of American religious life is the innovation and experimentation that takes place here. This makes this country a free marketplace for faith.

This series documents the eternal argument about the relationship between the church and civil authority. The country's founders, seeing the intolerance of the early immigrants, wisely sought to create a republic where faith could be practiced freely but where a theocracy would be avoided.



Church Potluck—sponsored by Hospitality Team

September 27th

5pm to 7pm

Rooms 48 thru 50 in Center of Compassion

The Hospitality Team is bringing back an LOC favorite social event - the church potluck. Please join us in the COC rooms 48-49-50 for fellowship and good food on Friday, September 27, from 5 p.m - 7 p.m.



Wondering what to bring to share? We are using the traditional “alphabet-what to bring” code:

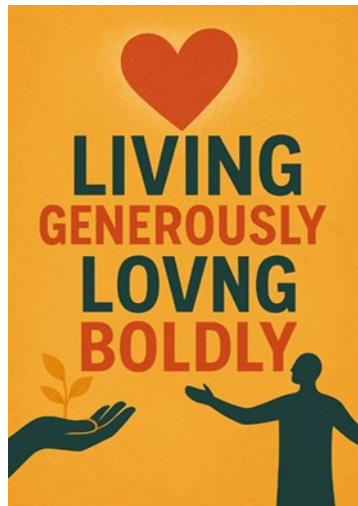
A-H: appetizer

I-P: main dish

Q-Z: dessert.

Hospitality will have our coffee bar.

Ask us questions at pattidelaney03@gmail.com, or at Hospitality Hour on Sundays in the Outreach Room. We look forward to sharing time together and hope to see you there!



Kingdom Logic

Remember the big crowd, five loaves, and two fish (Matt. 14:15-21)? Jesus said, "Give them something to eat." The disciples responded, "Lord, five loaves, two fish, big crowd? It doesn't fit." Jesus said, "Give them something to eat." And he said, "Throw out your nets." They did and caught fish, but not just as many as they needed. They caught so many, their nets could not hold all the fish. It is the same with the crowd. Jesus didn't just want to be sure everyone got a little piece of bread. There were twelve big baskets of leftovers! And the boat was so full of fish that Simon didn't know what to do with them.

Jesus breaks right through our normal logic. He is moving all of reality to the kingdom. Suddenly the fishermen were no longer living in the logic of the world. They had entered the logic of God's house, which is beyond all human logic. They had entered a whole new world. -Dr. Henri Nouwen



Continuing the Love of Christ Endowment News

Strategically, endowment funds allow good work to go on no matter what. Funds in endowment earn interest, and that interest is available to fund goals outside of the general church budget. Our LOC endowment creates a permanent fund of "enduring gifts to nurture faith among current and future generations, both locally and globally."

Endowment donors are part of the church's larger mission. Most donations to our Endowment Fund come from members and friends who leave a legacy gift as part of their estate plan. As of June 30, 2026, our LoC Endowment Fund balance is \$146,071.29. To learn more about this Fund go to <https://loveofchristchurch.net/endowment>

Now the Feast and Celebration

Marty Haugen

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Our Traditional 7:50 and 10:30 Liturgy in the Sanctuary will move on Sunday, August 23 to Marty Haugen's "Now the Feast and Celebration" for the last half of the Pentecost Season.

Music Notes....



Please contact Jung Lee at jungmusic@loclc.org for how you can be involved with the music program.

Choir practice begins September 10, 6PM to 8PM in Sanctuary.

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



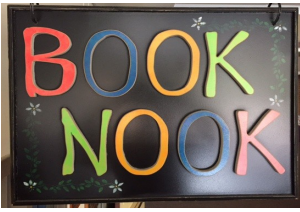
Community Garden News

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



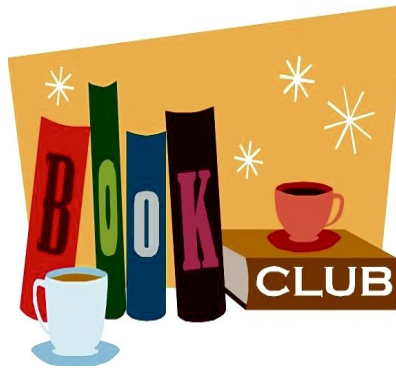
Naomi Circle will meet on September 14th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome—invite your friends!

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.

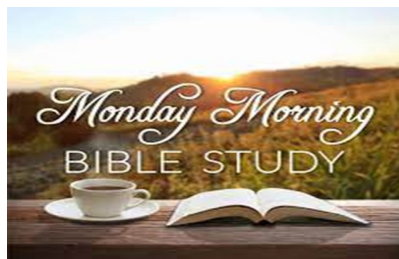
We look forward to seeing you!



**Monday Men's Bible Study on 2nd 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@locic.org



Confirmation

Confirmation Parent and Student Meeting Wed. August 19 at 6:00 pm

Confirmation will begin on Wed. August 26, from 6:00-7:00 pm

Faith Food and Fun



Grades 4,5, and 6 will meet on Sunday, September 20, 3:30-5:00 pm. Please contact Laura Ontiveros (laurakuegemann@gmail.com) for more information.

Refugee Family Co-Sponsorship with Lutheran Social Services Update

Love of Christ's (LoC) Co-Sponsorship Team has supported the Ali family for more than a year. We met them in March 2025 through Lutheran Social Services' Co-Sponsor program and have worked with them regularly since. The Alis are a Kurdish refugee family of six, originally from Syria, who also lived in Iraq. Their four children include three boys and one girl. The father, is a chef at East Bite Mediterranean Cuisine in downtown Phoenix, while the mother, stays home to care for the children. One son has severe autism, which creates additional challenges for the family. Both older boys and their sister attend school in Tempe, and the youngest boy will start school next year. The children speak English well, but their parents do not.



When we first met the Ali family and asked what kind of help they needed most, both parents said they wanted to learn English. They said they could manage their other needs, but understood that learning English was essential to building a successful life in this country. Our Co-Sponsorship Team then developed a plan to support their English learning through several goals: meeting regularly to teach basic conversational English, providing self-study tools, enrolling them in online English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, assisting with other needs as they arose, and planning occasional social activities together.

To date, we have made progress on all of these goals and continue to support the family. Two team members meet with them weekly on a rotating basis to practice English vocabulary and sentence formation. LoC donated a laptop and an online English software license to support their self-study, and we helped enroll them in a live online ESL class that meets three times a week. Beyond English instruction, we have helped with other needs with support from various LoC groups and members, including food gift cards, back-to-school backpacks and supplies, back to school clothing for the children, and Christmas gifts. We also hosted two social gatherings with the Ali family and Co-Sponsor Team at a nearby park—one birthday themed picnic and one holiday-themed picnic—which provided a relaxed setting to spend time getting to know everyone personally.

We have a dedicated team and strong support from LoC. We continue to meet weekly with the family at their home apartment, giving them a low-pressure setting to practice English. Now that they are enrolled in an online ESL class, our role is focused on conversation practice and helping them apply what they are learning. We also help where we can with other needs, including support for their autistic son's education, administrative paperwork, and general guidance. Overall, this has been a rewarding experience for all of us and a meaningful reminder of the blessings and opportunities we often take for granted as citizens of this country. If you would like to learn more or join us, please contact Chris Norden at norden6162@gmail.com.



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@locic.org

Children and Youth Ministry Summer/Fall Overview for 2026 Save the Dates

Children's Musical Wed. Aug. 19 at 6:00 pm

Grades 4,5,6 meet Sunday, September 20, 3:30-5:00 pm in the CoC

Sunday School Begins August 30

Youth Sunday Hangout: Begins August 16 at 10:00 in the Youth Room

Confirmation Parent and Student Meeting Wed. August 19 at 6:00 pm

Confirmation will begin on Wed. August 26, from 6:00-7:00 pm

Service Opportunities Save the Date! (More to come in Sept.)

August/September Serving meals at Christ's Church Respite Center on Fridays.

October: Fall Festival October 23 5:00-7:00 pm

November: Feed My Starving Children: Nov. 5,6, and 7 Gift cards for food banks

December: Gifts for kids, Reverse Advent Boxes, and Family Promise

Ongoing Donations:

August/September: Donations for sack lunches at Christ's Church

Shelf stable food for Victory Food Bank and First Evangelical Food Bank



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 to all of the volunteers to make our week with our Family Promise Guests such a success. Our company will come again at from Dec. 27-Jan.3 2027! Here is a link for more information on Family Promise and all of the good things they are doing for unhoused families.

<https://familypromiseaz.org/how-we-work/>

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. (August-September)

Meals at Christ's Church Respite Center

Love of Christ is partnering with Christ Church Respite Center, 655 E. University Drive, 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. *We are Called, Gathered, and Sent to share the Love of Christ.*



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!

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.)

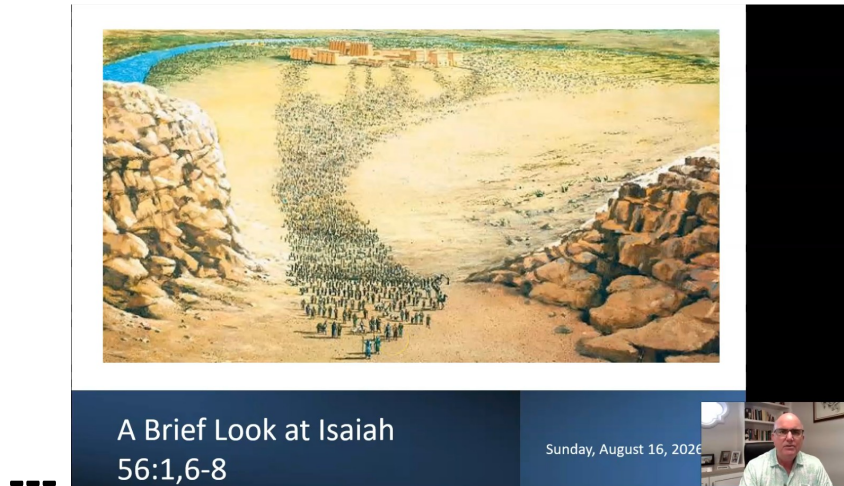
1. Start by creating a slipknot.
2. Insert the crochet hook through a slit in the fleece and pull the loop of the slip knot through;
3. Chain 3 times (create a chain by yarning over the hook and pulling it back through the initial loop.); chain only 2 times if you have used the rotary cutter;
4. Push 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 56:1, 6-8

with Pastor Steve Talmage
(8 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/qkHa-hehd38>

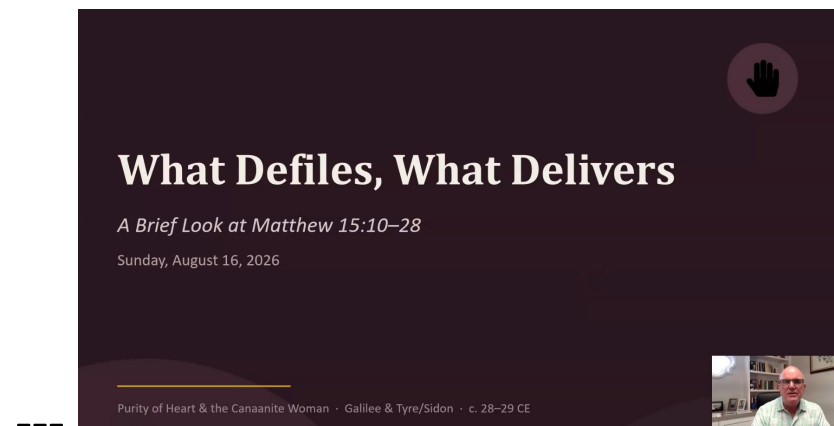
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1851610652483220/>

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

Scripture Lesson

A Brief Look at Matthew 15:10-28

with Pastor Steve Talmage
(13 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/ExJH9m8IHOM>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1574457444061210/>

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

Sunday, August 16th, 2026, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on



&



Pastor Steve Talmage “Faith Where You Least Expect It”

Isaiah 56:1,6-8

Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,

all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Romans 11:1-2, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Matthew 15:10-28

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to

us.” Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.