

Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

ENews for the 14th Sunday after Pentecost, August 30, 2026



Simon Peter's Faith in Christ by William Hole

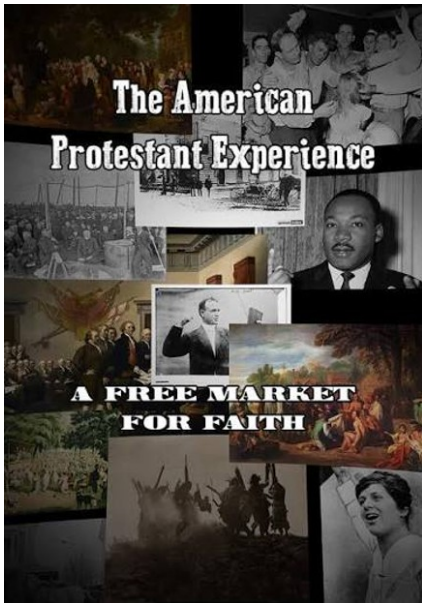
“Saving, Losing, Finding”

The disciples have been enjoying a retreat with Jesus in the hills near the border of what is now Israel and Lebanon. Like many who get away for a retreat in a beautiful spot, it is hard to think about what you have to return to. Jesus lets his disciples know after it was previously confessed he was the Messiah, that as the Messiah he needed to return to Jerusalem. The disciples' fear of that trip is vocalized through Peter's protest.

They know a return to Jerusalem was dangerous and possibly deadly. This leads Jesus to offer his difficult words about what it means to be a disciple of his. Disciples need to be willing to lose their lives in order to find the life Jesus is revealing.

We know their protest, their resistance, and even our own excuses when it comes to looking out for ourselves or those we love foremost, while resisting surrendering or giving up much in order to discover where Jesus might just dare to take us.

**Charlie Saniter Celebration of Life on Saturday, August 29th at 11AM in the
Center of Compassion**



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 25th

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 25, 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

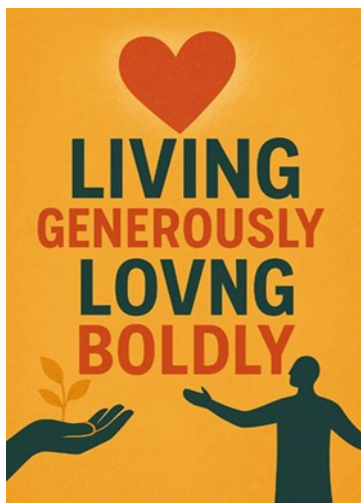
I-P: main dish

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!

“The Empty-Shelf Pantry”



When the economy tightened, Grace Lutheran Church began opening its fellowship hall every Thursday afternoon for neighbors needing groceries. In the first month, the volunteers served 30 households. By winter, more than 120 families were coming each week.

The pantry leaders worried constantly. Their shelves were thin. Their budget was strained. A volunteer would look at the line forming outside and say, “We will never have enough.” The feeling was familiar: more need than money, more requests than workers, more hunger than cans of soup.

One Thursday morning, the pantry received a delivery that was far smaller than expected. The volunteers counted their food and realized that, if they gave everyone a full box, the last people in line might receive nothing. They considered closing early.

Instead, an older member named Rosa said, “Let’s begin with thanks. We will put out what we have, and we will ask God to show us what we have not yet seen.”

They prayed. Then they opened the doors.

As people came through, something unexpected happened. A local bakery arrived with unsold bread. A nearby grocery store called with fresh produce that otherwise would have been discarded. A farmer from the congregation brought boxes of squash. A retired teacher who had come for groceries asked whether she could return next week to help sort food. A teenager, waiting with his mother, posted a message online; by evening, neighbors had dropped off diapers, canned beans, rice, and toiletries.

The food was still distributed carefully. No one pretended the community’s poverty had been solved. But every household received something nourishing, and there was enough left for the next morning’s emergency requests.

The volunteers later said that the deepest miracle was not simply that more food appeared. It was that the congregation stopped seeing the ministry as their limited supply being handed to needy people. They began to see a community in which everyone had something to offer:

- The bakery offered bread.
- The grocery offered surplus.
- Farmers offered produce.
- Volunteers offered time.
- Neighbors offered knowledge of who was isolated or hungry.
- Guests became helpers.

The congregation offered space, welcome, prayer, and coordination.

In the following months, the pantry became a community table. People who first came for food began leading the distribution line, translating for newcomers, helping children with homework, planting a garden, and serving on the pantry’s advisory team.



Continuing the Love of Christ Endowment News

From Endowment Team member Ginger Sarver:

My dad always taught me that when the time comes, having your wishes written down and planning ahead is a gift to your family. As a funeral director, he saw how much peace it could bring when loved ones were able to focus on grieving, remembering, and healing, rather than trying to make difficult decisions without guidance.

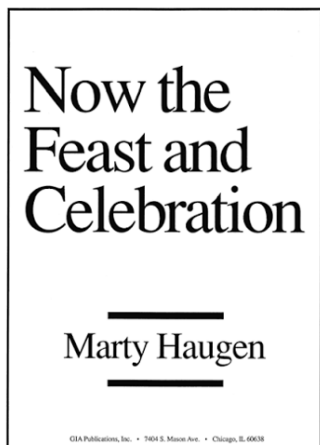
I may not have a lot to give, but I deeply want to give something meaningful to Love of Christ, because this congregation has truly been my family. It has supported me throughout the years—through my ups and downs, my lonely days, my happy days, and the many seasons of life I have shared here.

For that reason, I have decided to make a gift to the endowment committee. My hope is that, in the future, if there is another single person like me—or anyone who needs the steady care and support of a Love of Christ family—this gift will help Love of Christ continue to be there for them, just as it has been there for me.

Even a modest gift, when placed in God's hands and entrusted to Love of Christ, can become something lasting for future generations. Through the endowment, gifts given today can continue to support ministry, outreach, facility needs, missions, and the spiritual life of our congregation for years to come.

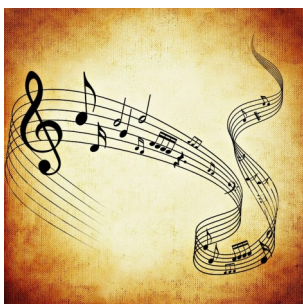
It is my prayer that this gift will help Love of Christ continue to offer the same love, care, and belonging that have meant so much to me.

As of July 31, 2026, our LoC Endowment Fund balance is \$145,199.73. To learn more about this Fund go to <https://loveofchristchurch.net/endowment>



Our Traditional 7:50 and 10:30 Liturgy in the Sanctuary moves 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



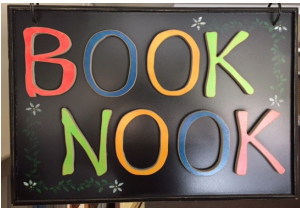
Community Garden News

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



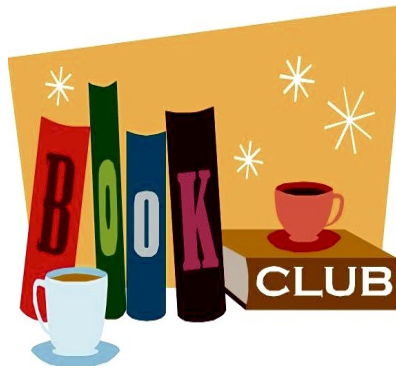
Naomi Circle will meet on September 14th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome—invite your friends!

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.

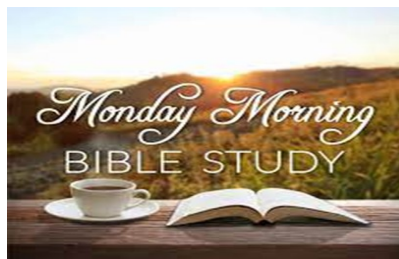
We look forward to seeing you!



**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 from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

Contact Mason Weatherly at masonw@loclc.org



Confirmation

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

Confirmation will not meet on Sept. 2

Faith Food and Fun



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



Jazz Vespers at Mount of Olives Lutheran Church

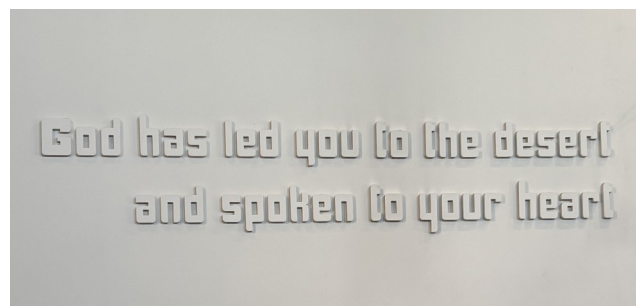
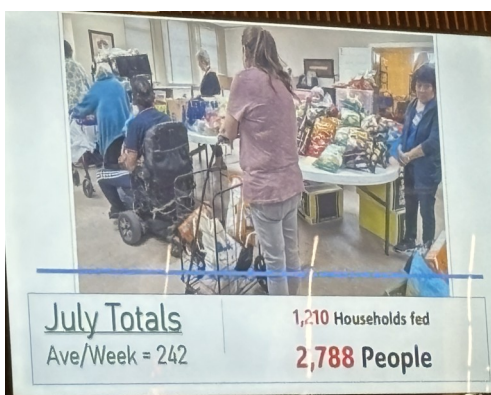
Mount of Olives Lutheran Church in Phoenix invites you to join our *Music for Food* series—free events where beautiful jazz meets bold mission. This event is held on the second Sunday of each month at **5:30 PM at Mount of Olives Lutheran Church, 3546 E Thomas Road, Phoenix, AZ 85018.**

The next Jazz Vespers service will be **Sunday, September 13** featuring **Beth Lederman with “Jazz con Alma” including Joe Garcia on percussion and Dallas Huber on bass.** Performances are offered at no cost to attendees. A reception with light refreshments follows each concert, supported by a **Thrivent Action Grant.**

These concerts benefit the **Olive Branch Community of Hope Food Pantry**, a ministry of Mount of Olives that feeds over 200 families each week. This pantry—once a coat closet—has grown into a vital community lifeline through partnerships with **St. Mary’s Food Bank** and **Waste Not.** As people of faith, we are called to serve and feed our neighbors.

The Music for Food series is a powerful expression of that call, combining soulful jazz, community connection, and shared generosity. Bring a friend, enjoy the music, and support the work of feeding families in our community. Together, let’s put faith into action—through harmony and hope.

If you have questions or would like to ride along, contact Elizabeth Danielson at ekdanielson@gmail.com.





Sunday School will begin this Sunday, 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

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

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

Children's Musical Rehearsal Wed. Aug. 26 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 at 10:00 in the Youth Room

Confirmation will not meet on Sept. 2



Water Donations: Last year we donated water to the City of Mesa and to Grace in the City Lutheran Church. This year we will be taking money donations to purchase water for these two organizations. If you would like to donate water please place money in the offering plate labeled "Water Donation" or go online and specify water donation or bring a gift card.

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 of chips or crackers, boxes of Capri-Sun. These items for sack lunches will be collected throughout the summer. (August-September)

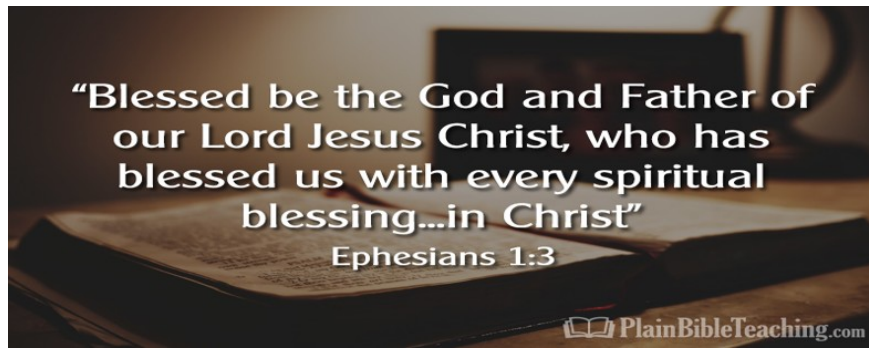
Meals at Christ's Church Respite Center

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 Monthly Bible Study resumes for 2026-2027 on Wednesday, September 2nd from 4:30-5:30 pm in Fellowship hall. The study will be on Ephesians.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month, except in October. We will not meet in March due to Lent.

Dates are as follows: Sept. 2, Oct. 14 (second Wednesday), Nov. 4, Dec.2, Jan. 6, Feb. 3, NO March session, and April 7.

No homework. One hour. Enjoy great discussions. All are welcome. Please join us.

Barb Talmage

Pastor Nanette



Young Adults will meet again on September 20th at 12:00 in the CoC. Come ready to share ideas! If you have questions please contact Pastor Nanette at nanette@locic.org .

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 Jeremiah 15:15-21

with Pastor Nanette Christofferson
(15 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/0wdXoKX7se0>

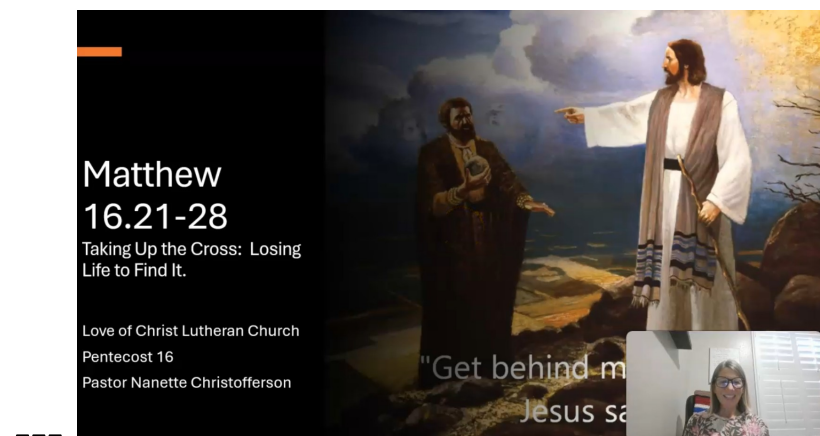
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1696077628148589/>

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

Scripture Lesson

A Brief Look at Matthew 16:21-28

with Pastor Nanette Christofferson
(14 min)



YouTube: https://youtu.be/3c_7lDgP6Kc

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1030514016489190/>

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

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

some on



&



Pastor Nanette Christofferson “Saving, Losing, Finding”

Jeremiah 15:15-21

O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,

for I am called by your name,

O Lord, God of hosts.

I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;

under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

Why is my pain unceasing,

my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

Therefore thus says the Lord:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,

you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,

but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you

to save you and deliver you,
says the Lord.

I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16:21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”