

Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

E-News for the 15th Sunday after Pentecost, September 6, 2026



God's Priority is Reconciliation

Jesus has just finished teaching the disciples about the willingness of man seeking out the one out of hundred lost sheep. Jesus states, **"So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish."**

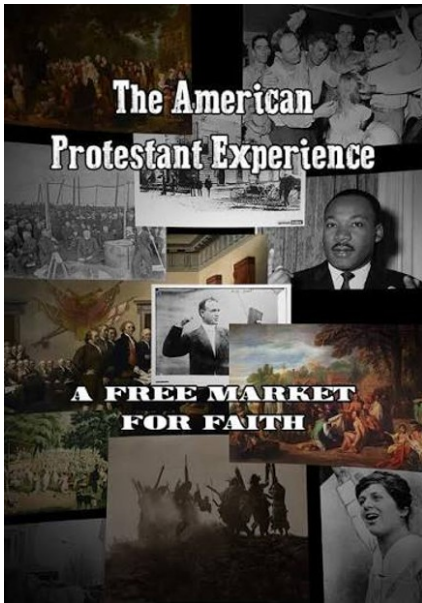
Jesus follows up illustrating when conflict erupts, a relationship is fractured, and an offense has pushed a disciple away from another there is a healthy process for trying to restore and be reconciled. Conflict happens in relationships where our hearts are invested in others.

We all have ingrained triggers that can push further away than keep us together. The witness of the body of Christ, the Church, for the sake of the world is the unending commitment to work toward reconciliation, which Jesus ultimately reveals as God's priority when he goes to the cross. We don't do this hard work alone Jesus promises his presence when two or three are gathered in his name.



Our Sympathy & Comfort to:

To Judy Smith, family & friends on the loss of Judy's dear husband Bob.
Celebration of Life on Saturday, September 19th 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 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:

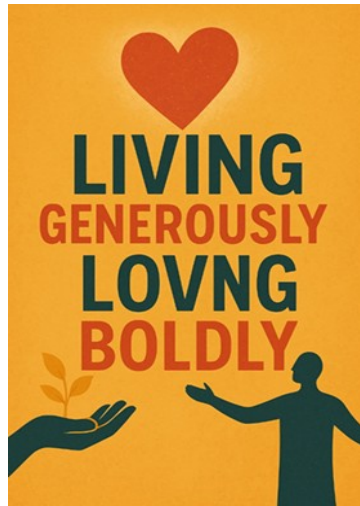
A-H: appetizer

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 Last Loaf

Every Saturday morning, Maria stopped at the neighborhood food pantry. She usually brought a few cans of vegetables or a box of pasta to donate. But one Saturday, she opened her pantry at home and realized there wasn't much left.

She had just enough groceries for her own family for the week.

As she stood looking at the shelves, she remembered the words she had heard in church: "Living generously, loving boldly." She wondered, How can I give when I don't have very much myself?

Then she remembered a neighbor who had recently lost her job. Maria took the last loaf of bread from her pantry, along with a jar of peanut butter, and walked next door.

"I thought you might need these," she said.

Her neighbor was surprised—and deeply grateful.

The following week, Maria returned to the pantry. To her surprise, someone had donated several bags of groceries, including the very things she had given away the week before. There was more than enough for everyone.

Maria smiled. She realized that trusting God's abundance doesn't mean believing we will always have everything we want. It means trusting that God's grace is greater than our fear of not having enough.

Generosity begins when we loosen our grip on what we possess. Bold love begins when we notice our neighbor's need and respond.

And often, when we share what we have, we discover that God's abundance was never meant to be stored up—it was meant to be shared.

Living generously. Loving boldly. Trusting God's abundance.



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>

Please join us in upcoming Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed deliveries....

Kids without beds....This is a need in many communities that I was not even aware existed—it is something most of us have not experienced and were not even aware of the need.

But Sleep in Heavenly Peace here in Phoenix has been hard at work to make sure that “No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town!” and has delivered over 11,000 beds in the valley in the last 7 years.

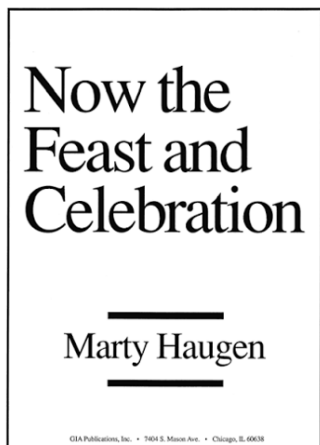
There is nothing quite like seeing the joy of a child who is receiving a bed, complete with mattress, pillow, bedding, stuffed toy and book. Come and experience this for yourself and help give a child a safe place to sleep and call their own.

We help deliver beds on the 3rd Saturday of the month from the East Valley hub located at St Luke Lutheran Church in Mesa. It's a half day of your time, with a fun group of folks committed to making children in our community a priority. It's easy to bring the beds and assemble them and make them up with handmade quilts, fleece blankets, sheets and stuffies - all tools are provided and there is easy hands-on instruction for beginners. We are also so grateful for the many donors of blankets, sheets, stuffies and books.

If you would like to get involved, text or call JoAnn Grant at 571-334-5028

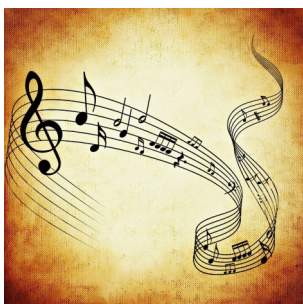
Our next delivery is **Saturday, September 19th 7:30 –noon.**





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@locic.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



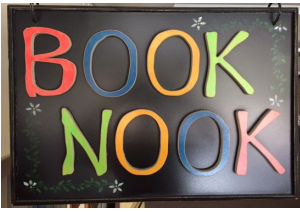
Community Garden News

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



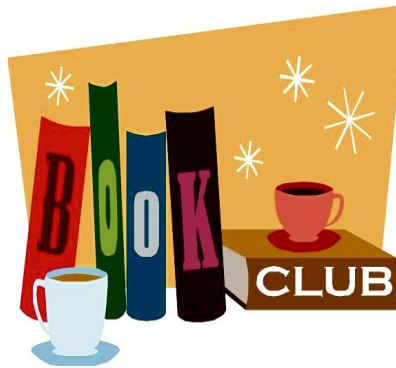
Naomi Circle will meet on September 14th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome—invite your friends!

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!

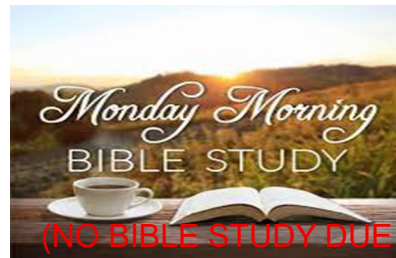


**Monday Men's Bible Study on 2nd Corinthians at 6:30-7:30AM in the Leadership Room.
Men of all ages are welcome to participate.**

(NO BIBLE STUDY DUE TO LABOR DAY HOLIDAY)



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**

(NO BIBLE STUDY DUE TO LABOR DAY HOLIDAY)



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 meet on Wed. September 9th, from 6:00-7:00 pm

Confirmation will not meet on tonight—9/2.

Faith Food and Fun



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



Jazz Vespers at Mount of Olives Lutheran Church

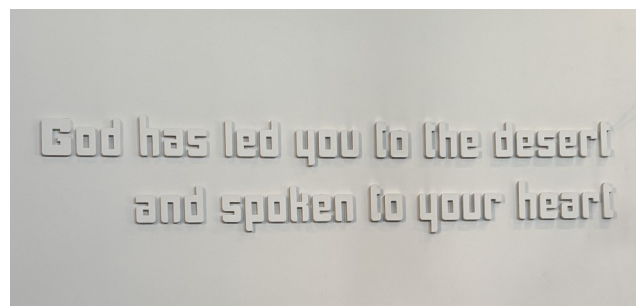
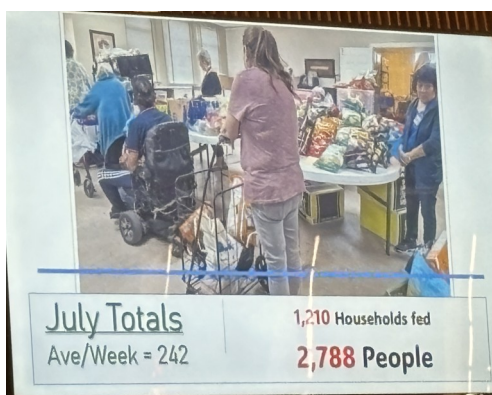
Mount of Olives Lutheran Church in Phoenix invites you to join our *Music for Food* series—free events where beautiful jazz meets bold mission. This event is held on the second Sunday of each month at **5:30 PM at Mount of Olives Lutheran Church, 3546 E Thomas Road, Phoenix, AZ 85018.**

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 has begun! 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

Service Opportunities Save the Date!

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:

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 Fall Overview for 2026 Save the Dates

Children's Musical WOW Rehearsal Wednesday at 6:00 pm

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

Sunday School every Sunday

Youth Sunday Hangout at 10:00 in the Youth Room

Confirmation will meets on Wednesday, September 9th (6:00pm-7pm)



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)

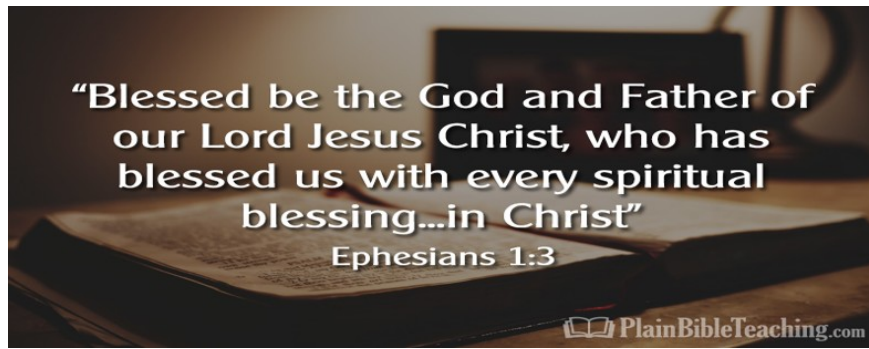
Meals at Christ's Church Respite Center

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: 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 Ezekiel 33:7-11
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(13 min)



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

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/2251031319084232/>

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

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Matthew 18:15-20
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(12 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/r5Wh3tYW9HQ>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/2265412080916126/>

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

Sunday, September 6th, 2026, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on



&



Pastor Steve Talmage “God’s Priority is Reconciliation”

Ezekiel 33:7-11

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18:15-20

“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”