

Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

ENews for the 16th Sunday after Pentecost, September 13, 2026



Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors

As we use a different version of the Lord's Prayer during the remaining Sundays in Pentecost, the familiar petition of forgiveness has incorporated the word trespass, debts, sins, wrongs, offenses or faults. In our reading this week, Jesus illustrates to Peter and the other disciples about the dangers of putting limits on God's forgiveness and not extending the same to others.

Jesus often uses strong exaggeration to make his point. A question raised in this story is how our relationships flourish when we are so eager to be forgiven, but then when it comes to others not so much.

Matthew uses this parable of the unforgiving servant as the climax of a carefully constructed theology of forgiveness as the essential practice of the kingdom community. We see the stakes of living in a community shaped by Jesus.



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.

To Family and Friends of Bill Warren.



A Prayer for the 25th Anniversary of 9/11

Gracious and merciful God,

On this 25th anniversary of September 11, we remember with sorrow those who lost their lives, those who were injured, and all whose lives were forever changed. Comfort those who continue to grieve, and strengthen those who carry memories of that day.

We give thanks for the courage of first responders, the compassion of strangers, and the countless acts of generosity and love that emerged from tragedy.

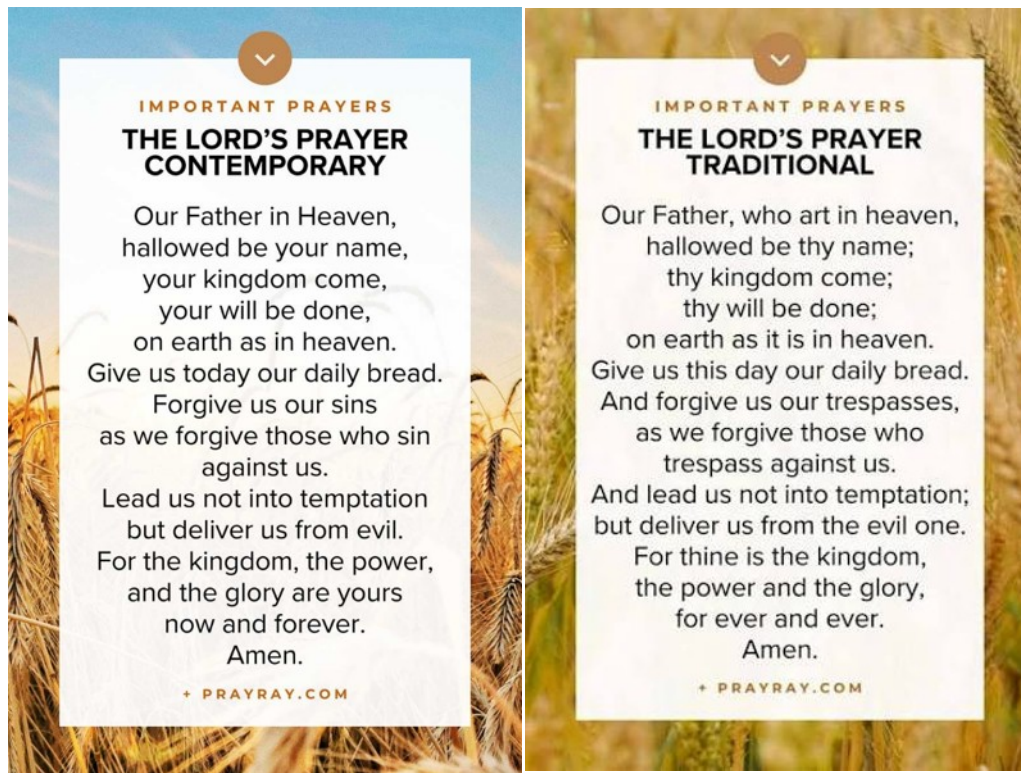
Forgive us when fear becomes stronger than faith, and hatred stronger than compassion. Teach us to seek peace, pursue justice, and resist the forces that divide your children.

Keep us mindful that every human life is precious in your sight. May our remembrance lead not to bitterness, but to greater love; not to fear, but to courage; and not to despair, but to hope.

Through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.



Interested in Joining Love of Christ? Our next New Member Orientation will be Sunday, September 27 from 11:45AM-2:00PM in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Dianne Oien (dianneoien@loclc.org) for more information.

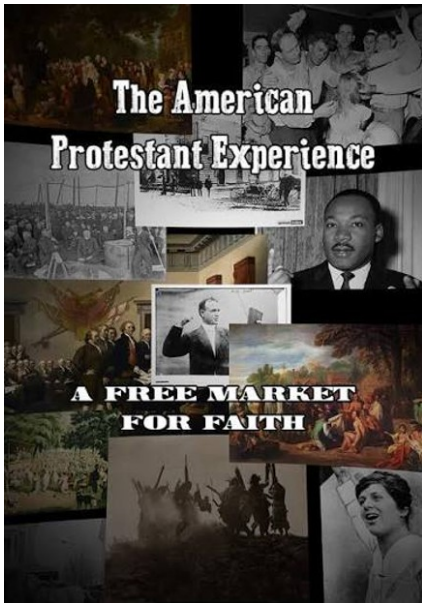


Why Different Versions of the Lord's Prayer?

Lutherans officially incorporated the use of ICET (International Consultation on English Texts) texts in 1978 with the publication of the milestone Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW). The introduction of these modern texts played out across the major North American Lutheran bodies with varying degrees of adoption: The Breakthrough (1978): The LBW (affectionately known as the "Green Book") was a joint liturgical project.

It widely introduced the 1975 ICET modern translations—including the Lord's Prayer ("Our Father in heaven... save us from the time of trial")—to the churches that would later form the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)** and the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)**. The "Dual Text" Compromise: Much like other denominations during the 1970s, the LBW did not completely abandon historic language. To ease the transition for congregations, the hymnal printed both the Traditional version (debts/trespasses) and the Contemporary ICET version side by side.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS): While the LCMS participated in the early development of the LBW, they ultimately withdrew from its publication and chose to retain the traditional English formatting for the Lord's Prayer. In their subsequent hymnals, such as the Lutheran Service Book (2006), the LCMS stuck strictly to the traditional wording. When the ELCA and ELCIC released their current primary hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) in 2006, they updated the contemporary option to the 1988 ELLC text (the direct successor to ICET).



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:

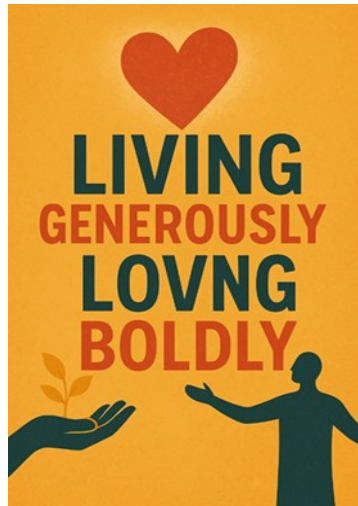
A-H: appetizer

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 Seat

The church was preparing for its annual community Thanksgiving dinner. Volunteers had cooked enough food for about 150 people, and everything was carefully planned. Then, twenty minutes before dinner began, a bus pulled up outside. Nearly fifty people stepped off. They were families who had been displaced from their apartments after a fire. They had nowhere else to go that evening.

The volunteers looked at one another. “We don’t have enough,” someone whispered. There was a moment of silence. Then Maria, one of the volunteers, walked into the kitchen. “Let’s put another table in the fellowship hall,” she said. “We already have every chair filled.” “Then we’ll find more chairs.” “But the food—” Maria paused. “We’ll serve what we have. And we’ll trust God with what we don’t.”

The volunteers began rearranging the room. Someone brought folding chairs from the basement. Someone else ran home and returned with two pots of chili. A teenager started cutting the dinner rolls in half. Another volunteer quietly called a nearby restaurant, which donated several trays of food.

People kept coming. And somehow, everyone ate. But something even more important happened that night. A man named David sat at the last table with his young daughter. Before eating, he looked around the crowded room and said, “We lost almost everything in that fire. Tonight, you gave us a place where we didn’t feel like victims. We felt like neighbors.”

Maria looked around the room. There were people eating food they had never expected to share, sitting beside people they had never met, laughing together like old friends. She realized something. The miracle wasn’t that the church had somehow produced enough food. The miracle was that someone had been willing to make room before knowing whether there would be enough.

That night, the congregation learned that generosity is not simply giving from what is left over. Sometimes generosity means pulling up another chair. Sometimes loving boldly means saying, “Come in,” before we know how everything will work out. And sometimes faith means trusting that when we make room for another person, God has a way of making room—and our hearts—larger than we imagined.

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

The invitation is simple:

Make room. Share what you have. Welcome one more. And trust God to provide the rest.



**Continuing the Love of Christ
Endowment News
The Gift for Tomorrow**

When Margaret retired, she began looking carefully at the things she had accumulated over a lifetime. She had enough for herself, enough to enjoy retirement, and enough to leave something for her children. One Sunday, she heard her pastor speak about the church's endowment fund. The pastor described it as a way of providing for ministries not only today, but for generations yet to come.

Margaret thought about the congregation that had been there for her through every season of life—when she was married, when her children were baptized, when her husband died, and when she needed a community of faith to remind her that she was never alone. That week, Margaret decided to make a gift to the church's endowment .

A friend asked her, “Why give money to a fund when you won't even be here to see what it does?” Margaret smiled. **“That's exactly why I'm doing it.”**

She explained, “Everything I've received from this church was given to me by people who came before me. They taught me, encouraged me, prayed for me, and helped make this congregation what it is. I want to do the same for someone I will never meet.” Her gift was invested rather than spent immediately.

Years later, Margaret's name was hardly remembered by the children who benefited from an endowment-supported youth ministry. They didn't know her story. They didn't know about the gift she had made. But they experienced its blessing. And that was enough for Margaret.

A gift to an endowment is more than a gift for today. It is an act of faith in tomorrow—trusting God to take what we give and use it to bless people we may never know. We live generously today so that God's love can continue reaching boldly into the future.

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.

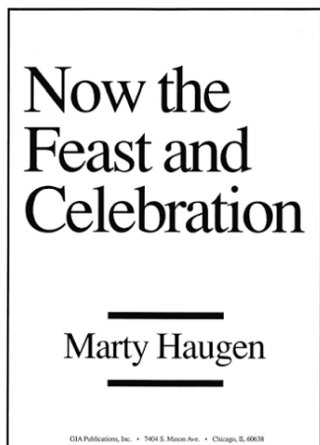
There is nothing quite like seeing the joy of a child who is receiving a bed, complete with mattress, pillow, bedding, stuffed toy and book. Come and experience this for yourself and help give a child a safe place to sleep and call their own.

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

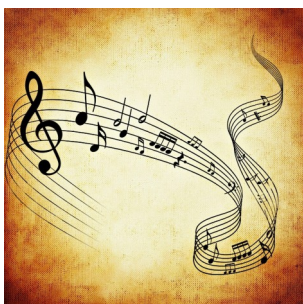
Our next delivery is **Saturday, September 19th 7:30 –noon.**





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@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



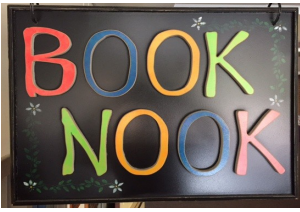
Community Garden News

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



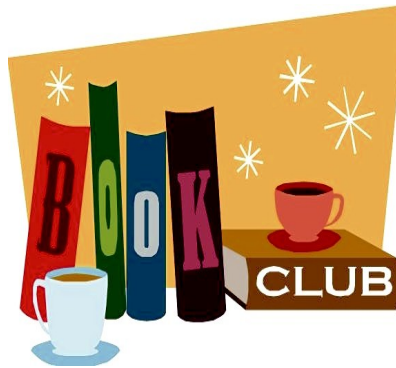
Naomi Circle will meet on September 14th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome—invite your friends!

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.

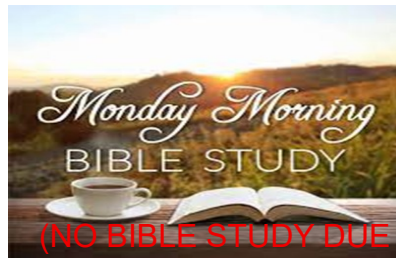
We look forward to seeing you!



**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 meet on Wed. September 9th, 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.



Jazz Vespers at Mount of Olives Lutheran Church

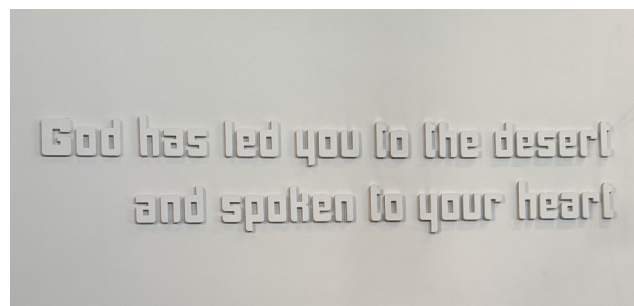
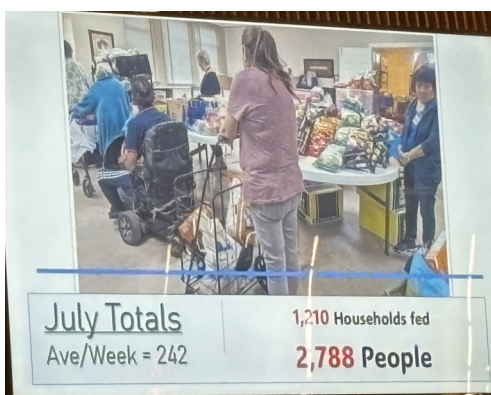
Mount of Olives Lutheran Church in Phoenix invites you to join our *Music for Food* series—free events where beautiful jazz meets bold mission. This event is held on the second Sunday of each month at **5:30 PM at Mount of Olives Lutheran Church, 3546 E Thomas Road, Phoenix, AZ 85018.**

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 to purchase Turkey's

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 Rehearsal every Wednesday at 6:00 pm Light dinner at 5:30 for anyone.

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

Sunday School Every Sunday in Godly Play Room

Youth Sunday Hangout at 10:00 in the Youth Room

Confirmation Every Wednesday (6:00-7:00)



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. (September)

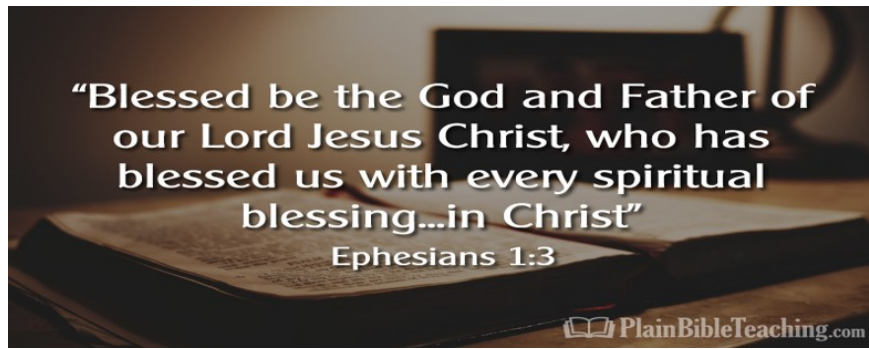
Meals at Christ's Church Respite Center

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, October 4th 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 Genesis 50:15-21

with Pastor Steve Talmage
(15 min)



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

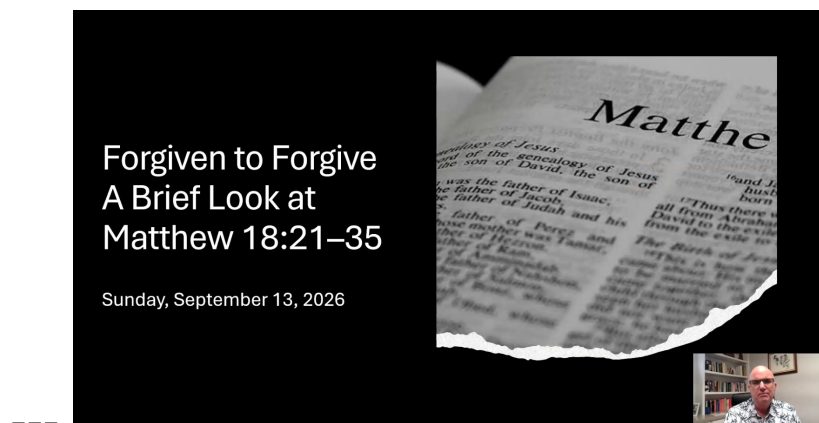
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1810091653499291>

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

Scripture Lesson

A Brief Look at Matthew 18:21-35

with Pastor Steve Talmage
(12 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/-aV0TNeus0s>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/29399229229666695/>

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

Sunday, September 13th, 2026, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on



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Pastor Steve Talmage “Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors”

Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, “What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?” So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, ‘Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.’ Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of

God. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”