



Love of Christ Lutheran Church

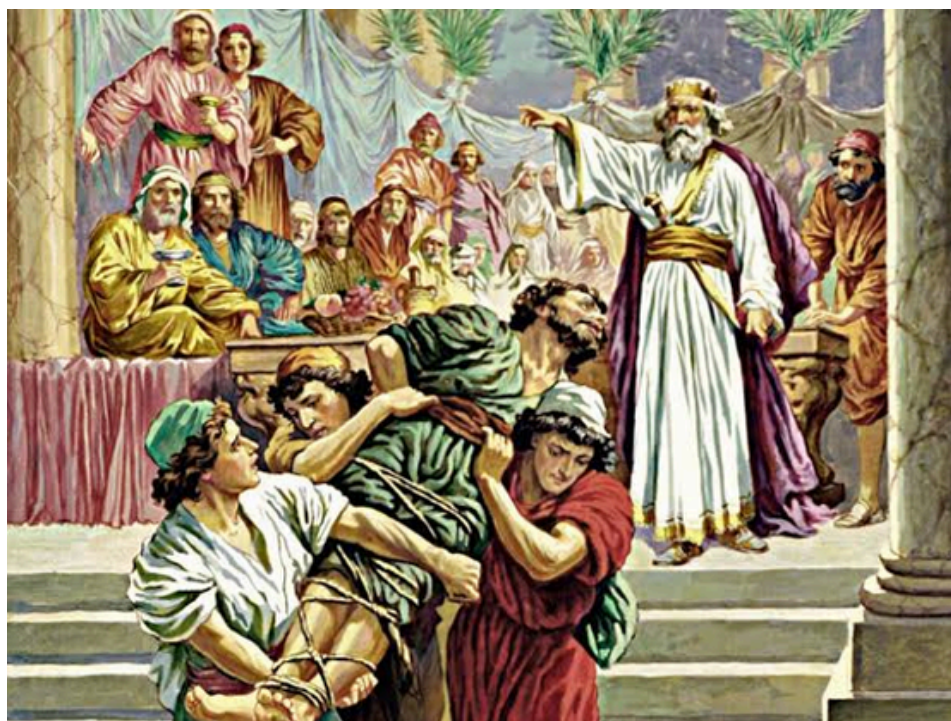
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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

ENews for the 21st Sunday after Pentecost, October 11, 2026



Turning Down Invitations

Jesus continues to teach his presence, his word, and all he has been doing have been signs of God's inbreaking reign and rule on earth as it is in heaven. With our story this week of the king's invitations to his son's wedding being rejected, Jesus is projected as a fellow prophet sent by God to those with the most influence to lead and shape God's people. The result is no different than the list of Old Testament prophets. Those who have ears to ear reject the message of God's inclusive love resting in God's amazing grace. They have grown complacent and apathetic to the invitation to participate in God's mission to be a blessing to the world. They would rather pursue their own interests or trust in their own ideas of how God operates in the world.

Church Board
Meeting

LoC Board of Directors Meeting is Tuesday, October 13,
2026 at 6PM in the Leadership Room



Faith in Action

Celebrate World Food Day with ELCA World Hunger on Oct. 16!

Join people around the world in raising awareness and taking collective action to end hunger for good.

<https://www.elca.org/how-we-serve/relief-and-development/world-hunger>

World Food Day is one of the most celebrated days on the United Nations' calendar, with opportunities in more than 150 countries and more than 50 languages to raise awareness of hunger. This year's theme, "Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow.," highlights how we can combine traditional knowledge with forward-thinking solutions to ensure that everyone has access to nutritious food.

ELCA World Hunger has been at work for more than 50 years, addressing root causes of hunger around the world and here in the United States through innovative, sustainable projects. Your gifts connect people with training and resources so they can enjoy a fruitful harvest, access clean water, send their kids to school, get adequate healthcare and strengthen their income streams.



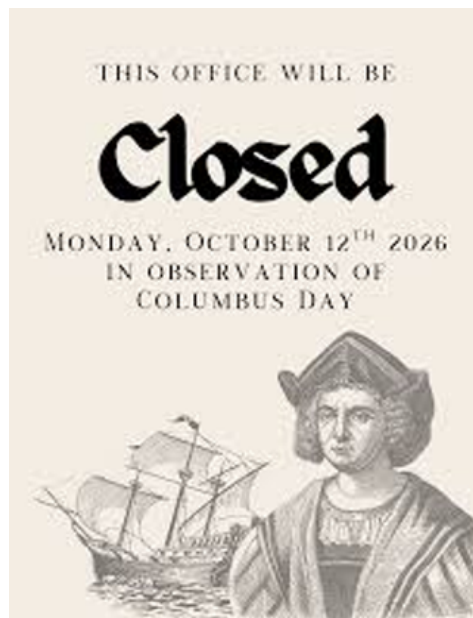
Lutheran Disaster Response provides partnership support to recent communities flooded in Nepal

<https://www.elca.org/how-we-serve/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>

Communities in Nepal are facing catastrophic loss after deadly, devastating floods. On Aug. 26, powerful floodwaters carrying glacial ice and mud swept down the Himalayas through a mountain valley. Hundreds of people have died, and hundreds more remain missing as families are waiting for news of loved ones.

Homes have been destroyed, roads and bridges are gone, and entire communities are struggling to access basic necessities. Our hearts break for all those affected.

Even with limited communication from the affected area, we are already hearing tragic stories of loss, and we know the needs will be significant. Lutheran Disaster Response has long-standing relationships with trusted partners throughout Nepal. With your help, we will support emergency relief and long-term recovery through these established partners who know their communities best.



Rooted IN *God's Story*

Pastor Nanette and Pastor Steve will be joining other rostered leaders of the Grand Canyon Synod this coming Monday afternoon-Wednesday Noon at the Franciscan Renewal Center, Phoenix, for our annual Bishop's Gathering Rooted in God's Story. This annual gathering creates space to reflect together on faithful leadership in a changing world, deepen relationships, and explore how God continues to call and sustain leaders for ministry.

Featured Presenter: Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos

This year's gathering will feature Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos, PhD, theologian, pastor, and author of *A Liberation Theology of the Brain*.

Drawing on theology, neuroscience, liberation theology, and justice, Dr. Santos invites us into meaningful conversation about healing, identity, suffering, and human flourishing. Born and raised in Puerto Rico and originally trained as a chemist, he brings a distinctive perspective on how science and theology together can deepen our understanding of ourselves, our communities, and God's work in the world.

His work explores how our minds and emotions are shaped by the stories and systems around us—and how communities of faith can participate in liberation, restoration, and abundant life for all.



Blood Drive

Sunday, October 25th—7:30 to 11:00 am

Located next to Columbarium in South Parking Lot

Please sign up to donate blood! You can click on the link below or go to our website (loveofchristchurch.net) and click on the events button to sign up.

If you have any questions, you can contact Dianne Oien at dianneoien@loclc.org. Because of you, life doesn't stop – Thanks for signing up to donate! On Site Donor Self-Scheduling Link: [Click Here](#) to schedule your life-saving donation today.

Donor Eligibility Link: <https://vitalant.org/blood-donation-requirements>

Donor Eligibility Phone: 877-258-4825

Donor Preparation: • #1 deferral for women is low iron. Women begin eating iron rich foods.

- Begin drinking lots of water – hydrate, hydrate, hydrate!
 - Eat prior to donation (no fasting)
- Bring Photo ID reflecting first and last names
- Visit restroom prior to beginning the donation process
- Donors may take their health history the day of donations – see below.

Fast Track Health History Questionnaire Link: <https://www.vitalant.org/health>



Fall Festival—Save the Date!

Friday, October 23rd - 5PM to 7PM– In Front of the Sanctuary (Parking Lot)

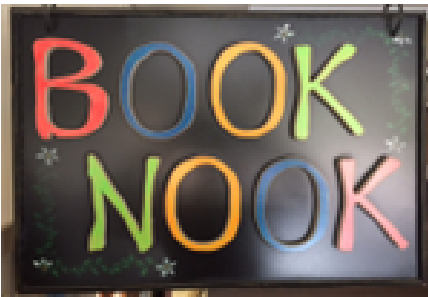
It's time to come together for the Fall Festival! Spend an evening of fun, fellowship, and food! Don't miss this opportunity to see kids excited to do Trunk or Treat, Arizona Rick the balloon guy, play a game of corn hole and fall crafts. NEW this year, an Inflatable Obstacle Course! Don't forget about the FREE hot dogs! Also bring your car for Trunk or Treat...

If you would like to donate some chips or candy, it would be appreciated. Contact Dianne Oien at dianneoien@loclc.org or Patti DeLaney at pattidelaney03@gmail.com



Our 40th Anniversary \$40,000 Mission Challenge Appeal to support Crossroads Lutheran Church in San Tan Valley and First Evangelical Lutheran in Mesa stands at \$34,950. Can we reach our goal by the year's end? Thank you for considering a gift to support mission partners.

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

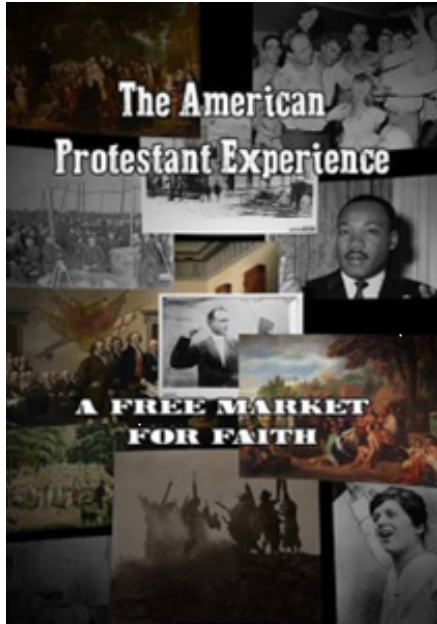


This fall, the Let ABC15 Know team will celebrate 10 years of bringing free consumer help to the community through its annual "On the Road" event at Tempe Marketplace. This runs from 5 to 7 p.m. at the District Stage, located in the middle of the main shopping center next to Dave & Buster's.

Free CONSUMER HELP EVENT
Tempe Town Lake on Oct. 20th 5PM-7PM

For more information:

<https://www.abc15.com/news/let-abc15-know/on-the-road-with-let-abc15-know-celebrates-10-years-of-free-consumer-help-at-tempe-marketplace>



Adult Study Wednesday, at 6:00PM in the Fellowship Hall

No study on Oct. 7th - resumes on Oct. 14th

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.



Emotional Triggers: The Tactics that Scammers use to manipulate You

- 1. Craving love and companionship**
- 2. Desire for financial security on a big win**
- 3. Concern for family members or pets**
- 4. Fear of legal trouble or financial loss**
- 5. Need for purpose and excitement**

Emotion + Isolation = Manipulative Control

Our aging population is both a vulnerable and lucrative target. Always suspect phone calls, texts, emails, or letters which are promising something you have not necessarily sought, making a request to contact or purchase something which seems out of the blue, and always hit pause before responding, so you can verify with family members, friends, or even the church before acting. Don't share personal or sensitive information on social media. Use privacy settings on your social media accounts.



2027 Financial Stewardship Theme takes us from Living Generously and Loving Boldly to Give Freely and Joyfully.

Every member household will be receiving 2027 Financial Commitment Cards in November to prayerfully consider how the mission and ministry of Love of Christ may be supported in the coming new year.

The leadership is grateful for all who intentionally plan for their giving in the coming year! Generosity is an act of worship and participation in God's care for the world. Paul urges giving that is deliberate and glad—not coerced or guilt-driven.

“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” — 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NRSVUE)



Continuing the Love of Christ
Endowment News

Recently a spouse of a member of Love of Christ called to inform us of his spouse's death. They had relocated back to the Chicago area to be closer to extended family and friends, as the spouse was undergoing treatment for a recurrence of an aggressive form of cancer. Prior to her death, she informed her husband she wanted to give Love of Christ a gift of \$5,000 to continue the support of this community where she had been able to participate and serve while they lived in Mesa. We have a policy in place which directs any unrestricted or undesignated gifts over \$1,000 like this one, be directed to our Endowment Fund.

Though \$5,000 may not seem huge to some, by adding it to our current Endowment Fund, we will have a growing fund to support ministry long into the future.

To learn more about this Fund: <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.

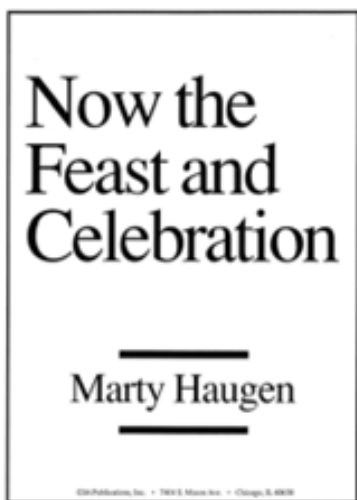
But Sleep in Heavenly Peace here in Phoenix has been hard at work to make sure that “No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town!” and has delivered over 11,000 beds in the valley in the last 7 years.

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 take 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 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 on Thursdays, 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 ketts14az@gmail.com



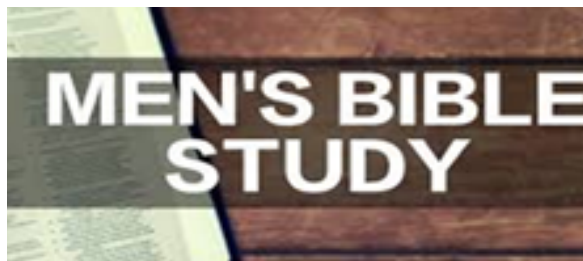
Community Garden News

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: October 12th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall.
All women are welcome—invite your friends!

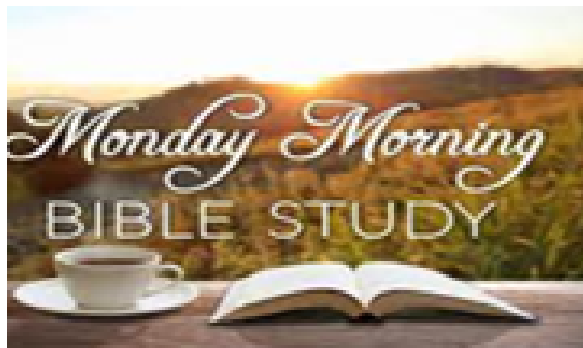


Monday Men's Bible Study on 2nd Corinthians at 6:30-7:30AM in the Leadership Room. Men of all ages are welcome to participate.

We will not meet on Monday, 10/12 due to the 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**

We will not meet on Monday, 10/12 due to the 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: rutholeonard@icloud.com



Youth will be meeting on Sundays for Sunday Morning Hangout from 10:00am to 12:00pm

Contact Mason Weatherly at: masonw@loclc.org



Confirmation

Confirmation will meet on Wed. October 14th, from 6:00-7:00 pm



Grades 4,5, and 6 will meet on Sunday, October 18th, 3:30-5:00 pm. Please contact:

Laura Ontiveros (laurakuegemann@gmail.com) for more information.



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 in the Godly Playroom. For any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at: nanette@locic.org

Children and Youth Ministry Fall Overview for 2026-Save the Dates!

Children's Musical Rehearsal every Wednesday at 6:00 pm-Light dinner at 5:30pm for everyone (No WOW tonight - 10/7)

Grades 4,5,6 meet Sunday, October 18th, 3:30-5:00 pm in the CoC

Sunday School: Every Sunday in Godly Play Room

Youth Sunday Hangout: 10:00 in the Youth Room (No Youth Hangout on Oct 11th)

Confirmation: Every Wednesday (6:00-7:00) (No Confirmation on Wed. Oct 7th)

Service Opportunities-Save the Date!

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

November: Feed My Starving Children: Nov. 5,6, and 7th, Gift cards for food banks to purchase turkeys and canned food donations

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

Ongoing Donations:

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

Sleep In Heavenly Peace: Twin Bed Sheets



Feed My Starving Children October's Ministry of the Month

Feed My Starving Children mobile packing event has a long history at Love of Christ. Over two million meals have been packed for children who are hungry and need nourishment. Not only has this event fed hungry children, it has also been an opportunity to open our doors to our neighborhood and given local high schools, boy scouts, girl scouts, and other organizations an opportunity to serve and love our neighbors both near and far. Needless to say, this packing event has made an impact on many lives.

We have been very fortunate in our past that we have had some very generous donors who have sponsored this event. However, if we go back to the beginnings of this event, it was completely sponsored by the LoC congregation as well as donations from the participants. We hope that you will consider offering your support for this ministry through prayer, inviting friends, neighbors, organizations, and through donations.

The November event begins on Thursday, Nov. 5, and continues on Nov. 6 and 7

To sign up through our website click on the link below:

<https://www.fmsc.org/volunteer-listing/?mobilepack=2611-146TE> The event code is Hope26

To learn more about the mobile packing events, click on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPWlQ7MdQmk>



The Faith in Action Team would like to welcome Jim Melzer. He is the new Love Of Christ Lutheran Advocacy Ministry (LAMA) liaison and will soon be sharing with us the group's thoughts on the 2026 Arizona Ballot Propositions. You can reach Jim at jmelzer@comcast.net

What does our Lutheran faith have to do with government, elections, public policy and political participation?

The Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Arizona (LAMA) is a ministry of the ELCA and the Grand Canyon Synod. Love of Christ has been a faithful LAMA supporter and the group reminds us that Christians are called to take responsibility for the good of all through civic participation.

As midterm elections draw near, Arizona voters are being asked to vote on ballot measures that can change state law or amend the Arizona Constitution. These measures may look short on the ballot, but their effects can be long-lasting. Some are technical. Some are controversial. Some sound simple but include details that matter deeply for our neighbors, schools, communities and public life.

That's why LAMA has prepared a 2026 Arizona Proposition Voter Guide. To be clear, this is only a guide to Arizona ballot propositions, not candidates. Click on the link below to find a simple explanation of each proposition, a LAMA voting recommendation and a detailed statement on the LAMA position on each proposition.

<https://lamaz.org/news-blog/introducing-lamas-2026-voter-guide>

If you'd like to be more engaged in our LAMA efforts, please contact our liason person, Jim Melzer at jmelzer@comcast.net.



Women's Monthly Bible Study will meet again on Wednesday, October 14th from 4:30-5:30 pm in Fellowship hall. The study will be on Ephesians.

No homework. One hour. Enjoy great discussions. All are welcome.
Barb Talmage and Pastor Nanette

Next Dates: Nov 4, Dec 2, Jan 6, Feb 3, No March (lent) and April 7th.



Young Adults will meet again on October 18th 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 edge
- 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

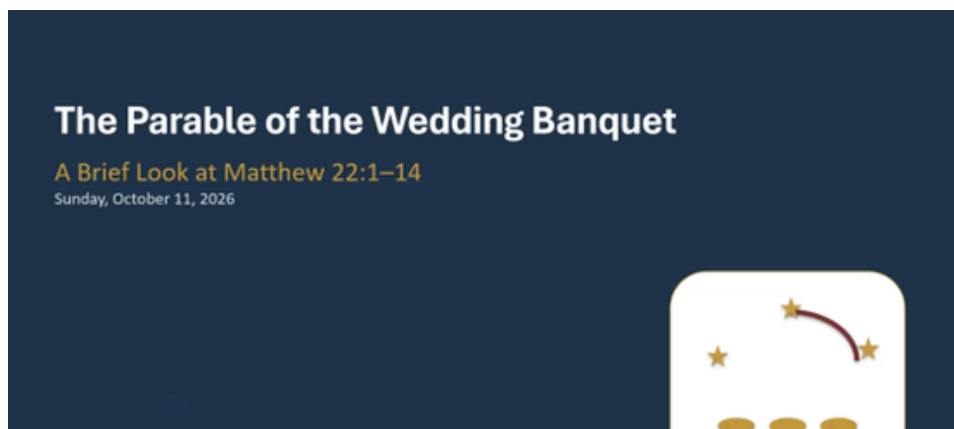
There is an additional set of slides which have instructions on how to start crocheting. If you do not need those instructions, ignore.

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Isaiah 25:1-9
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(12 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/nqv5LcrVpOo>
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1622314642959393/>
Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Matthew 22:1-14
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(14 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/-N0YoxrOgHw>
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1083635417623187/>
Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

some on



Pastor Steve Talmage “Turning Down Invitations”

Isaiah 25:1-9

O Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.
Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the
heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter
rainstorm,
the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.
On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for
all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines
strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from
all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away
from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so
that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Phillippians 4: 1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and
long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this
way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same
mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal
companion, help these women, for they have struggled
beside me in the work of the gospel, together with
Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are
in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let
your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by
prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your
requests be made known to God. And the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding, will guard your
hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever
is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there
is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of
praise, think about these things. As for the things that
you have learned and received and heard and noticed in
me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The
kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a
wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those
who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would
not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who
have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen
and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is
ready; come to the wedding banquet.’

But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm,
another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves,
mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He
sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their
city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those
invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and
invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’

Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom
they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled
with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man
there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him,
‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And
he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind
him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness,
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many
are called, but few are chosen.”