



Love of Christ Lutheran Church

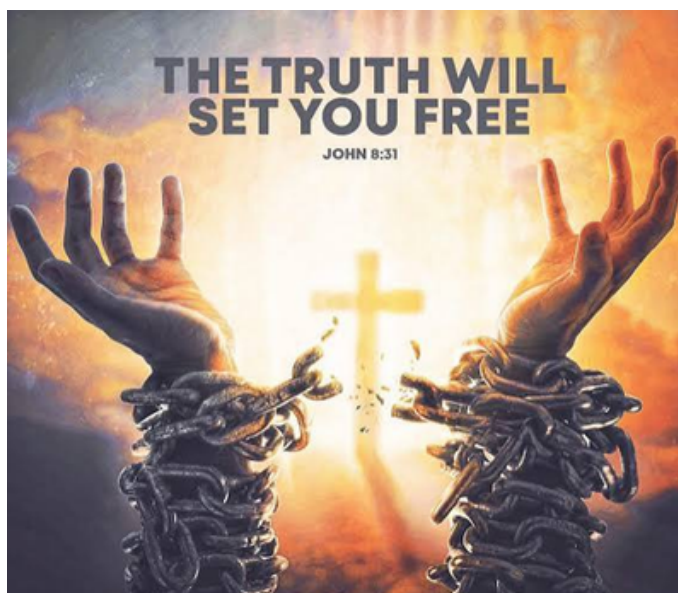
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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

E-News for Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2026



Christ the Liberator

We are invited to hear in John 8:31–36 a Reformation-shaped proclamation of Christ's liberating grace: genuine freedom is not primarily political independence or personal autonomy, but release from sin, death, and the powers that estrange people from God and neighbor. The Son alone grants this lasting freedom by incorporating people into God's household. Jesus addresses people who have already begun to believe in him and calls them to "continue" or abide in his word. In Johannine terms, this is not merely accepting a proposition about Jesus; it is sustained relationship—remaining connected to Jesus, his teaching, and the life he gives.

The word of Christ creates and sustains disciples, reveals God's truth, and frees people for life. "The truth will make you free" is not usually read as a slogan about having correct information or winning an argument. In John's Gospel, truth is bound to Jesus himself—his revelation of the Father, his grace, and his saving presence. To know the truth is to be brought into a faithful relationship with the One who discloses God. This truth will set us free.

The passage does not promise disciples a life without struggle, social constraint, or responsibility. It promises that sin, accusation, fear, and death do not finally own them. Freed by Christ, Christians are then free for loving service of the neighbor—a familiar Lutheran theme rather than an ideal of self-directed individualism.

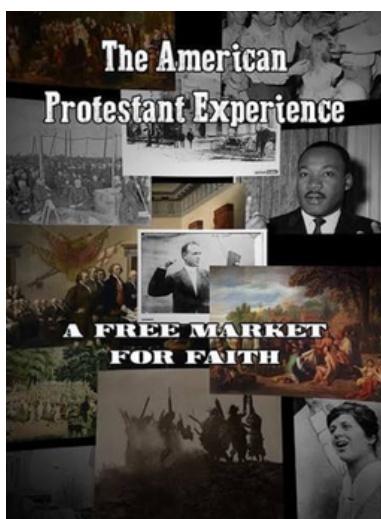


Reformation Sunday is October 25. As a major day in the life of the Lutheran Church, we are encouraged to wear RED.

Key Reasons for Wearing Red:

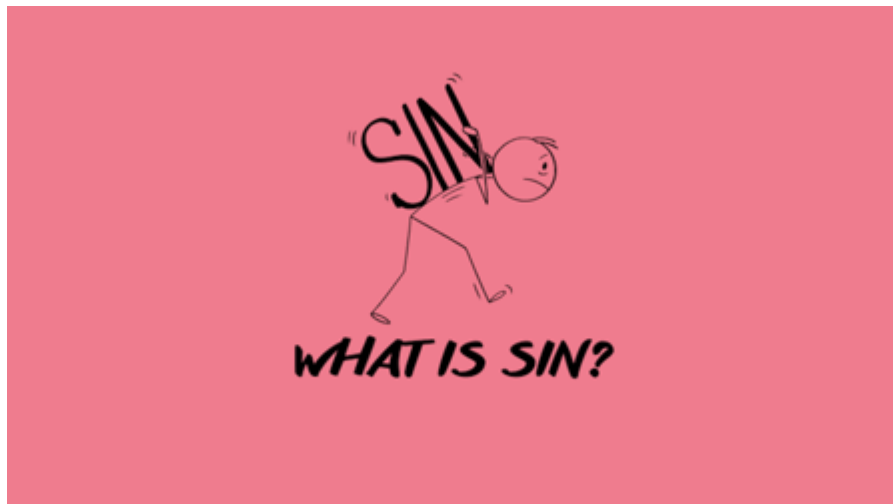
- **The Holy Spirit:** Red is the liturgical color for Pentecost (representing the tongues of fire). Wearing it on Reformation Sunday reminds believers that the same Spirit who guided the apostles also empowered Martin Luther and other reformers to renew the Church.
- **Witness of Martyrs:** Red traditionally symbolizes the blood shed for the Gospel. It honors those who suffered and died for their faith during and after the Reformation era.
- **Zeal and Boldness:** The color visually expresses the fiery passion, courage, and steadfastness required to stand up for biblical truth and grace.
- **Church Unity:** Wearing red clothing, paraments, or stoles creates a visible expression of community, celebration, and shared faith across the congregation

Adult Study, Wednesday evenings, starting 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.



It is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.
Who will rescue me from this body of death?
Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Chief!
—from Romans 7.15-25

Our sin isn't that we're bad.
It's that we don't know how to trust God.
“Original” sin just means we were born that way.

Without trust in God, we're slaves to our egos, constantly trying to protect our little individual selves.
We don't mean to; instinct kicks in, and we're selfish.

Like Gollum protecting his Precious,
we're constantly anxious about our self-worth.
It's a deadening way to live.

The war between good and evil is a cage fight.
We can't get out. We try to do the right thing, but keep maiming ourselves. How do we win?

We don't. God removes us from the fray.
We are forgiven. Nasty, broken, and beloved.
There's no cage. No fight. Only our needs, and God's grace.

The call—a gift, yet so hard!— is simply to trust that.
We get free, then crawl back into the cage.
And God removes us again. And bit by bit
we learn to trust. And to live like it.
Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ,
the Referee of Love. (Steve Garnass-Holmes)



Lutheran Disaster Response provides partnership support

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

- Texas Severe Flooding: Heavy rains and flash floods are prompting states of emergency and sandbag distributions across cities like Dallas and Fort Worth.
- Hawaii Tropical Storm Nolo: An active emergency declaration has been in place since late September 2026.
- Wildfires in the West/South: Active Fire Management Assistance declarations include the Bunker Fire in Arkansas and the Hydra Fire in Texas.
- Recent Severe Storms: Major disaster declarations were recently finalized for severe storms and tornadoes in Ohio, North Dakota, and Kentucky.



Subject: Come Enjoy Coffee Fellowship with Us!

Dear Members of Love of Christ, Enjoy a friendly time of coffee, conversation, and fellowship with fellow Love of Christ members on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

We meet at 10:00 AM in the Superstition Springs Mall food court near the carousel. Coffee is available at Cinnabon, and cold beverage options are available nearby. It is a wonderful opportunity to visit, laugh, catch up, and strengthen friendships within our church family. We would be delighted to have you join us!

If you have any questions, please contact Eunice Ketterling at 701-871-1445.

Best regards, Eunice Ketterling



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

The next meeting of the LOC Book Club will be held on Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 10:15 am in the Leadership Room (located next to the Church Offices). We will be discussing Whistler by Ann Patchett.

Here is a brief synopsis:

Whistler is a story about two adults, Daphne Fuller and Eddie Triplett, who knew each other for just over a year, 40 plus years ago as stepdaughter and stepfather. They hadn't seen each other since the fateful event that changed the direction of both of their lives. This chance meeting at the Metropolitan Museum of Art deeply impacts both of them, neither wanting to lose touch again.

This is a story about the choices they made and the choices that were made for them. A story about bravery, memory and the small yet consequential moments that define our lives, and the endless stream of loss that in time comes for us all. It's ultimately about how love endures and the feeling of being known by another, even for a short period of time.

Please join us for this discussion on November 15th. On your way to the Leadership Room stop by the Hospitality Room for coffee and goodies so you'll be fortified for an engaging conversation of Whistler.

For those of you who want to read ahead, our next book in January, 2027 will be Kin by Tayari Jones.

Here is a brief synopsis:

Vernice and Annie, two motherless daughters raised in Honeysuckle, LA have been best friends and neighbors since childhood but are fated to live starkly different lives. Vernice leaves Honeysuckle at eighteen having been raised by a fierce aunt after her mother's death. She goes to Spellman College where she joins a sisterhood of powerfully connected Black women and discovers a world of affluence, manners, aspiration and inequality. Annie, abandoned by her mother as a child and fixated on the idea of finding her, sets off on a journey that will take her into a world of peril and adversity, as well as love and adventure, culminating in a battle for her life.

This book is about mothers and daughters, friendship and sisterhood, and the complexities of being a woman in the American South.



See you on November 15th for Whistler!



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

If you are struggling to balance your home budget or the realities of ever-increasing costs help is available. A new free resource is available to help you walk through and develop a plan to lessen the stress.

Money Canvas is a free coaching program from Thrivent, a not-for-profit organization. We created it to help you build confidence with your money - no account linking, no sales pitch, and no pressure to use any other services. To learn more check out this link:
<https://www.thrivent.com/generosity/money-canvas>



Thank You-We Reached and Exceeded our Goal!!!

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 \$41,550!



Continuing the Love of Christ
Endowment News

Three financial planners were asked what's one 'quiet' risk people forget to plan for-and what's a first step to address it?

"Many people neglect to create or update estate legal documents. Those who have them often think it's a one-and-done task. Once estate documents are made, have them reviewed by a legal professional every 10 years or whenever significant life changes have occurred, such as a marriage, birth, death, or change of residency."

"Waiting is a 'quiet' risk we all like to take. We tell ourselves we'll act when things are more settled, more certain, more 'in place.' But waiting can cost us growth, flexibility, and opportunities. Even if the first step feels small or imperfect, starting your plan today builds momentum, and momentum creates choices for tomorrow."

"Required Minimum Distributions" (RMDs) are the IRS's sneaky way of creating tax revenue off your retirement assets. Without planning, RMDs can push you into higher tax brackets, reduce deductions, and increase Medicare premiums. Planning early enables gradual, tax efficient moves. Later, strategies like Roth conversions, wealth transfer strategies and longevity planning can help defuse the accumulated "tax time bomb".

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.

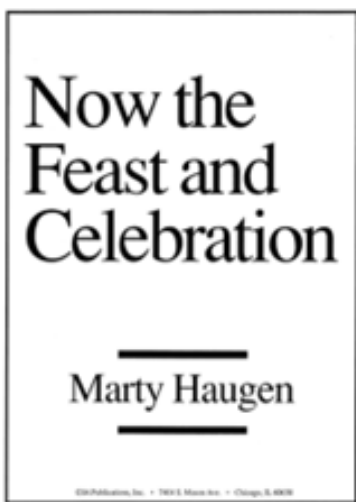
But Sleep in Heavenly Peace here in Phoenix has been hard at work to make sure that “No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town!” and has delivered over 11,000 beds in the valley in the last 7 years.

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 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 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



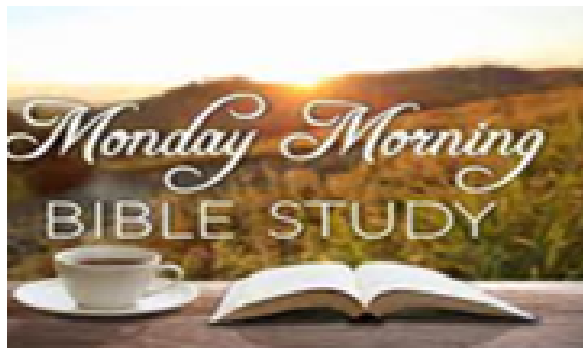
Naomi Circle will meet on: November 9th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall.
All women are welcome—invite your friends!



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.



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: rutholeonard@icloud.com



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

Contact Mason Weatherly at: masonw@locic.org



Confirmation

Confirmation will meet on Wed. October 21st, from 6:00-7:00 pm



Grades 4,5, and 6 will meet on Sunday, November 15th, 3:30-5:00 pm. Please contact:

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

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, November 15, 3:30-5:00 pm in the CoC
Sunday School Every Sunday in Godly Play Room
Youth Sunday Hangout at 10:00am in the Youth Room
Confirmation Every Wednesday (6:00pm-7:00pm)



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

Service Opportunities Save the Date!

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 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

Ways to give to our World, State, and Local Ministries in November and December

Feed My Starving Children Event November 5,6,7 Be sure to sign up and help pack food for children around the world.

November 1-November 20 Grocery store gift cards for local LSS-SW food banks (Cards and money donations will be split evenly between First Evangelical Food Bank and Victory Food Bank) The food banks are asking for \$25 gift cards so the receivers can buy a Turkey with them.

ELCA Good Gifts: A wonderful opportunity to give a gift of an animal to people around the world.
(Nov. 22-Dec. 20)

Target Gift Cards for Christmas Gifts for Local Families (Nov. 8-29)

Advent Reverse Boxes: The boxes along with a list of things needed will be passed out on the First Sunday of Advent (Nov. 29) Filled boxes are to be returned on the following Sundays, Dec. 20, Dec. 27, and January 3. These boxes of food will help replenish the LSS-SW First Evangelical and Victory Food Banks.

Family Promise will be here from Dec. 27-Jan. 3.



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 that 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 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 liaison person, Jim Melzer at jmelzer@comcast.net.

For more information on LAMA please go to our website at this link: [LAMAZ.org](https://lamaz.org)



Women's Monthly Bible Study will meet again on Wednesday, November 4th 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: Dec 2, Jan 6, Feb 3, No March (lent) and April 7th.



Young Adults will meet on Sunday November 8 in the CoC parking lot at 4:30. We will be carpooling to the Vesper and Jazz service at Mt. of Olive Lutheran Church. 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.

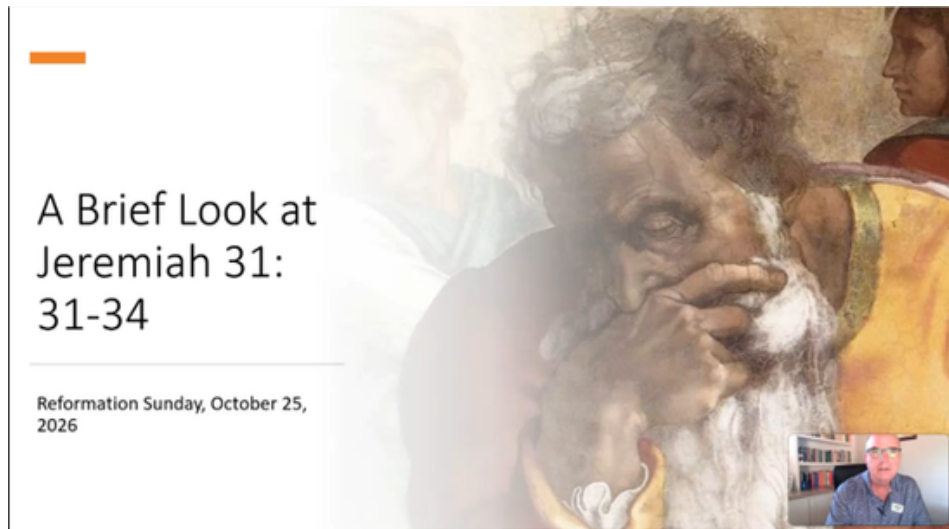
- If you just folded and cut the slits;

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

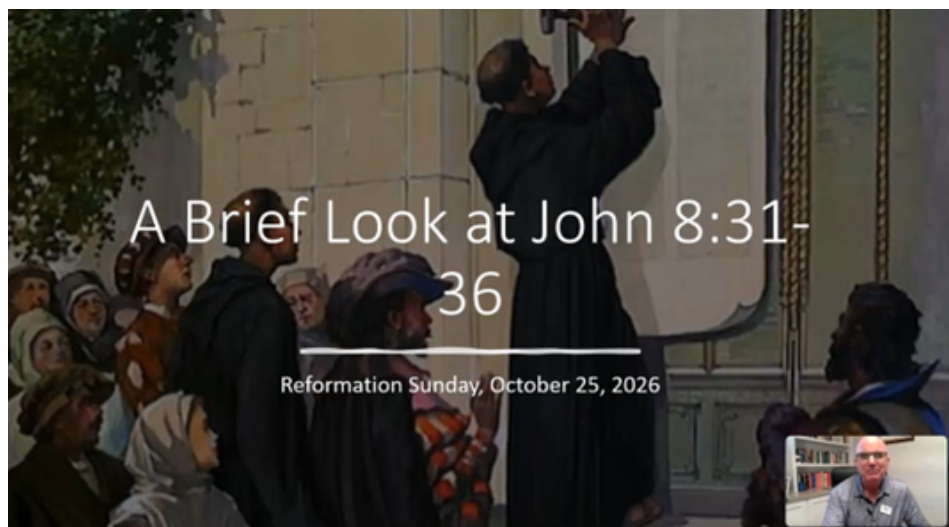
There is an additional set of slides which have instructions on how to start crocheting. If you do not need those instructions, ignore.

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Jeremiah 31:31-34
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(14 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/0l6sheT8ncs>
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1098227942977153/>
Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at John 8:31-36
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YouTube: <https://youtube/KPIQ62Qm9dk>
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/3263360977446388/>
Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>



Pastor Steve Talmage “Christ the Liberator”

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A New Covenant

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. **32** It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. **33** But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **34** No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Romans 3:19-28

19 Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. **20** For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

Righteousness through Faith

21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, **22** the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ^[a] for all who believe.^[b] For there is no distinction, **23** since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; **24** they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement^[c] by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.^[d]

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

John 8:31-36

True Disciples

³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.