



# Love of Christ Lutheran Church

1525 North Power Road  
Mesa AZ 85205

Fax: (480) 832-2583  
Office: (480) 981-6199

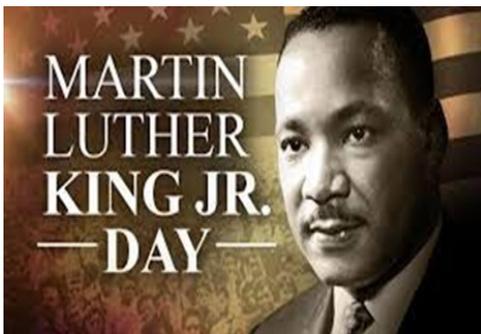
## Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

2nd Sunday of Epiphany, January 18, 2026



### "The Lamb of God"

When John calls Jesus "the Lamb of God", he proclaims that: Jesus is God's chosen sacrifice, whose self-giving love brings deliverance, forgiveness, and new life for the whole world. It's both an announcement of identity (who Jesus is) and a preview of mission (what he will do). The season of Epiphany refers to the manifestation of Christ to the world — God's revealing of Jesus as the Savior not only for Israel but for all nations. In this week's Gospel, John intends for his Jewish audience to see and come to know Jesus as the one through whom God will be reconciled with all who have been separated by sin.



### The Church Office will be closed in observance of the Federal Holiday Monday, January 19, 2026

A Prayer: God of justice and mercy, we thank you for the life and witness of Martin Luther King Jr. Strengthen us to love our neighbors, confront injustice, and walk humbly in your truth. Amen.



Celebration of Life for Ken Johnson will be held on Friday, January 23rd at 11:00 in the Sanctuary. Reception held after service in Rooms 48 thru 50 in Center of Compassion.



**“If we are to have peace on Earth loyalties must become more ecumenical rather than sectional. Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation, and this means we must develop a world perspective”-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

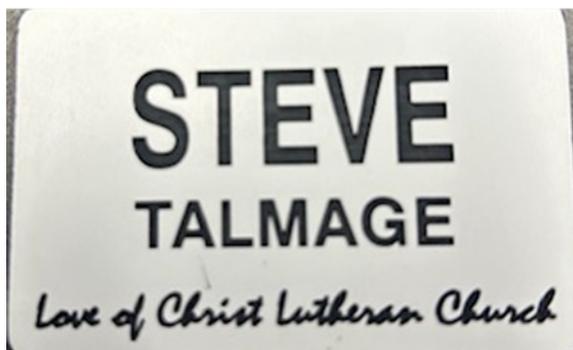


**Thank you, Jack, JoAnn, Jeremy, and Delilah Grant for organizing and delivering our abundance of reverse Advent boxes! Thank you to all who shopped and filled these boxes to restock the food pantry shelves at Victory Lutheran and First Evangelical Lutheran.**



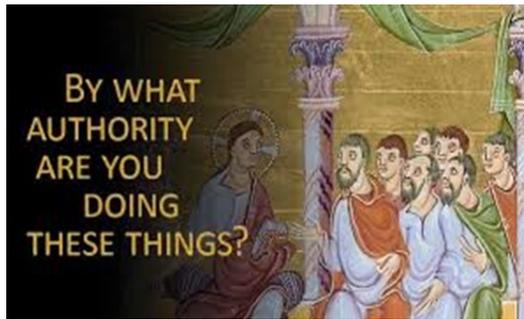
### **Welcome Seasonal Guests!**

During the first quarter of every year, we benefit from the presence of winter guests who model their commitment to Christ through weekly worship in our community. We are grateful for those who choose not to give up the habit of gathering to hear the Word and receive the Sacrament. If you have questions or pastoral needs, please let our office or one of the pastors know. Welcome!



### **Nametags Foster Community! Nonmembers and Seasonal Guests are welcome to order one!**

Whether you are a longtime member or a regular guest for a season of the year, you are welcome to order a nametag from Dianne Oien, ([dianneoien@loclc.org](mailto:dianneoien@loclc.org)). If you want to make a \$5.00 donation, it will cover the cost. The pastors really appreciate it when our community wears their nametags!

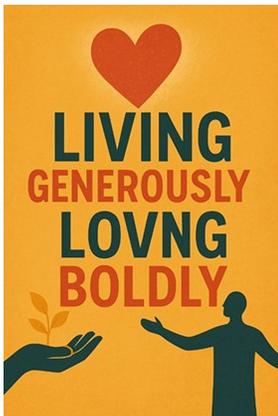


### ***By What Authority: Rethinking Early Christian History***

***Wednesday, at 6PM in the Fellowship Hall***

We are on a journey through the first five centuries of the Early Church. It provides helpful background in how the Holy Spirit worked through the global and diverse movement of believers and communities coming together. How they dealt with Emperor and Empire. How they navigated, debated, and determined our early creeds and church organization. This course is on Wednesdays through February 11. Whether you can attend some of the classes or all, all are welcome to join.

**Upcoming Topics:** 1/21 Martyrs and Confessors, 1/28 Monasticism and Ascetics



On Saturday, January 10, some of us gathered for the funeral of long-time member Judith Olsen. She was intentional in planning her funeral service and providing an outline of the faith she had in our Lord and Savior. It is always a gift to the pastors of LoC when those who claim this place as their faith community to do the work of preparing for their death and getting their house in order. Personal selection of Scriptures, hymns or songs, and statements of faith are a gift to the community to be shared and celebrated when our time on this earth is over. Judith was also intentional in finding a way she could still support the mission and ministry of Love of Christ after she died. She has a \$10,000 life insurance policy in which she named Love of Christ as the beneficiary, and she stated her intent it would go to our growing Endowment Fund. She knew her gift would be joined with others to continue to provide resources long into the future to support making the Love of Christ known both near and far. Learn more about how you might support a gift to the Endowment Fund by going to our website (<https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/endowment>)

### **Music Notes....**

#### **Handbell Ringers Needed**

Do you read music and count beats? We would love to have you join our Handbell Choir! We are looking for ringers for monthly Sunday performances.

Rehearsals are held **Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Greenroom**. If you're interested, please let me know—we'd love to ring with you! You can contact me at [jungmusic@lolc.org](mailto:jungmusic@lolc.org)

We can't wait to celebrate this wonderful season of music, fellowship, and joy with all of you.

**With gratitude and excitement,**  
Jung Lee



## **“Who Done It” mystery & Dinner**

**January 18th in the Center of Compassion**

**Attend the Billionaires’ Club Annual Masquerade Ball and help get this soiree back on track by trading clues with your fellow guests, gathering information, and solving the crime before the masked menace gets away! Get ready for an evening of mystery, intrigue and more at this event! Come as you are. No costumes necessary!**

**\$25 Adult**

**\$50 for family of four (recommended for kids 8 thru 17)**

**Pasta/salad/bread & dessert**

**3:00 to 3:30 arrive at event**

**3:30 to 5:00 event**

**Dinner 5:00 to 6:00**



**Tickets can be purchased at our website until Thursday, 1/15!**



### **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](mailto:ketts14az@gmail.com)



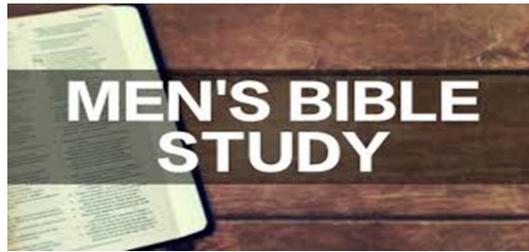
### **Community Garden News**

Come join us and grow something beautiful. Questions, contact Nancy at [Dntoll74@gmail.com](mailto:Dntoll74@gmail.com)



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

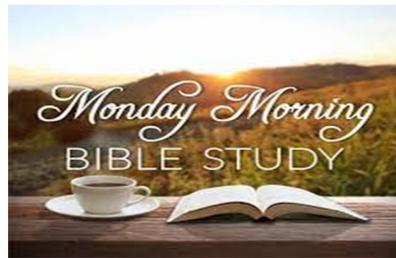
**On February 14th, The LOC Hiking Ladies will be traveling to Cave Creek County Park and hiking the Go John and Quartz Loop Trail. This 3.8 mile loop follows along a low ridge on mostly smooth dirt with occasional rocks, ruts, and loose material, opening to wide Sonoran Desert views. Saguaros and palo verde trees line the slopes, and as an extra treat, we will pass by the Michelin Man cactus. We will meet at 7:00. Contact: Pat Shaw at 480 334-9123 (better to text).**



Pastor Steve is leading a weekly early morning Men's Bible Study on Mondays, 6:30-7:30AM in the Leadership Room. We are studying Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Men of all ages are welcome to participate. **NO study on 1/19 due to Holiday!**



Online Video introductions provided by our pastors of Sunday Lectionary readings. They may be found on Facebook, YouTube or [loveofchristchurch.net](http://loveofchristchurch.net)



**Monday Morning Bible Study in the Leadership Room**

**10:30 Coffee Fellowship, 11:00AM Bible Study**

**NO Study on 1/19 due to 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 in the Leadership Room. This group will be using Marcus Borg's book: ***Reading the Bible Again for the First Time***. Books can be purchased **at class** for \$10. Please contact Ruth Leonard or Margrit Aeschbach at the following emails for more information. (Margrit: [mwiss43@gmail.com](mailto:mwiss43@gmail.com) and Ruth: [ruthleonard@icloud.com](mailto:ruthleonard@icloud.com) )



Faith stretch yoga **meets on Thursdays at 9:00am in Outreach room.**  
For questions and more information, text Georgia at 406-925-0013 or  
email: [nonnagg51@gmail.com](mailto:nonnagg51@gmail.com) .



There is hangout this Sunday from 10 to Noon in the Youth Room!

There is Youth Group this Wednesday night from 6-7:30pm in Youth Room!

**Contact Mason Weatherly for more info at [masonw@loclc.org](mailto:masonw@loclc.org)**



### **Confirmation**

Confirmation will be held on Wednesday nights from 6PM to 7PM in the room 48.

Next Confirmation class on Wednesday, January 21st

Any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at [nanette@loclc.org](mailto:nanette@loclc.org)

**A brief Overview for 2026 Save the Dates:**

**January 18:** Fellowship Mystery Dinner, sign up online thru Thursday, 1/15

**February 7:** Women's Retreat at LoC, more information below and sign up online

**February 23:** Lutheran Day at the Legislature

**April 12:** 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**June 11,12,13:** Synod Assembly at LoC

**July 6-10** VBS

**Women's Retreat February 7<sup>th</sup> 9:00-3:30 in the Center of Compassion**



**LoC Women's Retreat — *It Is Well With My Soul: Living Water***

Come to the Well to be refreshed! Throughout Scripture, wells are sacred spaces—places where God meets people, initiates new relationships, and reveals holy purpose. At a well in John chapter 4, Jesus meets a woman carrying the weight of her story, and in that encounter offers living water that restores, renews, and makes her whole.

This year's LoC Women's Retreat is centered on that holy meeting place with the theme "**It Is Well With My Soul.**" Together, we will gather at the well—just as the Samaritan woman did—to be seen, known, and refreshed by Christ.

During our time together, we will explore how God invites us to care for ourselves in faithful and holistic ways:

- **Spiritual care** — tending to our souls through prayer, Scripture, and grace
- **Physical care** — honoring our bodies as beloved creations of God

**Emotional care** — acknowledging our stories, wounds, and joys with honesty and compassion. Like the woman at the well, we come as we are—and leave changed. Join us for a time of rest, renewal, connection, and living water that truly satisfies.

We will be having 4 guest speakers and a catered lunch. Please go online to sign up.

*Cost is \$30.00 and lunch is included. You can pay for it online on our website under donate/ scroll down to Women's Retreat 2026 or pay on Saturday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> at the door.*

## Refugee Family Co-Sponsorship with Lutheran Social Services:

Our Co-Sponsorship Team has been helping a refugee family from Syria. The help that is needed is working with the adults who are learning English. This team is making wonderful progress and forming some beautiful relationships with the family as well. We have provided back to school clothing and backpacks for each of the four children, along with teaching them English. If you are interested in learning more or think you might like to join this team, please contact Chris Norden at [norden6162@gmail.com](mailto:norden6162@gmail.com)



Our Sunday School Ministry continues on throughout the New Year! For ages 4-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Sunday School is from 9:10-9:50. Children are to come to church with their parents and are dismissed for Sunday School after the Children's Message. They return to worship during Communion. For grades 3-6, Sunday school begins at 9:50 and they are done at 10:20. Sunday School takes place in the Godly Play room. For any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at [nanette@loclc.org](mailto:nanette@loclc.org)



Grades 4,5, and 6 will meet in the CoC on February 15th for games, a lesson on worship, and an amazing snack! The fun begins at 3:30 and ends at 5:00! Please contact Laura Ontiveros or Pastor Nanette for more information.

## Sleep in Heavenly Peace News



We are celebrating the 10,000th bed to be delivered soon to a child in the Phoenix area! The Phoenix Chapter began 7 years ago and is still going strong to meet the need of our community.

Thanks to all the donors of time and funds to make this exciting milestone happen. The reason for this effort which improves the lives of children in our community is brought home every time we witness a child receiving a bed for the first time!

We are also fortunate to have a lot of individuals who continue to make blankets and contribute stuffed animals, books and sheets.

THANK YOU!

## 🌸 MomCo at Love of Christ Lutheran Church! 🌸

Calling all moms! Whether you're in the thick of toddlerhood, navigating teenage years, or somewhere in between — you're not alone.



We're excited to announce that our church will now be hosting MomCo, a community designed for moms, by moms. MomCo is a place where women gather in circles of support, friendship, and faith — because raising humans is both beautiful and hard, and no one should have to do it alone:

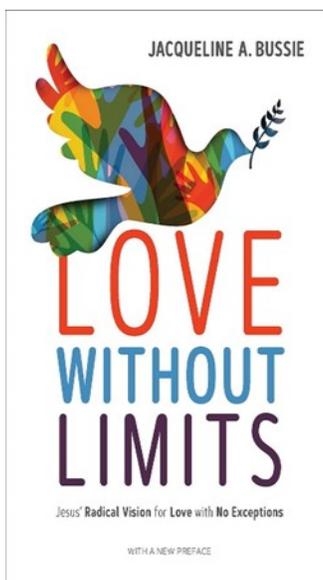
- Build meaningful, lasting friendships
- Encourage and equip moms to lead with love
- Grow the church by nurturing families in faith
- Bring mothers and their families closer to Jesus

Join Us! Location: Love of Christ

📅 When: Next meeting January 14th. We will get back to the 1st Wednesday of the month in February. | 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM in Godly Playroom (Nursery) located in entrance to Center of Compassion.

📞 Contact: Kacey Weir or Pastor Nanette Christofferson 🌐

Online Options: - <http://www.themom.co/groups/loveofchristmesa>



**Love Without Limits meets again on February 4th at 4:30 in the Fellowship Hall.**

In her book, Jacqueline Bussie says nothing is more scandalous than a “love without limits.” How does a love without limits mirror Jesus and the God we are called to serve? How does this echo Jesus’ ministry in Luke 15 (the parables of being lost) or Paul’s proclamation in Galatians 3:28 (There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one Christ Jesus)? This study is open to all women who are interested in learning about our God who loves without limits! They will be discussing Chapter 4 for the February 4th meeting.



Young Adults are typically between the ages of 18 and 30-5 ish! We are fortunate to have the above Young Adults interested in gathering and learning together. Our next meeting time will be on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 in the CoC. We will continue with the Small Catechism and make plans for our next service project. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette or Laura Ontiveros.

**WOW! Word on Wednesdays will resume on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**

Children's Musical, Adult Bible Study, and Confirmation/Youth Group begin at 6PM. A light meal will be served at 5:30 in rooms 48 & 49 in Center of Compassion.

**Children's Musical—The FAB 4 Kids Show—Rockin' the Gospels All the Way to the Cross!**

**Rehearsal begins on Wednesday, January 14th from 6pm to 7pm in Room 50**

**Performance: Sunday, May 3rd at 9AM**

**Scripture Lesson**  
**A Brief Look at Isaiah 49:1-7**  
**with Pastor Steve Talmage**  
**(11 min)**

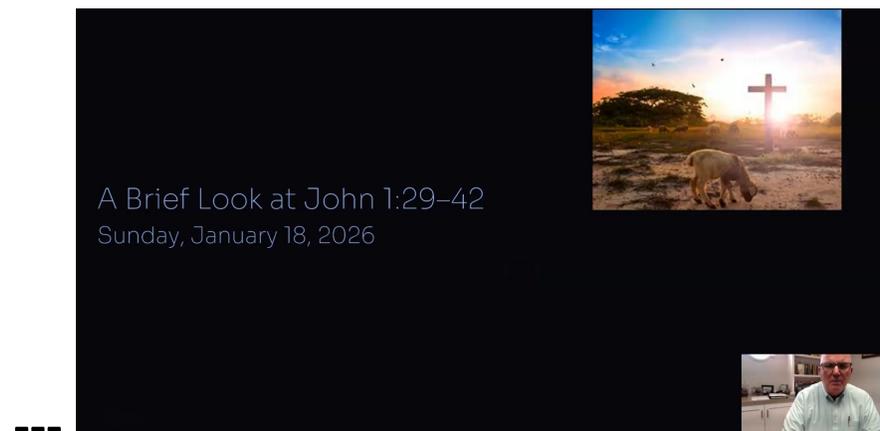


**YouTube:** [https://youtu.be/nqov1\\_P3gwE](https://youtu.be/nqov1_P3gwE)

**Facebook:** <https://facebook.com/reel/856427607021694/>

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

**Scripture Lesson**  
**A Brief Look at John 1:29-42**  
**with Pastor Steve Talmage**  
**(13 min)**



**YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/efRz8sAh5gU>

**Facebook:** <https://facebook.com/reel/886774833767682/>

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

Sunday, January 18, 2026, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on  & 

## Pastor Steve Talmage—"The Lamb of God"

### Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands;  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The Lord called me before I was born;  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.  
He made my mouth like a sharp sword;  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow;  
in his quiver he hid me away.  
And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."  
But I said, "I have labored in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the Lord  
and my reward with my God."  
And now the Lord says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,  
and my God has become my strength—  
he says,  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the Lord,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
"Kings shall see and stand up;  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the Lord, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

### 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of  
God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are  
sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with  
all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the  
Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the  
grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for  
in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech  
and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony  
of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you  
are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of  
our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the  
end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord

Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called  
into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### John 1:29-42

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and de-  
clared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin  
of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a  
man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I  
myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water  
for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And  
John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven  
like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know  
him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to  
me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain  
is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself  
have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

The next day John again was standing with two of his dis-  
ciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed,  
"Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard  
him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned  
and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you  
looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated  
means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to  
them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was  
staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about  
four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard  
John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's  
brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him,  
"We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anoint-  
ed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and  
said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called  
Cephas" (which is translated Peter).