

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

Sunday, April 13, 2025, Palm Sunday



"From Hosannas to Crucify Him!"

Throughout Lent, we have been living with our brokenness—both here and now in our families and the world—and through time from the earliest days after leaving the Garden. As we look towards Holy Week, we begin by singing with joy and lifting our praises in the deep conviction that God's love endures forever. We know that God has sent Jesus to us, bringing a kin-dom we could not possibly imagine. Passion Sunday—which rehearses the entire story from hosannas to the crucifixion to Easter—offers us an overview, a summary, of what we will be walking through. On the first day of Holy Week, we are reminded that while love brings joy, it also brings deep grief. As this week goes forward, we will find ourselves moving through the valley of the shadow of death—both here and now in whatever ways we are inhabiting it—and through the deep story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. (Dr. Mary E. Hesse, Luther Seminary)



Holy Week Services at Love of Christ

Maundy Thursday, 4/17 Noon (Sanctuary) and 7PM Re-enactment of the Lord's Supper (Center of Compassion)

Good Friday, 4/18 Noon (Sanctuary) and 7PM (Center of Compassion)

Easter Sunday, 4/20 6:00AM (Center of Compassion Patio), 7:50AM (Sanctuary), 9:00AM and 10:30AM (Center of Compassion)



Easter and Pentecost to be celebrated in common by Eastern and Western Christianity

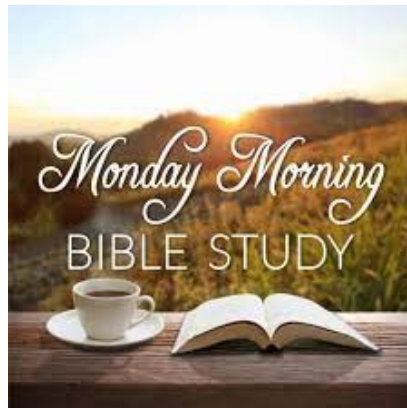
In 2025, all Christians will celebrate Easter and Pentecost on the same dates (April 20 and June 8 respectively) as the Easter calendars of Eastern and Western Christianity coincide. This will be a reminder that attempts to establish a common date for Easter began with the Council of Nicaea in the year 325. The Eastern Orthodox patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew, has expressed a desire that Christians in the East and the West begin celebrating Easter on a “unified date” rather than adhere to separate Lenten calendars. Pope Francis has also expressed his intent to reach an agreement to establish a common date for Easter: “I renew my appeal that this coincidence may serve as an appeal to all Christians to take a decisive step forward toward unity around a common date for Easter.”



Growing Through our Grief

Wednesdays 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14 at 4PM in the Leadership Room.

Sign-up on the LoC website or contact the church office, 480 981 6199.



No Monday AM Bible Study 4/14 or 4/21 due to Holy Week events.

**We will resume on 4/28 in the Leadership Room,
10:30 Coffee and Fellowship, 11-Noon Bible Study**



No Pastors' Online Video Lesson Introductions 4/14 or 4/21. We will resume on 4/28. Sunday Lectionary readings may be found on Facebook, YouTube or loveofchristchurch.net

Donation and Community Outreach Information

The Faith in Action Team invites all who are able to participate in our Lenten Donation Drive and our Lenten Faith In Action Education time. We ask for prayers, donations, and for a heart willing to learn more about the organizations we serve. Below you will find the Sunday donation drives. If you are able to purchase any of the items, feel free to bring them on any Sunday as they will not be distributed until after Easter.

The Faith In Action Team is so grateful for the many ways in which each of you serve these ministries whether it is through prayer, donation, or through volunteer hours. Thank you for embracing the Promise of Enough and trusting in God's abundant grace and faithfulness.

Lenten Sunday Drive Donations:

April 13: Gift cards: fuel and fast food restaurants.

WELCOME

This Sunday we welcome into the membership and ministry of Love of Christ Lutheran Church: Louie, Nicole, Gabriel, Olivia, Aubrei & Richard DeLeon; Kaden Gross; Jeremy & Delilah Grant; Mike & Roxee Jones; Judy Kauth; Franklin Saylor; Jenny, Owen & Ella Saylor; Jessica Tyler. Terry & Laurie Ahrendt will be received on April 27.

Sympathy & Comfort to:



✝ Jake and Rebecca Solomon, family & friends, as they mourn the passing of Grandpa Don Solomon.

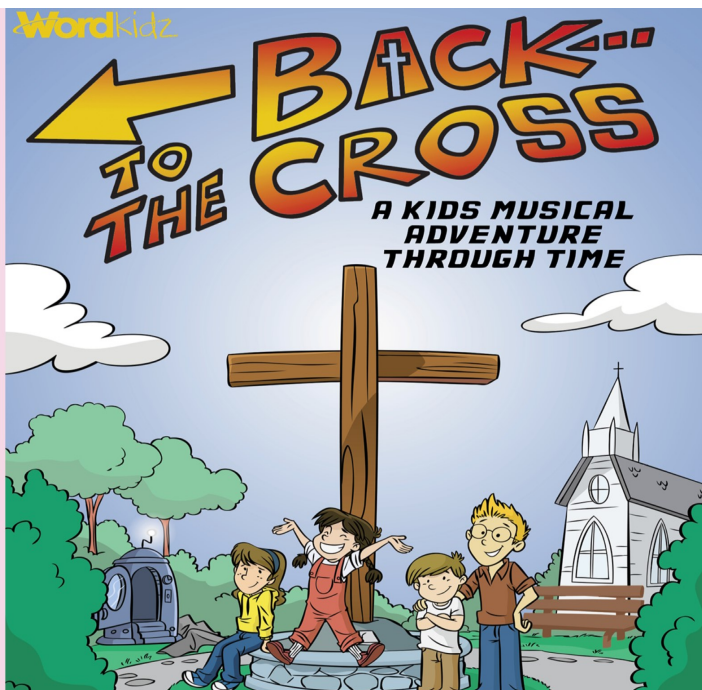
Please keep them in your prayers.

Our First Communion Class
 Making bread for their First Communion on April 17th at the 7:00PM Maundy Thursday Service.



First Communion Kids

Reese Anderson
 Harper Brewer
 Gabriel DeLeon
 Olivia DeLeon
 Ella Saylor
 Owen Saylor
 Rainer Sturgeon
 Roman Watson
 Olivia Worthington



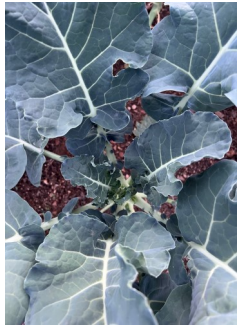
Performance

Sunday, May 4, 9am in the CoC

www.loveofchristchurch.net



The LoC Board of Directors approved the funeral for 96-year-old Loren Westrom be incorporated into our **10:30 worship service in the Sanctuary on Sunday, April 27, 2025**. Because Loren has no family who will be present, this service will be for Loren's Love of Christ family. When he was able, he attended the 10:30 service, often as part of the Altar Guild team. Loren served on Pastor Nanette's Internship Committee, was an Agape Home Communion caller, a Stephen Minister, an overnight host for Family Promise, a weekly participant in our prayer ministry, a member of the Nominating Committee, and a regular participant in Faith Formation offerings. Following the service a reception of coffee and ice cream will be offered, two things Loren enjoyed up until the day he died. Memorials may be given in Loren's name to the Love of Christ Endowment Fund.



Love of Christ Community Garden News

Take a look at the garden as you pass thru the parking lot this week. We have lots of good things growing !

It's a good time to be part of the garden group, too. We'll help you get started. If you have questions or want more information, please contact Nancy Dntoll74@gmail.com

Easter Lily or Mum Order by this Sunday, April 13



We will be decorating our chancel areas with Easter flowers. Please fill out the form below with the needed information and include your Easter flower check. *Return it to the church office or place in the Sunday offering by April 13.*

Easter Flowers

Name _____

Phone _____

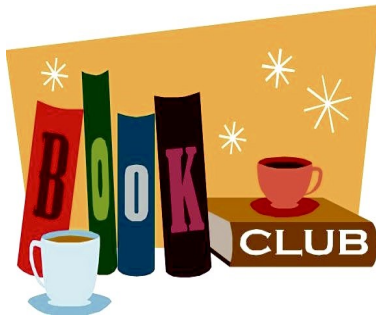
(____) Easter Lily (____) Mum

_____ Given to the glory of God.

_____ Given in honor of: _____

_____ Given in loving memory of: _____

Please make check out to "Love of Christ Flowers"
The cost is \$18.00 per plant. Thank you for sharing this Easter blessing to decorate our chancel on Easter Sunday.



The next meeting of the LOC Book Club will be held on Sunday, May 18th after the 9:00 am service in the Leadership Room (next to the church offices).

We will be discussing **Becoming Madam Secretary** by Stephanie Dray. Here is a synopsis of the book:

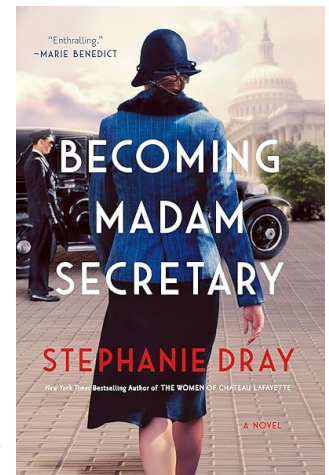
Frances Perkins arrives in New York City at the turn of the century determined to make a difference. She works with children in the crowded tenements in Hell's Kitchen and also throws herself in the social scene in Greenwich Village, befriending an eclectic group of politicians, authors and reformers.

When she meets lawyer Franklin Delano Roosevelt at a tea dance, she concludes that he is a rich, arrogant dilettante who gets by on his looks and his name. He thinks she is a priggish blue stocking and insufferable do-gooder.

Over the next twenty years they form an historic partnership that will carry them both to the White House. She's destined to rise in a political world dominated by men as she struggles to balance her career with marriage and motherhood. And at one point she must decide what she's willing to do to save a nation.

We may not have learned about the power of Frances Perkins in our history classes, but this book will shine a light on a remarkable woman whose accomplishments fighting for the rights of others are legendary.

See you on Sunday, May 18th for another great discussion. Don't forget to stop by Hospitality for coffee and a treat!



Easter has come to the Book Nook! Stop by and see all the Easter items we have. A very gracious church member has been busy sewing some very colorful Easter bunnies. If you have young members in your family, you will make them very happy by purchasing one of these very sweet bunnies. We hope to see you soon.

Next **Naomi Circle** will be our Luncheon. It will be on ***Monday, April 14th at 11:30 at the church.*** Bring something that you are known for, what you're famous for. It can also be a "hot dish" or "covered dish." Seriously, we will enjoy whatever you bring. We will still have a Bible Study, so bring your Gather Magazine. ***Wendy Smith is the Study Leader and Ardy Hinds is the Hostess.***

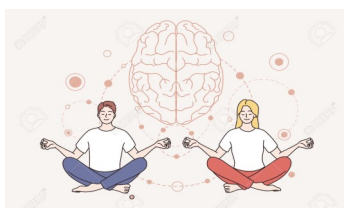


Mark your calendar for **April 26th** as the **LOC Women's Hiking Group** will be going to **Camp Verde** to find an historic homestead. We were not successful with finding the cabin last month. I think our problem was we needed to find something bigger. This month we're going to look for a ranch! We will hike a total of 3 miles on an old forest road to find the **V Lazy Y Ranch**. This is an historical homestead in the Coconino National Forest from 1959. Less than 2 miles from the highway, yet more than a half-century removed from the present, the ranch stands as a reminder of simpler times. Will meet at 7:00 am in the CoC parking lot. Contact Pat Shaw @ 480 334-9123 for more information.

We need some help!



Sleep in Heavenly Peace is delivering 80 beds to kids on the Navajo reservation and Love of Christ has purchased fleece and sheets for 30 of those beds. We need some help from volunteers who want to put the **love** into those blankets by crocheting or sewing the edges. We have help from groups at St. Lukes Lutheran Church, but we will need some crafty individuals to pitch in. These blankets must be done and returned to Love of Christ by Monday, April 28th which is a **really short turnaround**. If you can help, please contact JoAnn Grant at 571-334-5028 and we'll make an arrangement for you to get the fabric. Join us to share love with our neighbors in need.



Christ-centered yoga **Thursdays, 9am in the Outreach Rooms 13 & 14 (next to playground).** For questions and more information, text Georgia at 406-925-0013 or email: nonnagg51@gmail.com .

Faith in Action



What Does it mean to be Welcoming?

Open-ended questions are the best way to get to know another person. Open-ended questions limit, “Yes, No” responses. How long have you been attending worship at Love of Christ? What brought you to this community? Where do you call home? How have you been made to feel welcome? Questions like these help all of us discover how the Holy Spirit has been moving us into this community called Love of Christ Lutheran Church.

Campus Clean Up

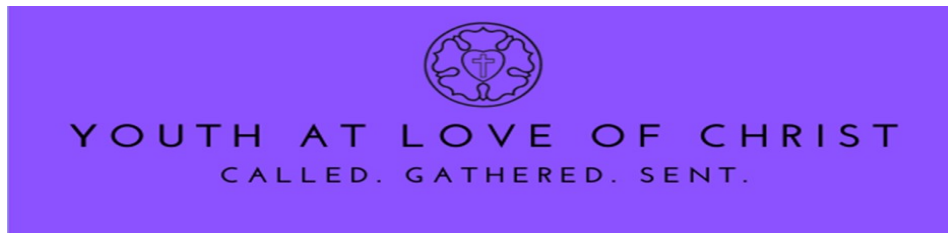


Campus Clean Up Tomorrow, Friday, April 11, 8am-Noon

We will be washing windows, light raking (bring your rake), and sweeping areas e.g. parking lot curbs and columbarium. If interested or need more information, please contact Dianne Oien at dianneoien@loclc.org.

| | 2025 | | 2024 | |
|----------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| | Boxes | People | Boxes | People |
| January | 271 | 724 | 308 | 903 |
| February | 254 | 739 | 272 | 725 |
| March | 269 | 757 | 262 | 718 |
| April | | | 274 | 692 |

1st Quarter Report from LSS-SW Food Bank at Victory Lutheran Church



There is NO YOUTH GROUP Wednesday, April 16th for Holy Week.

There is NO HANGOUT on Sunday, April 20th. Happy Easter!

The Youth will be attending Lutheran Campfirmation from June 29th to July 4th. Students beginning 7th grade in Fall 2025 and older are eligible to attend, and students in 11th grade to 18 year olds are eligible to be counselors. Please see Mason Weatherly or email him at masonlocic@gmail.com for more info!



Mark your Calendar!

First Communion on Thursday April 17 at 7:00 pm

May 4th Children's Musical at 9:00 am

Vacation Bible School June 2-6

Refugee Family Co-Sponsorship with Lutheran Family Services:

Our Co-Sponsorship Team is reaching out to see if anyone in the congregation is interested in joining them as they are in the process of working with a Refugee Family. A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. In order for a refugee to enter the US, they have gone through a vetting process and are legally recognized as needing international protection due to persecution or a well-founded fear of it.

73 percent of all refugees and other people in need of international protection come from just five countries: [Afghanistan](#), [Syria](#), [Venezuela](#), [Ukraine](#) and [Sudan](#).

While we do not know where the family will be from, we do know that we will be assigned a family soon. Please contact Chris Norden at norden6162@gmail.com if you are interested in being a part of this team.

Upcoming Children's Event



Sunday School Information: Pre-K through 2nd grade will meet for a Godly Play Lesson after the Children's Message and will return to church at communion. After Communion, grades 3-6 will meet from 9:50-10:20 in the Godly Play room for their Sunday School lesson. If you have any questions about Sunday School, please let Pastor Nanette know at nanette@loclc.org.

Vacation Bible School Dates are June 2-6 2025! Mark your calendar now!

Food, Fun, and Faith for grades 4, 5, and 6!



Grades Four, Five, and Six are invited to participate in our Sunday activities!

Come and enjoy food, fun, and learn about our Faith!

Please place these dates on your calendar and feel free to bring a friend:

Sunday, May 18th 4:30-6:00 pm in the CoC

Sunday, June 8th OVERNIGHT in the CoC 7:00 pm -7:00 am June 9th.

Coffee and Fellowship...



Hospitality Coffee will be held on the patio this Sunday, April 13, starting at 8:30 a.m. Please join us for coffee, a bounty of delightful treats, and fellowship.

We are also starting a new addition, Ministry Minute. Different ministries at Love of Christ will take turns offering their information and someone to answer questions about their work, and how you might participate, if interested. Our first Ministry Minute this Sunday will be Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and Jo-Ann Grant will have material and instructions for a new project

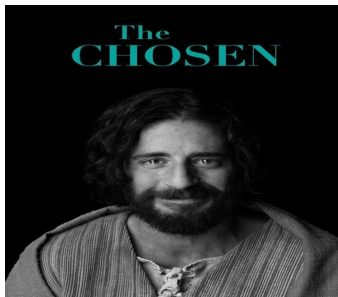


Prayer Share Care Bible Study—Our topic for the next several weeks will be on Prayer.

All women are invited to be a part of this lively discussion and learning experience. We hope to see you on Thursdays at 1pm in the Leadership Room!

We will not meet on Thursday, April 17. Plan on attending one of the Maundy Thursday Services at Noon in the Sanctuary or 7pm in the Center of Compassion.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at nanette@loclc.org



“The Chosen” is our women’s monthly Bible Study that will meet on Wednesday, May 7th at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for a light dinner, fellowship, and a discussion on Season 2 Episode 8 of “The Chosen”. For more information contact Cindy at cindybredeson@gmail.com



A story from another congregation from several years ago. The congregation had been committed to practicing growth-giving. After the congregation reached sharing a tithe or 10% of unrestricted offerings to the mission of Christ through the Grand Canyon Synod and ELCA Churchwide, the leadership continued to increase by 1% what was being shared outside the walls of the congregation. In an unexpected move at a congregational meeting, a voting member requested that the benevolence or that portion of the mission spending plan (budget) shared outside the walls of the congregation be reduced to give two staff members an additional raise (they were already being fairly compensated). The motion was amended to include, if by November of the current year offerings demonstrated the 2% benevolence reduction could be restored, the leadership would reinstate. Come November there was more than enough to restore the 2% reduction and the following year the congregation continued to increase by another 1% giving beyond their own walls. As a congregation and as individuals we are invited to remember daily God's ~~Im~~possible Promise of Enough.



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Churchwide Assembly is coming to the Phoenix Convention Center, July 28-August 2, 2025, and over 100 volunteers are needed for a variety of short-term or weeklong service. At this assembly, a new Presiding Bishop will be elected to lead our denomination. For information about opportunities, please go to <https://www.gcsynod.org/cwa>

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Isaiah 50:4-9
with Pastor Nanette Christofferson
(12 min)

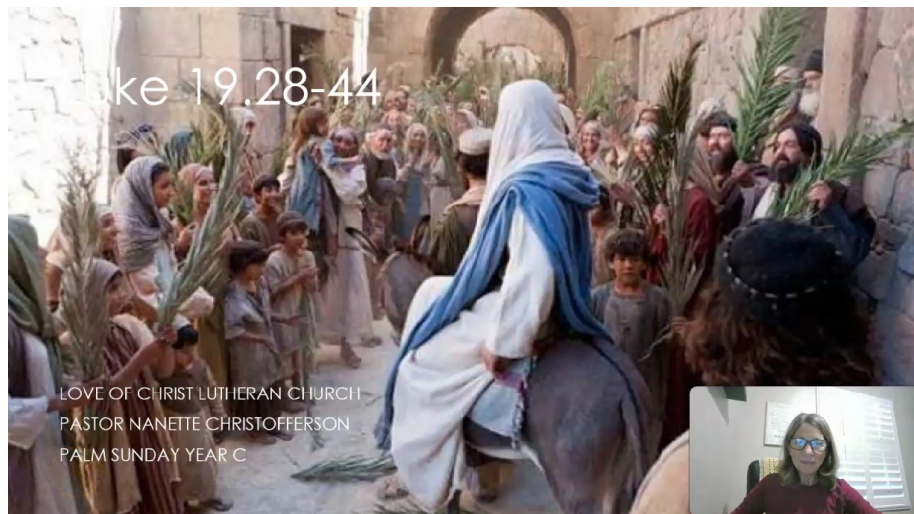


YouTube: <https://youtu.be/tQsU2IVohC4>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LOCLC/videos/1028577869184045/>

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

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Luke 19:28-44
with Pastor Nanette Christofferson
(14 min)



YouTube: https://youtu.be/agN_09GDsTo

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LOCLC/videos/1220455576087842/>

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

Online Introductions to Lectionary Lessons
are available by Wednesday of each week!



Pastor Nanette 's sermon title: "From Hosannas to Crucify Him!"

Isaiah 50:4-9

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Luke 19:28-44

²⁸After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹When he had

come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" ³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out." ⁴¹As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴²saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God."