



# Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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Mesa AZ 85205

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## Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

Sunday, April 14, 2024



### “Show and Tell”

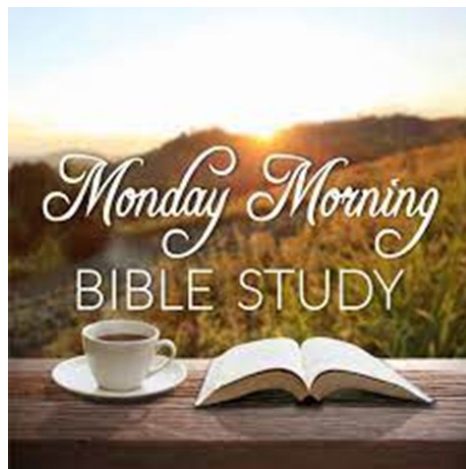
Following the exciting testimony of the two travelers to Emmaus where they had encountered the risen Lord, we find Jesus among his disciples doing a little show and tell. The disciples are startled and terrified to be in the presence of the resurrected Jesus. They thought they were seeing a ghost. Seeking to calm their racing hearts, he invites them to touch and see he is real, he is alive, he is resurrected. They can exam where the nails and the spear pierced his flesh. Their initial fright is overtaken by joy and wonderment, with a little dose of befuddlement. Jesus lets them see he is the real deal by asking for something to eat. Then Jesus proceeds to teach his followers about all which has happened to fulfill what the scriptures foretold, and they are to be his witnesses. As he shows them that death does not claim the final victory, and they are to be his witnesses to the masses who continue to doubt God's power and love to overcome all things.



When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it!” —Genesis 28:16

*Author Barbara Brown Taylor considers how God shows up in all things:*

The Bible I set out to learn and love rewarded me with another way of approaching God, a way that trusts the union of spirit and flesh as much as it trusts the world to be a place of encounter with God.... People encounter God under shady oak trees, on riverbanks, at the tops of mountains, and in long stretches of barren wilderness. God shows up in whirlwinds, starry skies, burning bushes, and perfect strangers. When people want to know more about God, the son of God tells them to pay attention to the lilies of the field and the birds of the air, to women kneading bread and workers lining up for their pay.... Human beings may separate things into as many piles as we wish—separating spirit from flesh, sacred from secular, church from world. But we should not be surprised when God does not recognize the distinctions we make between the two. Earth is so thick with divine possibility that it is a wonder we can walk anywhere without cracking our shins on altars. Barbara Brown Taylor, *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* (San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 2009)



**Monday AM Bible Study is in the Leadership Room-10:30 Coffee and Fellowship, 11-Noon Bible Study**



**Pastors' Online Video Lesson Introductions of Sunday Lectionary readings may be found on Facebook, YouTube or [loveofchristchurch.net](http://loveofchristchurch.net)**



**Contact Dianne Oien ([dianneoien@locic.org](mailto:dianneoien@locic.org)) if you are interested in participating in our two-session membership orientation Sundays, April 14 and 21, 11:45AM-1:30 (includes lunch)**



**Winter Friends, thank you for joining us for worship and fellowship this season. God willing we see you again in the future at LoC!**

All regular winter friends are asked to provide your summer address to the church office. You are encouraged to participate in our livestream services at 9:00am or 10:30am each Sunday. You are appreciated for the time you are with us!



WoW on Wednesdays at 6PM~7PM (dinner is at 5:30PM in the COC).

The Kids Musical Performance is Sunday, May 12th at 9:00AM in the Center of Compassion.

**A KIDS MUSICAL**

**THE GREATEST HYMN ON EARTH**

LOVE OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
EVERY WEDNESDAY  
6:00PM ~ 7:00PM

PERFORMANCE: MAY 12 @9:00AM



## Faith in Action

**April 21-28 Family Promise**  
**July 8-12 VBS (9:00-11:30 am)**

### Faith In Action Ministry of the Month: Family Promise

#### **Company is Coming! We are very excited to be hosting families from Family Promise.**

Since 2000, Family Promise of Greater Phoenix has helped families move from homelessness to self-sufficiency. Its vision is a community of whole and healthy families. Parents are given the tools and training to care for their children, find employment and housing, and become independent and successful. FP strives to create a safety net for families before they drop into a cycle of endless shelters, unemployment, family instability, loss of school attendance, and foster care. FP provides food, clothing, and shelter, as well as a supportive and constructive environment. Its long-term goal is to create a sense of community between its families and the many volunteers who assist in some way. Each week of the year, multiple churches host FP families. Each church provides a welcome, an evening meal, overnight shelter, and fellowship.

We are so grateful for our Family Promise coordinators! These four people help put the whole week together and encourage those who are interested in volunteering to come and see what it is all about! Please see below who to contact if you are interested in volunteering:

- Patti Delaney: meals ([pattidelaney03@gmail.com](mailto:pattidelaney03@gmail.com))
- Jackie Rensel: hosting ([jackie.rensel@icloud.com](mailto:jackie.rensel@icloud.com))
- Dave Dohrmann: Overnight ([dave@dohrmann.org](mailto:dave@dohrmann.org))
- Kevin Anderson: setting up ([kevinanderson@loclc.org](mailto:kevinanderson@loclc.org))

**Prayer Share Care Bible Study**—This Women’s Bible Study meets weekly on Thursdays at 1:00 pm in the Leadership Room. Our study for the next 6 weeks will be focused on “The Chosen” season 1. The first season will be on our Website under Bible Studies. Each participant can watch the episode at home or come early on Thursdays at noon in the Leadership Room and watch it there. The study will be centered around Scripture that is told through the video. These shows are designed to bring forth discussion on the Biblical readings. The videos as well as the Scripture readings are to be a jumping off point for our time of discussion. Pastor Nanette Christofferson will be facilitating the study. Each session is not dependent upon the past session, so please join us whenever you can. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at [nanette@loclc.org](mailto:nanette@loclc.org).

## Upcoming Children's Events

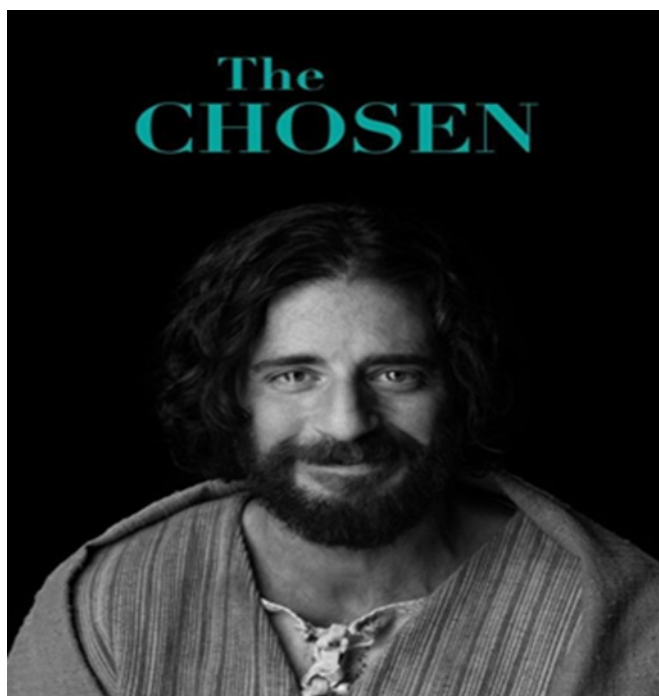


**Sunday School Information:** Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will meet for a Godly Play Lesson after the Children's Message and will return to church at communion. After Communion grades 3-6 will meet from 9:50-10:20 in the Godly Play room for their Sunday School lesson. (If you have any questions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

## Word on Wednesday (WOW)

Every Wednesday at 5:30 pm dinner is served for all ages.

- **Children's Rehearsal for the Musical.**
- **Youth Group grades 7-12-** 6:00-7:00 All youth in these grades are invited to come hang out, play games, and have a short Bible lesson. If you would like more information, please contact our **Youth Director Kevin Anderson** at [kevinanderson@loclc.org](mailto:kevinanderson@loclc.org).
- **Adult Bible Study:**



### The Chosen:

This video study brings to life the first century world and helps bring the Bible alive! Each week we will be watching a different episode and then a discussion will follow. These shows are designed to bring forth discussion on the Gospel readings of the New Testament. The videos as well as the Scripture readings are to be a jumping off point for our time of discussion. If you would like to watch it at home before coming to class there are links below to follow. If you would like to watch each episode on Wednesday evening before class it will be shown at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, you can contact Pastor Nanette at [nanette@loclc.org](mailto:nanette@loclc.org).

If you are watching at home, Episode 1 and

2 are combined. If you have already watched Episode one, just move forward to the second episode.

April 3 Episode One: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0E-8-NcL7tc&t=889s>

April 10 Episode Two: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0E-8-NcL7tc&t=889s>

April 17 Episode Three: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DPzq53O4DI>

April 24 Episode Four: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DPzq53O4DI>

May 1 Episode Five: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LB3QWkTBvr4>

May 8 Episode Six: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LB3QWkTBvr4>





YOUTH AT LOVE OF CHRIST  
CALLED. GATHERED. SENT.

Wednesday Youth Group will meet this Wednesday at 6PM!

Sunday Hangout will meet this Sunday at 10AM in the Youth Room.

Our next National Youth Gathering meeting for students will be Sunday, April 14th at 10AM in the Youth Room.

Our last Confirmation meeting for this school year will be May 5<sup>th</sup> at 12PM.

Registration for summer Campformation is open.  
Please contact Kevin Anderson for more information.



**The Hospitality Team** welcomes all and invites you to join them each Sunday as they serve coffee and snacks between services. Please take time to enjoy the hospitality and get to know others in our community. Coffee begins in the Outreach Room (or on the CoC patio) at 8:45 and continues until 10:30.

If you are interested in serving at the hospitality table, please contact Patti Delaney at [pattidelaney03@gmail.com](mailto:pattidelaney03@gmail.com).

## Faith in Action



**"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."**

1 PETER 4:10 (NIV)

- A faithful steward lives with an attitude of gratitude and a spirit of generosity when it comes to serving others.
- A faithful steward does not waste the talent and abilities God has endowed one with, but invites those gifts to be put in service to God in how one loves neighbor and oneself.
- A faithful steward understands the financial resources entrusted to our management are to provide for ourselves and families, but also to be used to support and care for the mission of Christ and to meet the needs of others.
- A faithful steward knows the importance of gaining wisdom and help to manage as well as possible what has been entrusted into his or her care.
- A faithful steward recognizes one's stewardship brings meaning and satisfaction when applying it with a sense of purpose and investment in God's will being done on earth as it is in heaven.

A church offering card with a white background and orange accents. At the top right, there are five small orange squares. The card contains the following text:

My weekly offering for  
Ministry, Missions &  
Benevolences  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

My weekly offering  
for Operations  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**fearless giving**  
LOVE OF CHRIST  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1525 N. POWER ROAD  
MESA, AZ 85205

APR 07 2024



## A Request from Dick Beckman

1. If you have envelopes and do not give your offering online, please use the envelopes as it assists with our keeping accurate financial giving statements.
2. Mark the amount on the outside of the envelope as to where you want to direct your contributions.
3. If you use a check, please write your envelope number on the check.
4. Please do not fold your check; we need to run it through a check reader as part of our deposit process.
5. Please do not tape the envelope shut.
6. If you use cash, please do not fold it more than once. This makes it very hard for the bank to run it through their counting machine.



Christ-centered yoga **Thursdays, 9am in the Outreach Rooms 13 & 14 (next to playground). Last class until Fall is April 25.** For questions and more information, text Georgia at 406-925-0013 or email: [nonnagg51@gmail.com](mailto:nonnagg51@gmail.com) .



**The LOC Women's Hiking Group** will be traveling to **Sedona on April 20th** to hike the **3.3 mile** in-and-out **Transept Trail**. Starting with our first step on the trail, we'll be greeted with beautiful views of the Red Rocks that Sedona is famous for. The hike will have just enough uphill to make it interesting. We will meet at the north parking lot by **COC at 7:00**. Contact Pat Shaw if interested, [pattomshaw@cox.net](mailto:pattomshaw@cox.net), 480 981-1325, or 480 334-9123 (text).



Here are opportunities to support the Sleep in Heavenly Peace non-profit to make sure that children in our community have a bed to sleep on.

There are over 3,500 children in the valley who are on a waiting list at Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and are currently sleeping on an air mattress, sofa or on the floor. Let's pitch in and make sure kids in our community have a place to lay their heads at night.

**Matthew 25:40**

**"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'**

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Sleep in Heavenly Peace now has 326 chapters in the US, as well as chapters in Canada and Bermuda. SHP is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. (Federal ID: 46-4346568)

**"In Arizona, we have built and delivered more than 5,000 beds, while nationally, we expect to hit 50,000 this year,"** said Joe Genovese, SHP's chapter president in Phoenix.

**"If a child needs a bed, we want to make sure they get one. No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!® "**

### **WAYS TO HELP:**

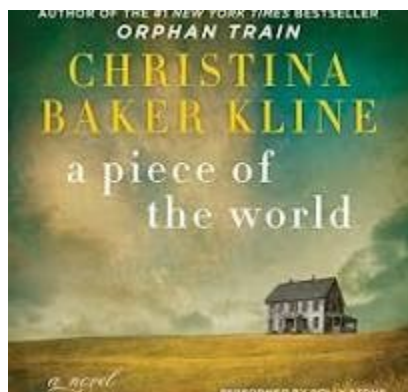
1. Join us in delivering beds to children: Mesa Hub Deliveries usually occur on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. Upcoming delivery dates are: **January 20, February 17, March 16, April 20, May 18, and June 15.** See our website at <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/serve> to complete a waiver and sign-up.
  2. Join us in building beds—we welcome all ages, however we kindly ask that any youth under the age of 12 be accompanied and monitored by an adult. Sleep in Heavenly Peace has a new warehouse and workshop with everything set up for bed builds. Bring your family and friends. Check the website at <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/serve> for a waiver and to sign up for available dates.
  3. Provide twin size bedding—sheets, pillows, blankets, mattress protectors are all needed. (Collection boxes are in the COC and Sanctuary entries.)
  4. Join us in sewing twin sized flannel blankets for the beds. Simple and easy sew or non-sew patterns are available. See the website for a video of an easy blanket to sew.
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If you would like more information, please check the website under the serve page or contact Jack Grant 571-334-5030 by call or text or email Jack or JoAnn Grant at [jjjjgrant@verizon.net](mailto:jjjjgrant@verizon.net)





Did you know that we have a very active book club at Love of Christ? This is a picture of our March group. Our next meeting is on May 5th. If you like to read and enjoy discussing what you read with others, please join us in May.



The next meeting of the LOC Book Club will be held on Sunday, May 5, 2024 in the Leadership Room at 10:15 am (located just to the left of the church offices).

We will be reviewing *A Piece of the World* by Christina Baker Kline. Here is a synopsis of the book:

This is a stunning novel of friendship, passion and art inspired by Andrew Wyeth's mysterious and iconic painting "Christina's World." Christina Olson lived in the small Maine town of Cushing. Increasingly affected by illness she was the inspiration for the artist Andrew Wyeth, and became the subject of one of the best known American paintings of the 20th century. Fact and fiction merge as the author brings to life the little known woman behind the portrait.

Please join us for a lively discussion of *A Piece of the World*. Make sure to pick up a cup of coffee and a treat and meet us at 10:15 am on May 4th.

If you have any questions about our Book Club, please contact Barbara Hummel at [otemporium@aol.com](mailto:otemporium@aol.com).

Happy Reading!



**Scripture Lesson**  
**A Brief Look at Acts 3:12-19**  
**with Pastor Steve Talmage**  
**(11 min)**

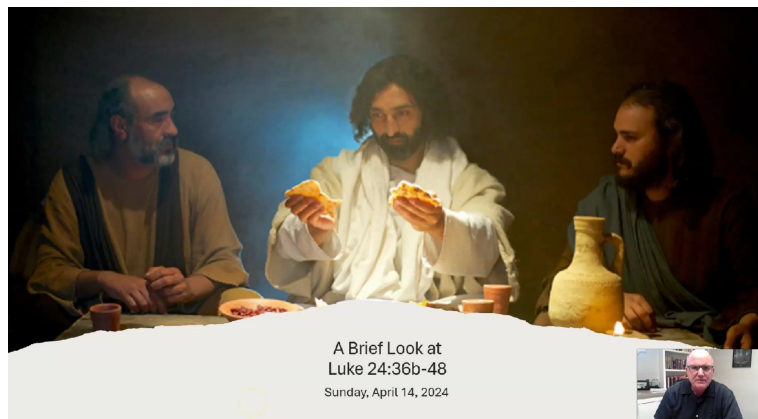


**YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/u6phVEZGlxk>

**Facebook:** <https://facebook.com/LOCLC/posts/pfbid02FwNXAB9ttfQ6B97RH21jdAjU-VAad2ecn7r7D57MEbjPiRxaU8eJDj4hFCymp2HgTI>

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

**Gospel Scripture Lesson**  
**A Brief Look at Luke 24:36b-48**  
**with Pastor Steve Talmage**  
**(11 min)**



**YouTube:** [https://youtu.be/0\\_ggORSxQBs](https://youtu.be/0_ggORSxQBs)

**Facebook:** <https://facebook.com/LOCLC/posts/pfbid02PQ4Zq9Qy6M2a9iuJ5s1Xp-puyrPpLk4LKFDxmsix89R6EU74pBfHVXdnpSTnppcSql>

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

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



&



Pastor Steve's sermon title: "Show and Tell"

### Acts 3:12-19

<sup>12</sup>When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? <sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. <sup>17</sup>"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

### 1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away

sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

### Luke 24:36b-48

<sup>36</sup>While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence. <sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things.

APRIL 14, 2024  
THIRD SUNDAY  
OF EASTER

taking+  
faith  
home

*Jesus' resurrection brings peace and forgiveness.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

|           |                       |                                |
|-----------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Luke 24:36b-48        | Jesus appears to the disciples |
| Monday    | Acts 3:12-19          | Peter speaks in the temple     |
| Tuesday   | 1 John 3:1-7          | Children of God                |
| Wednesday | 1 Peter 1:3-9         | A living hope                  |
| Thursday  | Acts 26:19-23         | Paul tells of his preaching    |
| Friday    | 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 | The resurrection of Christ     |
| Saturday  | Psalms 4              | An evening prayer              |
| Sunday    | John 10:11-18         | The Good Shepherd              |

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety. Psalm 4:8 (NRSV)*

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Eternal God, we thank you for Jesus' resurrection that brings us peace and forgiveness of sins that we may go to bed each night trusting in your care. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this food. Give food to those who do not have enough to eat and protection for those who do not feel safe, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May Christ our Lord give you peace and gladness.

APRIL 14, 2024  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Alleluia! Jesus is Risen*



**WEEKLY MILESTONES**

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

- Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:
- In what ways do you show hospitality to others?
  - How does hospitality foster peace and forgiveness?

**DEVOTIONS**

*Read:* Luke 24:36b-48.

The resurrection does not immediately clear up all our questions about faith and life. What does the resurrected body look like? What does the life of the church look like after Jesus' resurrection? Jesus comes as flesh and blood to speak, eat, and drink with his followers. The physical world matters. This is not a time to speculate about ghosts and life beyond earthly existence. The resurrection values God's creation. At least two important resurrection messages are present in this text. First, hospitality is shown by the sharing of life-giving food. Sustaining one another with food and community life goes on as a holy practice. Second, repentance and forgiveness of sins remains at the heart of the work of Jesus' followers. The resurrection celebrates life, community, peace, and forgiveness as essentials that will not be overcome by death, isolation, fear, or sin. Thanks be to God for the eternal power of God's reign shown to us in Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord!

*Discuss:* What questions do you have about the resurrection and what it means for your life today?

*Pray:* God of eternal life, give us confidence to breathe peace, joy, forgiveness, and new beginnings into all our relationships through Christ Jesus, our resurrected Lord and Savior. Amen.

**SERVICE**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you show care for the physical needs of others this week?

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

There are times at night when we worry about something and can't sleep. Psalm 4 is a prayer for help. It is a prayer that reaches out with confidence in God's love and care. The end of the day is a good time to slow down, reflect on the day, and focus on God's presence in our lives. Bedtime prayers are daily rituals that can have a powerful influence in our lives. At bedtime this week, take a moment to think or talk about something that may be keeping you awake at night. *Pray: Dear Lord, be gracious to me, and hear my prayer that I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety. Amen. (Psalm 4)*



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)