

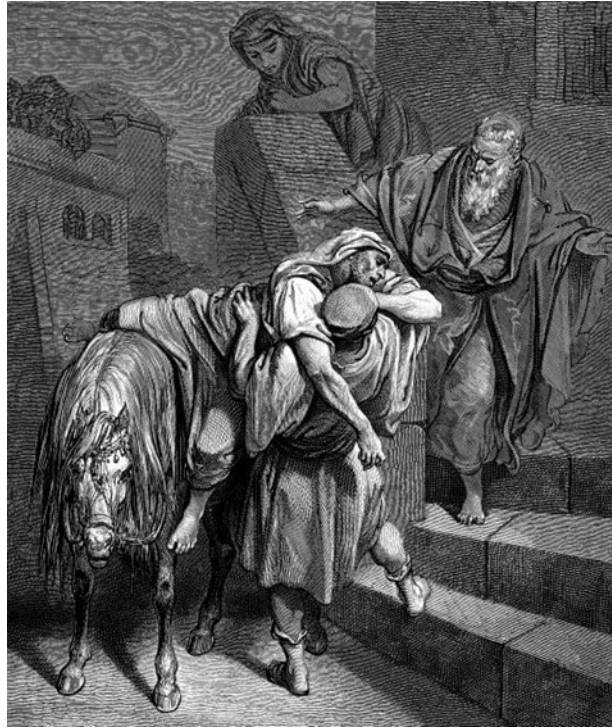
Love of Christ Lutheran Church

1525 North Power Road
Mesa AZ 85205

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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

Pentecost 5C, Sunday, July 13, 2025



“The One Who Showed Him Mercy”

This week's text is one of the most famous parables of all time. Even if someone is not a Christian they have heard of “the Good Samaritan”. In Godly Play (which we use for Sunday School and Preschool Chapel) when we discuss a parable, we talk about how the parable is a gift. A present that has been passed down for over 2000 years. It is so precious that it has been a story that hasn't been stored on a shelf but one that serves to be heard. The gift of this parable is how we find ourselves in this story. Depending on where we are in our spiritual journey we may have seen ourselves as one of the characters of this parable. We might see ourselves as the lawyer, the one who asks the question, “What must I do to inherit eternal life”? or possibly the ones who walk by and show no mercy. Maybe we find ourselves as the one who helped, or we see ourselves as the victim. Perhaps we see ourselves as the Innkeeper. In this parable all it took was one person to offer mercy.



Sympathy & Comfort to Rollie Kiefel, family & friends, upon the death of his dear wife, Sherry.

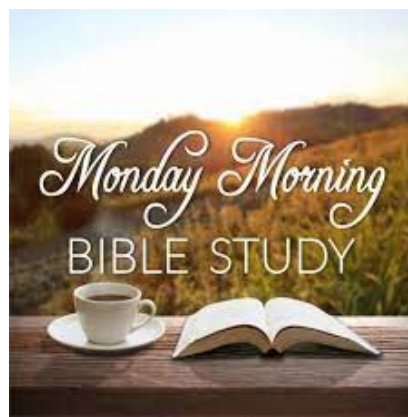
Please keep the family in your prayers.



How Has My Genetic Code Been a Blessing?

Retired pastor Steve Holm reflects on Psalm 66:8-9: “Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.”

The temple worshipers in Jerusalem had a pretty good sense of their own history. They remembered all the remarkable and miraculous events that had taken place, and they realized that it was only by the grace of God that they had survived as a people. So, it’s not all surprising that as they gathered in the temple, both as a group and as individuals, almost all their prayers were prefaced with songs of thanksgiving and praise. They knew they had much for which to be grateful. When we take time to consider our own stories, we understand that our presence in this world currently is a spectacular miracle. As we trace our lineage through the centuries, we realize that we’re the children of survivors. Our ancestors came through the Great Plague unscathed. They survived the Thirty Years War, the Hundred Years War, and all the devastating wars of the Twentieth Century. Somehow, they made it through influenza, malaria, yellow fever, polio, and smallpox. At any point in the past thousands of years if even one of the people in our family’s lineage had died, we would not exist. That is the incredible reality with which we live, and that is why each of our days deserves to begin with a prayer of thanksgiving. Against all the odds we have been kept among the living! Praise God!



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



Online Video introductions provided by our pastors of Sunday Lectionary readings may be found on Facebook, YouTube or loveofchristchurch.net



**back to school
clothing drive**

The following Sundays (July 13th and July 20th) are our annual Back to School New Clothing Drive. You will see a tall cardboard cactus in the Narthex of the Sanctuary, and of the COC. On them are flowers and "thorns"! Don't be afraid, the "thorns" won't hurt you! Hanging from the "thorns" are tags with gender and size of a piece of new clothing for the children, ranging in sizes from 6/7, 8/10, 10/12 and 14/16, or variations thereof. Pick a tag (or tags!) to purchase items during the week and then bring back the following Sunday. Items can be new shirts, pants, shorts, dresses, skirts. Please bring them in a bag with the tag attached so it will be easy to sort the clothing. The children also need new underwear and socks. They are important items also! July 27th is the absolute last day to bring in clothing because I need to bring them to Lutheran Social Services the next day to be distributed on July 29th. I wish you could see the delight in the children's faces as they receive new clothing. Some of them usually just get used clothing. Thank you so very much for your continued generosity in helping our neighbors in need. Blessings to you all. If you have any questions, please call Rhonda Vaglio, 509-741-7115.



Mark your Calendars!

Donations for this summer:

(RSM) Donations for sack lunches: Small bags of chips (any kind) fruit cups, soft chewy granola bars, and protein packs of tuna and chicken, and Capri Sun any flavor

Backpacks: We have collected enough backpacks and now we need school supplies crayons, colored pencils, markers, rulers, glue sticks.

Clothes for Kids: Begins this Sunday, July 6-July 27th Look for Cactus in the Narthex to grab a tag! Clothes are due back July 27th.

July 27th Blessing of the Backpacks

More about Summer Donations... where are all of these items going?

Backpacks for kids: We have collected over 100 backpacks! These backpacks will be filled with school supplies and given to three different organizations. One half of the backpacks will be delivered to La Mesitas Family Shelter here in Mesa. Pat Shaw has been collecting backpacks for this organization for many years. Each year they are so grateful for the backpacks and school supplies that are given. The backpacks are given to families that cannot afford school supplies for their children. The other backpacks are split between two neighboring elementary schools. (Falcon Hill and Salk) Last year we received thank you notes from the principals letting us know how much they appreciated our help.

Clothes for Kids: Rhonda Vaglio leads this clothing drive and these new clothes are collected for children at Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest. Most of these children are from families who are refugees.

Water Donations: This year for water donations we are asking for money donations. This way Resurrection Street Ministry and Grace in the City can buy the water cheaper by being able to purchase palate by palate. If you are interested in helping those who are experiencing homelessness through the hot summers, please donate online or place in the offering plate labeled "for water". Donation envelopes available.

Volunteer Opportunities At Resurrection Street Ministries

The LOC community last summer started working with Resurrection Street Ministry located at Stapley and Main in Mesa, donating water to their heat respite center. This year, the Faith in Action team is planning to expand our involvement with their community, increasing our donations to include water, shelf-staple lunches, snacks, items for their respite center, and volunteer coordination to help with meals and other services.

Resurrection Street Ministry (RSM) heat respite center coordinates with the city of Mesa, has opened and is operating from 9:30 a.m to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Guests can get out of the heat, have lunch and snacks, take showers, and do laundry. The facility accepts pets, and has a system to secure bicycles. RSM is also home to a thrift shop and food pantry.

We are seeking volunteers as described below.

Every Friday for the month of July LoC will be helping with RSM. These duties may include talking to visitors to answer questions or just visiting with them, escorting them to various areas of the facility, including lunch, showers and laundry, cots where they can sleep. We are planning to provide and pass out snacks to the visitors as well as help prepare and serve food.

If you are interested in volunteering for this project, please contact Melissa Riner at Melissa@azfls.com or call 602.363.6003

If you are interested in pre-making meals to take on our Friday and/or assisting with the prep and service at the facility, please contact Cindy at cgeorgen3199@gmail.com

If you have questions about donations, please call Patti at pattidelaney03@gmail.com

We will keep you posted as we learn and grow in this ministry, and appreciate all questions, volunteer help, and donations.

Refugee Family Co-Sponsorship with Lutheran Social Services:

Our Co-Sponsorship Team has started to help with a refugee family from Syria. The help that is needed is working with the adults who are learning English. If you would like to help, please contact Chris Norden at norden6162@gmail.com



August 3-10 Family Promise—Company is Coming! Family Promise is an organization who helps families stay off the streets and empowers them in finding jobs and housing. We will be hosting families who are experiencing homelessness. We will need to bring in meals, a welcomer, and someone to spend the night. Please contact the following people if you would like more information or are interested in serving:

Setting up: Rhonda Vaglio and Carol Mosely (rvaglio128@gmail.com clmoseley@gmail.com)

Dinners: Patti Delaney (pattidelaney03@gmail.com)

Hosting: Jackie Rensel (Jackie.rensel@icloud.com)

Overnight: Dave Dohrmann (dave@dohrmann.org)

About Family Promise

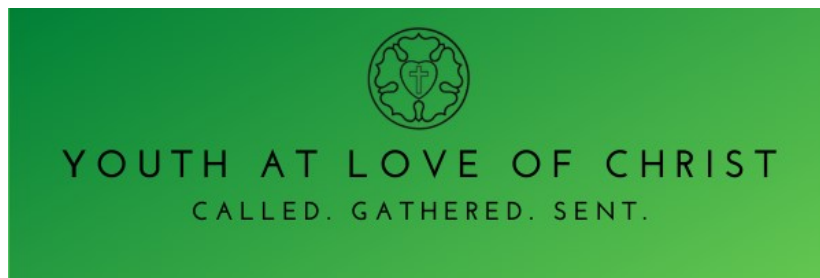
In Operation since 2000, Family Promise – Greater Phoenix has provided more than just shelter for families. For the past 19 years, the programs at Family Promise have helped more than 500 families. These programs have enabled families to move from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

The Family Promise Mission is providing emergency shelter and social services to help families move toward independent housing and self-sufficiency.

Vision: The Vision of Family Promise is a community of whole and healthy families.

At Family Promise, we give families the tools and training to care for their children, find employment and housing, and become independent and successful. We strive to provide a safety net for children and their families before they drop into a cycle of endless shelters, loss of school attendance, unemployment, family instability and foster care.

Family Promise provides basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter, but we also provide a safe, encouraging, and constructive environment for families that feel lost and scared. Family Promise's long-term goal is to break the cycle of homelessness and create a sense of community for the families that participate in the program, and the thousands of volunteers that have contributed to this program over the years.



See below a brief calendar for July and August:

July

13: Sunday Hangout

16: Youth Group

20: Sunday Hangout

August

10: Sunday Hangout

13: Youth Group Restarts!

17: Sunday Hangout

20: Youth Group

24: Sunday Hangout

27: Youth Group/High School Chick-fil-A Night

31: Sunday Hangout



Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, July 27th! Kids, bring your backpacks to church and receive a blessing plus something to put into your backpacks! Blessing at the 9:00 and 10:30 services.

Food, Fun, and Faith for grades 4, 5, and 6 will resume this fall!



Prayer Share Care Women's Bible Study meets once a month in the summer.



Here are our summer dates: July 17 and August 14. We meet in the Leadership Room at 1:00. We will be doing a book study by Joan Chittister, "The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully". We hope you can join us.

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



Join us on Sunday, July 13 to discuss

The Briar Club

When: after the 10:00 service

Where: Leadership room, next to the church office

Looking forward to seeing you and having a wonderful discussion!

The July 14th Naomi Circle will be in the Fellowship Hall at 1pm. The Study Leader will be Sharon Bryant, and April Rygh will be the Hostess. If anyone will be attending by ZOOM, please let me know so Kevin can be reminded about setting it up. Ann has offered to bring iced tea, and I suggested that we could have iced coffee. Just a thought...



The LOC Women's Hiking Group will be traveling to **Happy Jack on July 19th** to hike a forest road that takes us to the **T-Bar Ranch**. This is an old ranch from the 1900's. It is now owned by the AZ Forest Service and has been designated as a museum. We will begin our hike at another old and historical cabin. **Hike is an easy 3.6 miles total.** We will also make a stop on the way back at Pine Creek Lavender Farm in Pine. **Will meet at 7:00 am in the COC parking lot.** Contact ~ **Pat Shaw at 480- 334-9123** for more information.

KIDS Summer MUSIC CAMP

AGE 5~8TH
GRADE

JULY 14-18
8AM~4PM



**SPECIAL
OFFER**

\$250

**Enroll multiple kids
save \$50!**

Musical “Agape League” ,
Art, Dance & Sports

1 week, Lots of indoor activities



For More information, contact Ms. Jung

junglemaestroclasses@gmail.com

Register on website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/kids>

Love of Christ Lutheran Church

1525 N. Power Rd. Mesa, 85205

MUSIC CAMP—Dates: July 14–18 | 8 AM–4 PM

Unlock Your Child's Full Potential This Summer!

At Kids Summer Music Camp, we believe energy is the key to growth—not just physical energy, but emotional strength, confidence, and self-expression.

This camp is designed to help kids move their bodies, train their minds, and express themselves through music and connection with others.

Imagine your child standing tall, breathing deeply, and singing confidently on stage...

Imagine them learning how to communicate clearly with their peers, build friendships, and express their creativity.

This is more than just a music camp—it's a confidence-building, body-moving, joy-filled experience that helps kids grow from the inside out!

Here's What Your Child Will Experience:

- Perform in a full musical production ("The Agape League")
- Dance sessions to get their bodies moving and energy flowing
- Kickboxing with music to build strength and release stress
- Indoor soccer with top coaches to fuel teamwork and coordination
- Breathing techniques & yoga to calm their minds and strengthen focus
- Arts, crafts, and cooking sessions for creativity and fun
- Guest speakers on health and wellness, teaching kids about holistic self-care
- Lunch and snacks provided daily

We've jam-packed this week with fun, energizing activities on top of preparing for the Agape League musical! You won't find this kind of impactful experience at any other summer camp.

Spots are limited, so sign up now and give your child the chance to shine brighter this summer!

Camp Details:

- Dates: July 14–18 | 8 AM–4 PM
- Performance: July 20th at 9 AM (Love of Christ Lutheran Church)
- Location: 1525 N. Power Rd, Mesa, AZ 85205
- **Fee: for LoC students-\$200. (Enroll more than 2 kids, save \$50 per child!)**

For more info, contact Ms. Jung: junglemaestroclasses@gmail.com

Register on our website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/kids>

But, payments need to be paid to Jung directly via Zelle, Venmo or check.



SUMMER MUSIC CAMPS

- Learn & Perform the Musical
- Dance Sessions
- Kickboxing with Music
- Indoor Soccer with Top Coaches
- Arts & Crafts
- Movie Time
- Cooking Sessions
- Special Guest Speakers on Health & Wellness
- Lunch & Snacks Provided!

SIGN UP NOW!

Camp fee: \$250. Enroll multiple kids, save \$50! Contact Ms. Jung: junglemaestroclasses.com
 Performance: July 20th, 9 AM at Love of Christ Lutheran Church.

Register on our website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/kids>
 But, payments need to be paid to Jung directly via Zelle, Venmo or check.

Faith in Action



What Does it mean to be Welcoming?

This past Sunday even though it was the 4th of July weekend, we had new faces among us. Did you notice? Did you meet someone you did not know at worship this past Sunday. Taking the initiative is critical and simply greeting someone you don't know is impactful. We had a young woman who indicated she is dog-sitting close by and said she will be back this week. She had a friend with her. She does not live in the area normally, but she takes with her a positive spirit of hospitality. A single person and a couple have been worshipping with us several times. They indicated the lighter attendance in the summertime makes it easier to meet others. A mom with two elementary-age children had a history of attending LoC years ago before she had children, and she was drawn to come and join us for worship and anticipates returning. A husband held tight to his wife as they made their way to the CoC. She is suffering from Alzheimer's. It was their first visit. We don't know the circumstances of how the Holy Spirit is working in peoples' lives to bring them to Love of Christ, but our smiles, nametags, and simple willingness to say, "I'm glad you're here, and I hope you will come again," makes a difference.



June Report

`25 Boxes Given-299 People Served-842

`24 Boxes Given-249 People Served-663



**100% of gifts given to Lutheran Disaster Response will go to
Texas Flood Disaster
<https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>**

A message regarding the Hill Country Floods from the bishop to our ELCA sisters and brothers in Southwest Texas

Dear People of God in the Southwestern Texas Synod (ELCA):

God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

Many of us have our eyes glued to the news to watch the unfolding devastation of the Hill Country flooding. As I write this, I and others around our synod are under a flash flood warning. This includes several of our synod staff, who are all currently safe.

We are grateful that as of this moment, we know of no congregations, clergy, or members who have suffered loss due to the flooding, but a number of us know people who are missing or connected to those missing, or who are sustaining flood damage.

Our camps are safe at this point; all campers have been evacuated as of last evening, and the camp staff did a marvelous job of keeping everyone calm in the midst of it all.

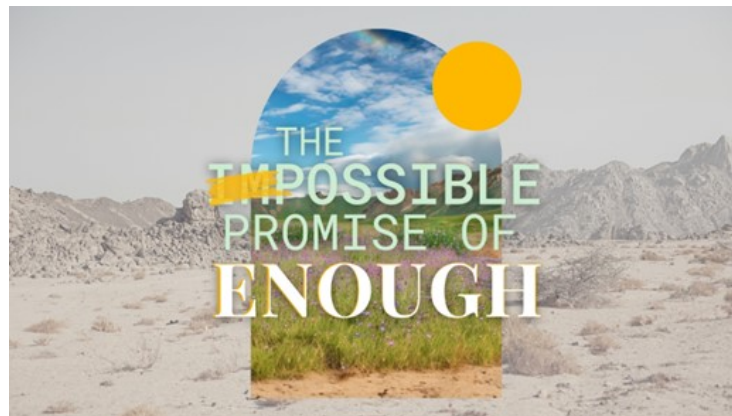
Our siblings from around the ELCA have been reaching out and sending prayers and money to our synod disaster fund. I have also been in contact with my ecumenical colleagues locally to see how we can be supportive of those who have been more directly impacted.

I ask the following of you:

1. Pray, pray, pray for those who are still lost as well as the families of those who are lost, who have died, or who have experienced loss of home or property.
2. Give financially to our [Synod Disaster Fund](#) (which is used for immediate relief) or nationally to [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) (for long term response).
3. Report any individuals or congregations you know of in our synod who have been affected so that we can follow up with them. You can email info@swtsynod.org or call the main office at 830-379-9900 and leave a message for me or Brother Chris Markert.

As we have more information, we will share that with you.

Kyrie eleison,
Bishop Sue Briner



Summer Scarcity or Summer Abundance?

Love of Christ has been blessed over the past many years to not experience what most congregations experience when it comes to financial support of the mission and ministry, **the dreaded summer financial slump**. We just received Dick Beckman's Financial report through the first six months of 2025.

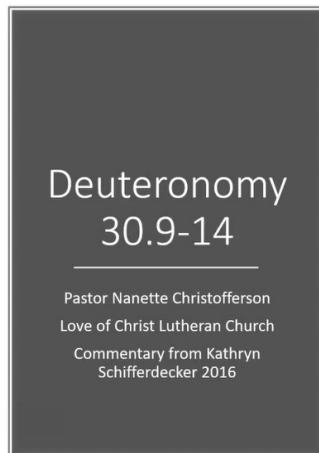
Total Income received-\$481,259 vs. 2025 budget-\$478,000

Total Expense through 6/30/25-\$460,997 vs 2025 budget-\$472,202

Through the first six months of the year, we have exceeded our budget income and spent less than we budgeted, providing a positive cash flow going into the third quarter of \$14,364.

The above reminds us once again of the **IMPossible Promise of Enough**. God continues to work through many living out this promise in supporting the mission of Christ through Love of Christ. Thank you!

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Deuteronomy 30:9-14
with Pastor Nanette Christofferson
(10 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/b-OekM9PqMk>
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LOCLC/videos/690307433831011/>
Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Luke 10:25-37
with Nanette Christofferson
(13 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/HlqagqoqEHhI>
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LOCLC/videos/3219478114871980/>
Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

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

Pentecost 5C, Sunday, July 13, 2025, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on  &



Pastor Nanette's sermon title: "The One Who Showed Him Mercy"

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

⁹and the LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, ¹⁰when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Exhortation to Choose Life

¹¹ Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" ¹⁴ No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

Colossians 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters ^[a] in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Paul Thanks God for the Colossians

³ In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you

have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷ This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant.

^[b] He is a faithful minister of Christ on your ^[c] behalf, ⁸ and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's ^[d] will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled ^[e] you ^[f] to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ^[g]

Luke 10:23-37

²³ Then turning to the disciples, Jesus ^[a] said to them privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see!" ²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it,

and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.”

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ^[b] “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when

he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, ^[c] gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”