

Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

Pentecost 7C, Sunday, July 27, 2025



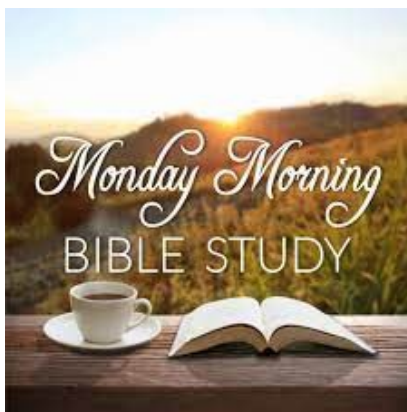
"It's Okay to Ask"

Jesus is asked to teach his disciples to pray. We get Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer with an invitation to persevere in our praying by asking, seeking, and knocking, trusting it is okay to bring before God our petitions, intercessions, and requests. The Lord's Prayer serves as the template for how our petitions may be framed in the context of a relationship with our loving heavenly parent, who provides daily bread, daily breath, while giving us the ability to live in relationship with ourselves and others through protecting us from temptation and extending forgiveness. Jesus wants his disciples to see our heavenly Creator through the ways in which earthly parents seek only to love and provide for their children.



Please pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as voting members from across the country will gather this week to elect a new Presiding Bishop and Secretary of the ELCA for six-year terms.

Pastor Nanette and Mark Christofferson along with Pastor Steve and Barb Talmage will be serving along with over 130 volunteers, to support the almost 900 voting members from across this church carrying out the business required to support and guide our being "Church Together." Both Pastors will be out of the office Monday-Saturday this coming week and will be at the Phoenix Convention Center.



NO Monday Morning Bible Study in the Leadership Room, Monday, July 28.
Study will resume Monday, August 4!



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

Kevin Anderson's Ordination!



Kevin Anderson has been called to serve as pastor at Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church in Mesa, Arizona. His Ordination service will be at **Love of Christ Lutheran Church on Wednesday, August 6th at 1:30PM**. The service will be held in the sanctuary with a light reception following the service in the Center of Compassion.

All are welcome to attend.



back to school
clothing drive

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

Clothes for Kids: Continues this Sunday, July 20-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?



Thank you to all of you who have donated school supplies and backpacks! The youth group has packed the 142 backpacks and the organizations below will be receiving them next week! We will bless the backpacks along with the ones that our own kids bring in on Sunday, July 27th at the 9:00 and 10:30 services.

Backpacks for kids: We have collected 142 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 ES) 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-stable 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 August 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.

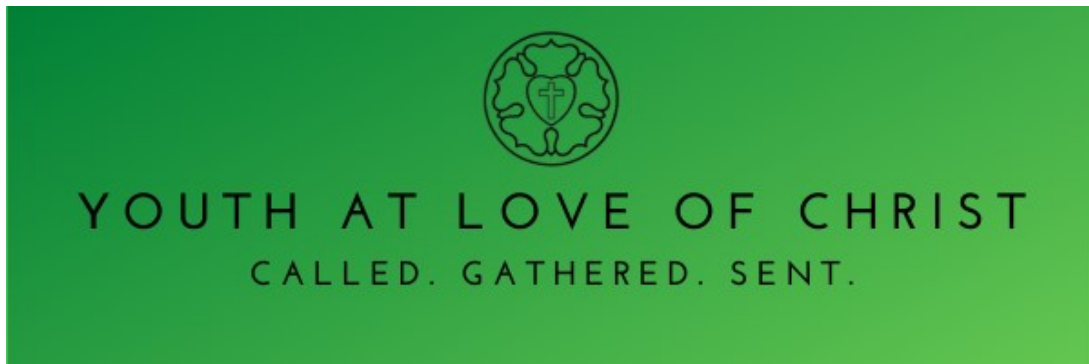


Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, July 27th! Kids, bring your backpacks to church and receive a blessing plus something to put into your backpacks! Blessing at the 9:00 and 10:30 services.

Sunday School will resume on August 17!

Food, Fun, and Faith for grades 4, 5, and 6 will resume on Sunday, September 28 at 4:30 pm.





Confirmation will begin Wednesday, September 3rd.
Check back here for a full Fall/Winter Calendar soon!

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



Our last summer date for Prayer Share Care is August 14. Beginning in September, we will meet twice a month on Sept. 4 and 18 and in October on the 9th and 23rd. Each session will meet in the Leadership Room at 1:00 and 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

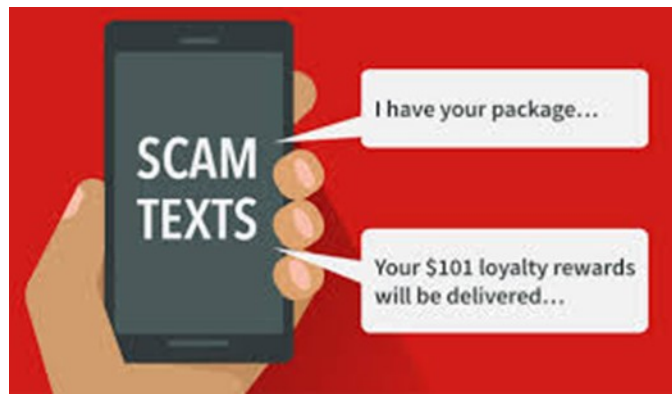
Next Naomi Circle Bible Study ~ August 11th, 2025. See you then.....

Faith in Action



What Does it mean to be Welcoming?

A parent of one of the performers in last Sunday's Music Camp Musical commented to Pastor Nanette, "I watched your video bible lesson on Genesis. I really appreciated your insights on the importance of hospitality." When we think of Love of Christ Lutheran Church Parish it is way bigger than just those who show up on a particular Sunday or give money to support the mission here. Our parish expands to neighborhood schools, Resurrection Street Ministries, Family Promise, LoC Preschool families, Troop 301 and Pack 301, and other neighbors and friends who may not officially be "members" of the congregation, but this is their church, their faith community, and are grateful they are welcome.



5 Ways to Thwart a Text Scam

- **Filter Unknown phone numbers.**
- **Read carefully and slowly-a request for quick action (Scam).**
- **Don't Respond-ignore texts from unknown numbers.**
- **Verify Numbers-Don't use a phone number provided in the text. Use alternative sources to contact any business/vendor.**
- **Beware of red flags-Unless you know the sender, do not call a number or click on a link or if they indicate you owe money.**



June Report

`25 Boxes Given-299 People Served-842

`24 Boxes Given-249 People Served-663

As reductions to SNAP (Food Stamps) and Medicaid are implemented, food banks across the country are anticipating even greater demand on individuals and families needing food assistance through local food banks. Most who receive the food boxes listed above are elderly, or families where people are working, but their income is just not enough to cover increasing high costs of housing, transportation, medicine, and food. Thank you for remembering our hungry neighbors through your donations to support the LSS-SW Food banks at Victory and First Lutheran in Mesa.



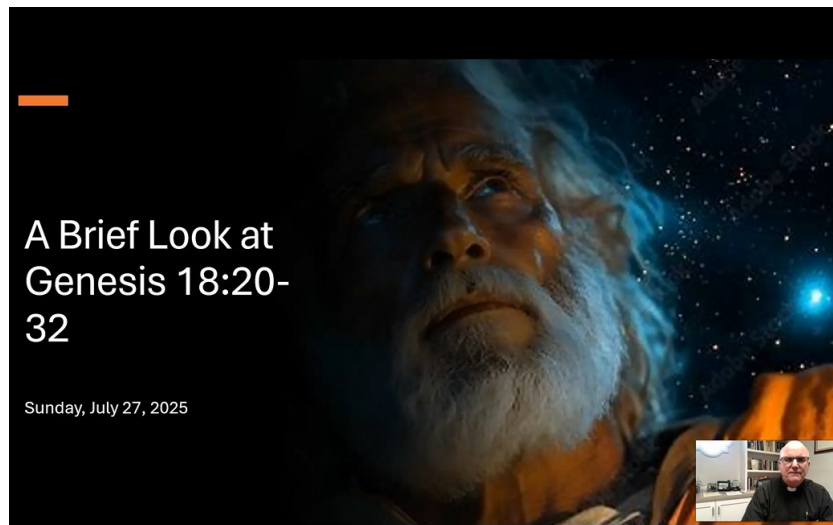
Endowments offer another stream of God's provision of enough

In 2015 the congregation approved the establishment of the Love of Christ Endowment Fund. As many other congregations, colleges and universities, hospitals and non-profits have discovered, endowments are vehicles to receive donations, bequests, and other assets to create a long-term revenue stream from the earnings generated by such gifts. In 2015 one couple gave \$250 to start the LoC Endowment Fund. In 2019 the congregation voted to give the Fund \$25,000.00 from unrestricted savings. Through the work of our Endowment Committee and the generosity of many, at the end of **JUNE** we had a balance of \$119,700, which will allow the Committee to now consider giving some gifts from the earnings received to continue to support sharing the love of Christ through this congregation.

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!

To learn more about the Endowment Fund or how you might be able to provide a gift go to <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/endowment>

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Genesis 18:20-32
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(13 min)

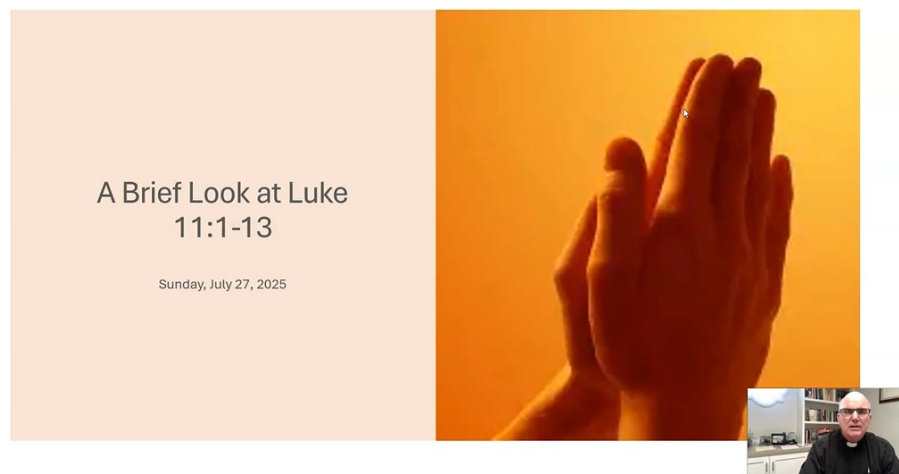


YouTube: <https://youtu.be/cyWEBcygl08>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LOCLC/videos/643075258139503/>

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

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Luke 11:1-13
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(12 min)



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

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LOCLC/videos/724950963664149/>

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

Pastor Steve's sermon title: "It's Okay to Ask"

Genesis 18:20-32

²⁰ Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ^[a] ²³ Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷ Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not

destroy it." ³² Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Colossians 2:6-19

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles ^[a] of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, ^[b] by the removal of the body ^[c] of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God ^[d] made you ^[e] alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed ^[f] the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. ¹⁶ Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or ^[g] drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sab-

baths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, ^[h] puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ^[i] ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.

Luke 11:1-13

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." ² So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, ^[a] may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come. ^[b]

³ Give us each day our daily bread. ^[c]

⁴ And forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone
indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial. ^[d]

⁵ And he said to them, "Suppose one of

you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷ And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for ^[e] a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit ^[f] to those who ask him!"