



# Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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## Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

Pentecost 12, Sunday, August 31, 2025



### “Be Careful if You Want Jesus as a Dinner Guest”

On the road with Jesus toward Jerusalem we get multiple encounters and insights on what the kingdom and realm of God is like. Jesus gets invited to the house of a leader of the Pharisees. Please note, not all Pharisees were opponents of Jesus. Many were faithful followers of the Lord, and many were curious about the insights Jesus offered, thus a dinner invitation. Jesus is always open to live in the moment and teach others. Prior to dinner a sick man suffering from possible heart or kidney failure is healed, but once again the debate continues whether healing can be done on the Sabbath day is kosher. Jesus shifts from that debate to tell a parable, an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. It is a lesson on humility and hospitality when it comes to seeking positions of status and influence at the expense of others. He also gives us insight on to who God would add to the dinner invitation list. Timeless words for even our day so many centuries later.

- Memorial Service for Earl Hardy will be Saturday, September 6th at 11AM at Messinger Indian School Mortuary (7601 E. Indian School Rd., Scottsdale, 85251).
- Memorial Service for Larry Tracht will be Monday, September 8th in the Sanctuary at 10AM.

Please keep families in your prayers.

#### Celebrating Anniversaries:

Bill and Jackie Rensel celebrating 55 years of marriage.

Bob and Mickie McKay celebrating 56 years of marriage.

Blessing on this special day!

Update on Darlene Fleischhauer - she continues to respond well to her three to four daily sessions of therapy at her Rehabilitation Center. The goal is to transition to home by Sept. 5th. She appreciates all the prayers, cards, and others acts of support. She is grateful she is not traveling this long road ahead alone.



## Welcome Grand Canyon Synod Bishop's Associate for Candidacy and Faith Formation, Pastor Jacqui Pagel

Pastor Jacqui will join Pastor Steve and Pastor Nanette in leading worship this Sunday, as our guest preacher. Pastor Jacqui accompanied our former intern, now pastor, Kevin Anderson through the ELCA Candidacy process leading to his ordination earlier this month. She wanted to bring a word of thanks to LoC for helping form another new leader for service in the larger church.



The Church Office will be closed Monday, September 1st for observance of the Labor Day Holiday.

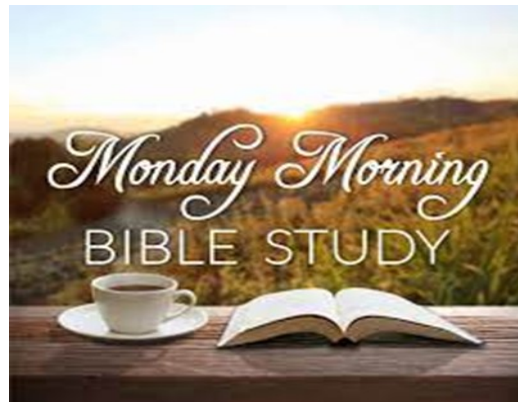
## What Does it mean to be Welcoming? Wearing Nametags Help!



If you would like a nametag or have lost the one you had please contact Dianne Oien ([dianneoien@locic.org](mailto:dianneoien@locic.org)) and we will get you one. Nametags help the staff and the congregation remember and broaden our sense of community. Thanks.



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



**NO Monday Morning Bible Study on September 1st, in the Leadership Room.**



**Prayer Share Care Women's Bible Study meets twice a month in September and October.**

Prayer Share Care will meet twice a month on Sept. 4 and 18 and in October on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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](mailto:nanette@locic.org)





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

***New Adult Study Starting Wednesday, September 3, 6-7PM in the Fellowship Hall***

Who are we?

Who is in and who is out?

Can we participate in civic life?

Who is Jesus?

How do we know if our lives are in line with what Jesus taught?

How much diversity can we tolerate?

Who leads us? In worship? In community life? In teaching? (As any kindergartner will ask: "Why do you get to be the boss of me?")

How do we fund our community?

Does it matter how we live? How do we relate to the world around us—people and creation?

What do we do with the holy writings of the Jewish community?

Do we need to have scriptures of our own?

What do we do with people who leave the church in fear or anger, and then want to come back?

Isn't it amazing how familiar these questions sound! These were the questions that needed to be answered in the first centuries of the church. Since Jesus didn't return as quickly as believers assumed, they had to figure out how to live as believers in their world. That the church is still alive after all these years is a testament to God's faithfulness and patience and gives us courage to wrestle with these and similar questions today. We invite you to enter this series to see how the drama of the early church's formation has direct connections to your life of faith today.

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Love of Christ turns 40 next April. Volunteers are needed to assist in planning our celebration. Please contact Dianne Oien ([dianneoien@locic.org](mailto:dianneoien@locic.org)) if want to be part of the planning team.



**Thank You for your Generosity and Trust in God's Provision**

### **Kingdom Logic**

Remember the big crowd, five loaves, and two fish (Matt. 14:15-21)? Jesus said, "Give them something to eat." The disciples responded, "Lord, five loaves, two fish, big crowd? It doesn't fit." Jesus said, "Give them something to eat." And he said, "Throw out your nets." They did and caught fish, but not just as many as they needed. They caught so many their nets could not hold all the fish. It is the same with the crowd. Jesus didn't just want to be sure everyone got a little piece of bread. There were twelve big baskets of leftovers! And the boat was so full of fish that Simon didn't know what to do with them.

Jesus breaks right through our normal logic. He is moving all of reality to the kingdom. Suddenly the fishermen were no longer living in the logic of the world. They had entered the logic of God's house, which is beyond all human logic. They had entered a whole new world. -Dr. Henri Nouwen



## YOUTH AT LOVE OF CHRIST CALLED. GATHERED. SENT.

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!

Confirmation will begin on Wednesday, September 3rd!

Mason is switching over to a new e-mail address, please contact him at [masonw@locic.org](mailto:masonw@locic.org) instead of the old gmail address.

Thanks!



### **Confirmation**

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

Listed below is the schedule:

September 3rd & 17th

October 1st, 15th & 29th

November 5th & 19th

December 10th

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



**NO Sunday School on August 31st! Sunday School resumes on Sept. 7th.**

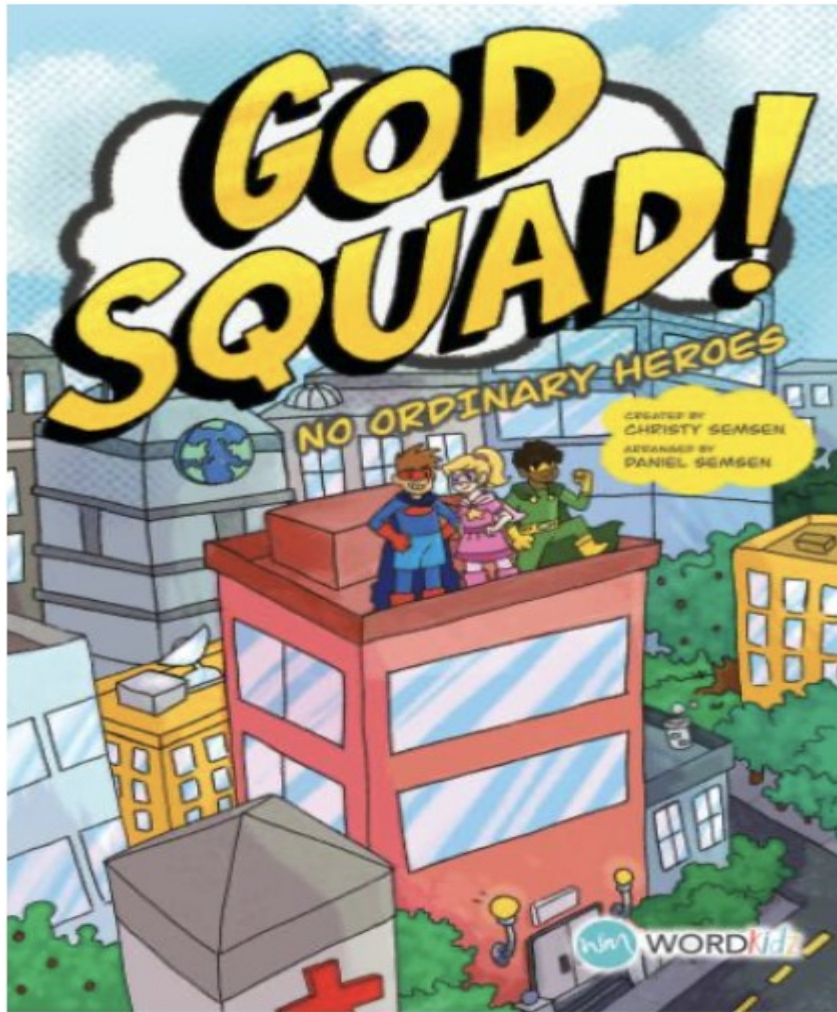
Our Sunday School Ministry has begun. For ages Pre K thru 3rd grade Sunday School is from 9:10-9:50. Children are to come to church with their parents and are dismissed for Sunday School after the Children's Message. They return to worship during Communion. For grades 4-6 Sunday school begins at 9:50 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@locic.org](mailto:nanette@locic.org).

**WOW Children's Musical** at 6:00 pm to 7pm in room 50 in the Center of Compassion for ages 4-Seventh Grade. Please contact Jung at [Jungmusic@locic.org](mailto:Jungmusic@locic.org) for more information.

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







### **Hello WoW Families!**

We're so excited to kick off a brand new season of WoW (Word on Wednesdays) from 6:00–7:00 PM in the main Center of Compassion building!

Dinner will be served from 5:30–6:00 PM, so come early and enjoy a meal together before we begin!

This fall, our kids will be working on a fun and meaningful musical called “God’s Squad”—a powerful story with music, laughter, and faith-filled lessons. The final performance will be held on Sunday, November 23 at 9:00 AM, and you won’t want to miss it!

Please let me know if they’ll be able to attend. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Looking forward to a joyful season together!

Warmly,

Jung





### **Mark your Calendars!**

**September 7<sup>th</sup> God's Work Our Hands Sunday!** We have a goal to pack 500 lunches for Resurrection Street Ministry. These sack lunches will be packed by you! After all three services we will have an area ready for packing lunches. Below is a list of items we are collecting for these lunches.

**For the September packing event we are in need of SOFT chewy granola bars and fruit cups or applesauce. Please place items in our church sanctuary narthex or our CoC narthex.**

### **God's Work Our Hands Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>!**

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

10 years of "God's work. Our hands." Sunday. "God's work. Our hands." Sunday is the ELCA's annual day of service, and in 2023 we celebrated the 10th anniversary! Join New Life Lutheran Church of Bolingbrook, Ill., and Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Shoreview, Minn., as they participate in service projects and reflect on what "God's work. Our hands." means to them.

Click on this link to learn what another church does for God's Work Our hands Sunday.

<https://www.elca.org/our-work/congregations-and-synods/gods-work-our-hands-sunday>

### **Refugee Family Co-Sponsor's 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. 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)

## Sleep in Heavenly Peace News

SHP will soon be delivering the 10,000th bed in the valley since 2018! See a video about this effort at:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/4223464367922796>

Members and friends of LOC have provided bedding bundles (sheet set, blanket, stuffed toy and a book) for 160 beds deliveries so far this year, through our delivery hub in Mesa.

Come join the delivery team and experience the joy of seeing a kid climb in his or her very own bed for the first time! We generally deliver on the 3rd Saturday of the month, Contact Jack or JoAnn Grant for more information.

Of course, along with our effort to deliver more beds to more kids, is the need for bedding, and we are in desperate need of new twin sheet sets in different colors to go with our bedding bundles as well as books and stuffed toys (especially for pre-teens and teens).

Favorite colors are pink, purple, blue, green, grey, white, beige or red. If you need suggestion on where to purchase contact JoAnn Grant or Jan Barnett.

### ❀ 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 Lutheran Church

When: Starting September 3rd, every 1st Wednesday of the month | 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM in Godly Play room located in Center of Compassion

📞 Contact: Kacey Weir or Pastor Nanette Christofferson

🌐 Online Options:

- [www.themom.co/join](http://www.themom.co/join) (Use Code: M1WH)
- <http://www.themom.co/groups/loveofchristmesa>



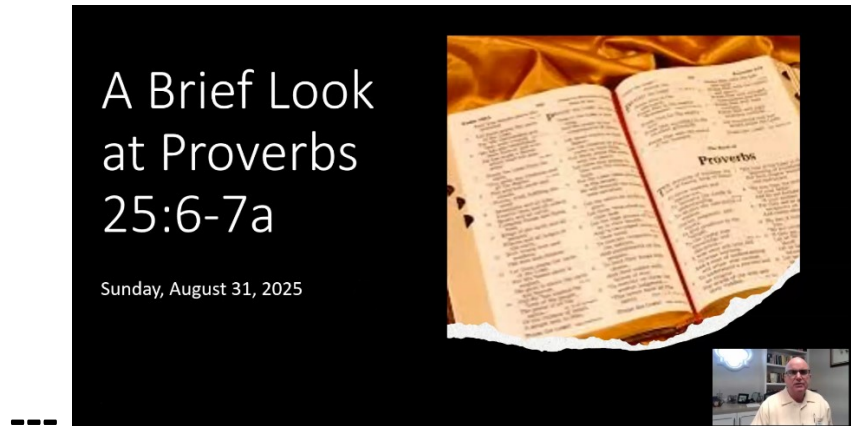
If you were in church a couple of Sundays ago, you heard a synopsis of the book at the beginning of Pastor Nanette's sermon. So we decided to pick this book to read for our Sept. 14th meeting. The name of the book is **Love and Other Consolation Prizes** by Jamie Fox. Below is a short synopsis of the book:

For 12 year old Ernest Young, a charity student at a boarding school, the chance to go to the World's Fair feels like a gift. But only once he's there, amid the exotic exhibits, fireworks, and Ferris Wheels, does he discover that he is the one who is actually the prize. The half-Chinese orphan is astounded to learn he will be raffled off—a healthy boy “to a good home”.

The winning ticket belongs to the flamboyant madam of a high-class brothel, famous for educating girls. There, Ernest becomes the new houseboy and befriends Maise, the madam's precocious daughter, and a bold scullery maid named Fahn. Their friendship and affection form the first real family Ernest has ever know-and desired. But as the grande dame succumbs to an occupational hazard and their world of finery begins to crumble, all three must grapple with hope, ambition, and first love.

Fifty years later, in the shadow of Seattle's second World's Fair, Ernest struggles while trying to help his ailing wife reconcile who she once was with who she wanted to be, while trying to keep family secrets hidden from their grown-up daughters. Against a rich backdrop of post-Victorian vie, suffrage, and celebration, *Love and Other Consolations* is an enchanting tale about innocence and devotion in a world where everything, and everyone is for sale.

**Scripture Lesson**  
**A Brief Look at Proverbs 25:6-7a**  
**with Pastor Steve Talmage**  
**(10 min)**

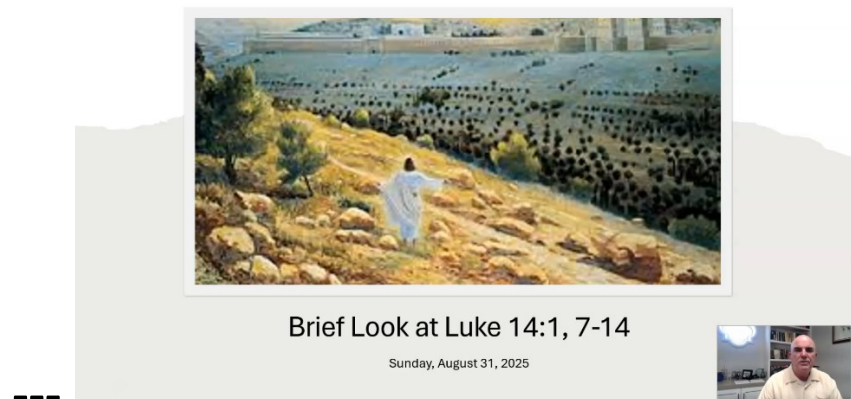


YouTube: <https://youtu.be/o1EUVI25SX4>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LOCLC/videos/3950215265288990/>

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

**Scripture Lesson**  
**A Brief Look at Luke 14:1, 7-14**  
**with Pastor Steve Talmage**  
**(14 min)**



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/aVU32Ce2eL0>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LOCLC/videos/704337875987873/>

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

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



**Pentecost 12, Sunday, August 31, 2025, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,**

some on  & 

## **Pastor Jacqui Pagel: “Be Careful if You Want Jesus as a Dinner Guest”**

### **Proverbs 25:6-7**

Do not put yourself forward in the king’s presence

or stand in the place of the great,  
for it is better to be told, “Come up here,” than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

### **Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**

Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” So we can say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?”

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

### **Luke 14: 1, 7-14**

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who in-

vited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.

But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”