



# Love of Christ... Weekly E-News

## Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

E-News for Sunday, January 17, 2021



### “Come and See”

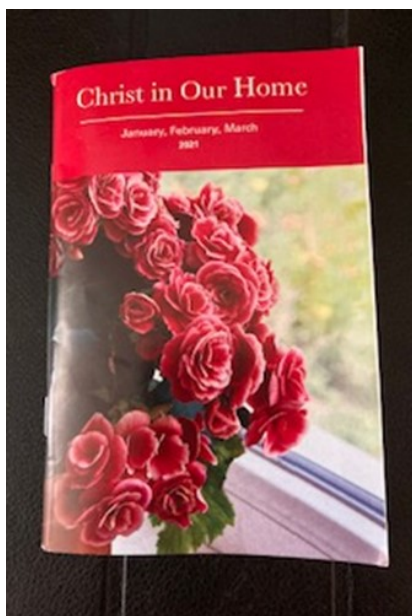
The season of Epiphany reveals who Jesus is as the Son of Man and Son of God, the Messiah sent to save the world. Today we listen to John's Gospel reading of the basic message we all can offer to others we know and love, “Come and See”.

Jesus invites Philip, Philip invites Nathaniel, and because of their friendship and Jesus' invitation to follow him, their lives will be changed forever. Who are the friends sitting under the fig trees we know who might be open to hear and learn about Jesus, and just possibly become a follower of Jesus? May we pray for the Spirit to lead and guide each of us in our day to day lives to not be afraid to let others know whom we are following and calling our Lord and Savior.



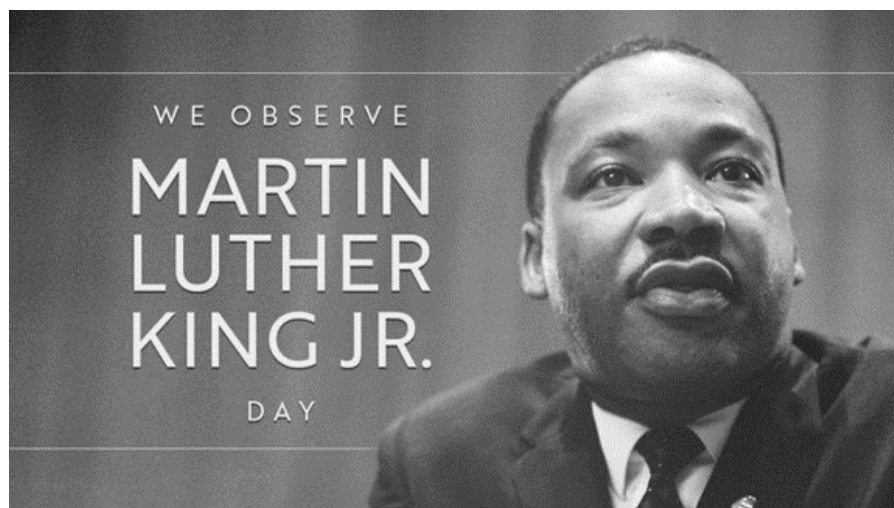
#### Our Sympathy to:

✝ Ruth Cline, family & friends upon the death of long time partner Harold Knudsen.  
✝ Char Kraus, family & friends upon the death of Aunt Kathy Kubin and friend Janet Buethe.  
Please keep these families in your prayers.

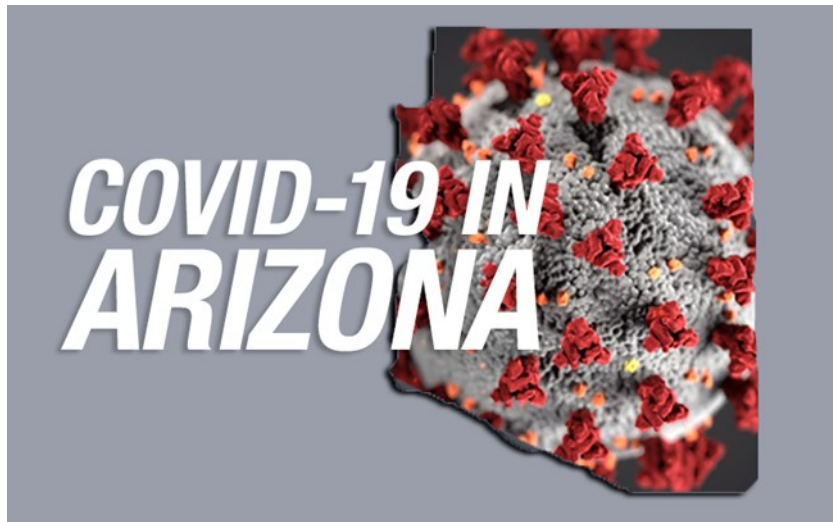


**Christ in Our Home Devotionals Are Here!**

The shipment for the Winter Quarter is here. You may pick them up from the church office during the week from 8 am to 3 pm, (except Thursday and Friday when the hours are 8-Noon) or Sunday mornings in the COC! Thank you for your patience.



**Church Office and Love of Christ Preschool will be closed  
this Monday, January 18, 2021**



### **Be Wise, Be Mindful, and Be Careful**

We all know numbers of positive Covid-19 tests have skyrocketed. Hospitals are facing crisis points. As a Church Board, we are committed to maintain in-person worship with clear protocols which we believe keep our community safer than a trip to the grocery store. We continue to urge all members who might not be feeling well to stay home and livestream our service or we can mail you the weekly sermon. If you are among one of the at-risk population groups, we encourage you to stay home. If you do come to in person worship, please maintain social distance, keep your face covering on, and use the hand sanitizers. Since July we have no reports of anyone being infected due to attendance at one of our church services, though we have had many in our congregation contract the virus during the course of this pandemic.



### **Outreach Phone Calling Ministry**

In March 2020, the Board of Directors reached out to every household in our Directory. In April, a team of volunteers was recruited to make regular phone calls to our households to make sure they were doing okay as we were under stay-at-home orders. The phone calls continued through most of the summer. We are now launching a new effort to keep our weekly prayer list as current and accurate as possible, and to stay connected to some of our most vulnerable and isolated members and Seasonal/Active-non-Members. A team will begin making calls as part of our pastoral care and outreach efforts. If you are aware of someone in our community who could benefit from a regular check-in, please let Dianne Oien, Kirk Mahoney or one of the pastors know. Thanks.



Postcards are being mailed to all current voting members of Love of Christ (as recorded in our database) who will be invited to complete a prepared written ballot distributed by mail (on February 17) and return it to the Church office **by February 28, 2021**. A livestream review of all business needing to be conducted will be held between services on **Sunday, February 14, 10:15AM-10:45AM**. Primary business needing to be conducted: Approval of 2021 Spending plan, election of new Board members (3 positions are currently requiring election to three-year terms beginning 3/1/21), election of the Nominating Committee, reception of 2020 Financial report and 2020 Membership report. **We need to elect three new Board members**. We are particularly interested in receiving female candidates due to Pastor Nanette being the sole remaining female Board member. **We also need to elect six voting members to the Nominating Committee for 2022**. If you are interested in being nominated to serve on either the LoC Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning March 1 or a one-year term on the Nominating Committee with primary work being conducted January-February 2022, please contact congregation President Dan Wilke or one of the pastors.



**Holy Communion is offered at the close of the 9:00AM and 11:00AM Services**

If any household requests communion at home, one of the pastors will be happy to bring communion to them.

**Livestream services on Facebook and YouTube**



Please invite your friends to like us on



Or Subscribe to LoveofChristLC on

*Thank  
you*

A close-up image of a fountain pen nib, showing the gold-colored metal and the black barrel.

Thank you for joining us in worship this Sunday. If you need pastoral care, please contact the Church Office or one of the pastors for assistance.

Thank you to all who continue to support the ministry of Love of Christ with your financial gifts.

**Multiple ways in which you can offer your financial support:**

- Online/EFT-contact Dick Beckman, [dickbeckman@loclc.org](mailto:dickbeckman@loclc.org) or 480.981.3550.
- Mail/Drop-Off at the Church Office
- Text 844.975.1973-You will be prompted on how to register and give
- Use the Donate Button on the Love of Christ Lutheran Church Facebook page

**Naomi's Circle** Our next zoom meeting is Monday, February 8 at 1:00 Arizona time.

If you are interested in participating, please email April at [kaajrygh@gmail.com](mailto:kaajrygh@gmail.com).

If you can't join us, you can again find the lesson <https://www.gathermagazine.org/9984-2/>

## LOVE OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL NOW ENROLLING



- Nurturing Christian environment
- Phonics based readiness program
- Low student to teacher ratio
- Flexible scheduling
- Affordable rates
- Art, crafts, stories, music, chapel and exciting special events
- Named a “Top Preschool in Mesa”

Available positions for the 2020/2021 school year are filling. Call (480)681-0937 today for registration information.

## BOOK CLUB

FEBRUARY 21 FOLLOWING 9AM SERVICE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

The next meeting of the LOC Book Club will be on Sunday, February 21st after the 9:00 am service in the church Fellowship Hall. You must sign up with Sign Up Genius <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054CAFA92EA7FA7-locbook1>

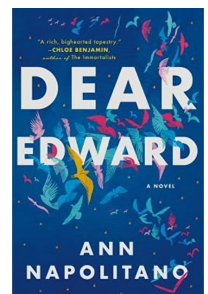
before 2/19/21. Safety protocols of masks, social distancing and hand sanitizing will be enforced.

We will be discussing **Dear Edward** by Ann Napolitano. Here is a synopsis of the book:

One summer morning, 12 yr old Edward Alber, his older brother, his parents and 183 other passengers board a flight in Newark headed for Los Angeles. Among them are a Wall St. wunderkind, a young woman coming to terms with her pregnancy, an injured vet returning from Afghanistan, a business tycoon and a woman leaving her husband. The plane crashes. Edward is the only one who survives.

While capturing the soul of the nation he struggles to find a place in the world without his family. But he makes an unexpected discovery and one that will lead him to some of life's most profound questions. When you've lost everything how do you find the strength to go on? How do you feel safe again? How do you find meaning in your life?

Perhaps 2020 has left us with some questions as well. Please join us for a great discussion on February 21st. If you have any questions, you may contact Barbara Hummel at [otemporium@aol.com](mailto:otemporium@aol.com).



# FAITH IN ACTION



Support our Food Banks at Victory Lutheran, 5946 E. University Dr, Mesa, AZ or First Evangelical/ La Primera, 142 N. Date St, Mesa, AZ.



As the economic fallout of the pandemic impacts more and more, we are seeing an increase in requests for assistance from Love of Christ. If you are interested in making a special gift to help us continue to provide gas cards, bus passes, and some other assistance, you can give to Love of Christ with notation to be used for **Transition Assistance**.

**What is a Blessing Bag?** It is a bag of goodies that has toiletries and socks for the homeless. It is intended to be in your car and then can be handed out to a person on a street corner. Blessing Bags are provided for you to pick up at the end of service by our exit doors. Please feel free to take one as you leave today. You can also stop by the office and pick one up too. We will have them out for the months of January and February.

## House overflowing after Christmas?



*Why not donate your extra items to House of Refuge?*

*This non-profit serves the needs of families experiencing homelessness in our community, by providing a home, home furnishings, clothing, food boxes, individualized case management services and employment and education support to help families overcome homelessness, become self-sufficient and move to sustainable housing.*

*Location for drop-off of donations.*

*6858 E. Ursula Ave.*

*Mesa, Arizona 85212*

*(480) 988-9395*

*[donationcenter@houseofrefuge.org](mailto:donationcenter@houseofrefuge.org)*

*House of Refuge is open to accepting and processing donations every Wednesday & Thursday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

- Donations are to be placed on tables out in front of the Donation Center.*
- All donations must be bagged or boxed. Household items/toys/non-cloth items can not be larger than 2' x 2'*
- Donation of soft items only (clothing/shoes/linens) can be dropped off 7 days/week via the bins at the base of the Donation Center driveway. All items must be bagged and placed in the bins.*
- For a larger donation (due to moving, etc.), please email [pickup@houseofrefuge.org](mailto:pickup@houseofrefuge.org)*

# Latest Habitat Family



## Volunteer with us!

We will be building each Saturday from  
November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 – April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Building homes, community and hope.

Sign up at: <http://vhub.at/Faithgroups>

*Habitat is limiting the number of general volunteers on site to 10, and the number of volunteer leaders to 5 due to social distancing guidelines.*

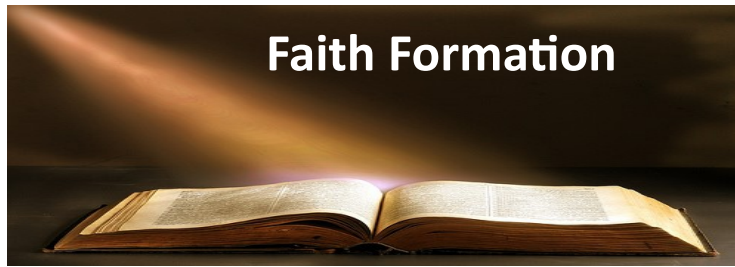
1. Click the link provided
2. Find projects for 'LBFC'
3. Choose a date and click 'Sign Up'
4. Create an account and complete your waiver to register for the event

Please register by the Sunday before the volunteer event



For questions or more info please contact:  
**Larry Falken | [Ljfalken2@gmail.com](mailto:Ljfalken2@gmail.com)**





***Sunday School and Confirmation have resumed! We are continuing with our hybrid ministry, meaning that you can attend in person (using your own computer/phone) or ZOOM in from your home. If you are interested in being a part of this, please email Kevin Anderson at [kevinanderson@loclc.org](mailto:kevinanderson@loclc.org).***

### **WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY**

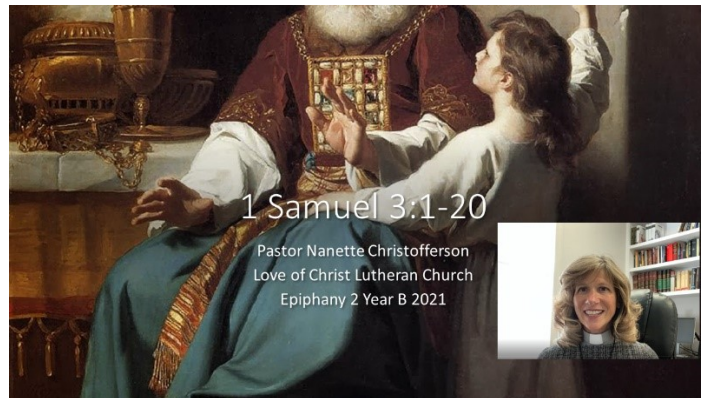
Galatians is a great place to start when it comes to understanding the early church and the basics of the Gospel post resurrection. According to Dr. Matthew Skinner, Luther Seminary New Testament professor, “No letter showcases Paul’s rhetorical tenacity and theological fervor quite like Galatians. Paul wrote this letter to a collection of churches he had founded, urging groups of gentile Christ-followers not to listen to other missionaries who were telling them they had to follow the law of Moses.” Galatians is all about the gospel, and a letter to keep going back to throughout all of our lives. This letter explodes with life and demonstrates Paul’s passion for Jesus Christ as the Messiah and Savior. We hope that those who join our class will find Paul’s passion contagious! **Missed the first class? That’s okay! Please use our Sign Up Genius (link below) and join us this week! Pastor Steve Talmage and Pastor Nanette Christofferson are offering this 5 week class from Wednesday, January 13 on ZOOM from 6:30-7:15 pm. This class will end on Wed. Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054CAFA92EA7FA7-galatians>

**This sign up is a little different. Those who sign up will only register once and will not sign up for dates/times. The list will be a rolling list, and anyone interested can sign up through February 9th.**

**For Additional information about upcoming events or Faith Formation offerings, please go to [www.loveofchristchurch.net](http://www.loveofchristchurch.net) or contact the Church Office 480.981.6199**

**Scripture Lesson**  
**A Brief Look at 1 Samuel 3:1-20**  
**by Pastor Nanette Christofferson**  
**(16min)**



**YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/ES-m5JCqgXQ>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=402546541009756>

**Website:** <http://www.loveofchristchurch.net/whats-going-on/sermons/category/lessons/>

**Gospel Scripture Lesson**  
**A Brief Look at John 1:43-51**  
**by Pastor Nanette Christofferson**  
**(16min)**



**YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/BuWBpg72lxA>

**Facebook:** <https://fb.watch/30bWth-nLU/>

**Website:** <http://www.loveofchristchurch.net/whats-going-on/sermons/category/lessons/>



## **Tech Team Volunteers are Needed and Welcomed**

As we continue to rely more and more on delivering our worship and other offerings through the use of technology, we have reached a point where our Tech Team is open to receiving the help and offer the training for interested youth (15 and older) and adults. The following positions are opportunities to receive training. If interested, contact the Church office and we will pass your information on to the team.

### **LOC Tech Team Volunteers**

#### **Camera Operator (during service)**

Job Description: Operate Video camera from Sound Booth during service

Experience needed: No experience necessary. We will train you

Skills needed: Ability to Zoom and pan a camera on a tripod

Time commitment: Must be onsite at LOC and arrive 15 mins before service.

Scheduling: You can let us know how often you would like to help to be part of a rotation.

Age requirements: 15yrs or older

#### **Video Presentation Operator (during service)**

Job Description: Operate Video presentation software from Sound Booth during service

Experience needed: No experience necessary. We will train you

Skills needed: Use mouse and keyboard to advance slides during the service

Time commitment: Must be onsite at LOC and arrive 15 mins before service.

Scheduling: You can let us know how often you would like to help to be part of a rotation.

Age requirements: 15yrs or older

#### **Video Presentation Slide Creator (do from home)**

Job Description: Use Microsoft PowerPoint to create announcement and song lyrics slides from documents sent from pastors and music directors.

Experience needed: Experience with Microsoft PowerPoint

Skills needed: Use Microsoft PowerPoint

Time commitment: Develop PowerPoint slides by 8pm Friday. Receiving lyrics and announcements by Wednesday. Approximately 3 hours a week.

Scheduling: You can let us know how often you would like to help to be part of a rotation.

Age requirements: 15yrs or older

**Video Editor (do from home)**

Job Description: Use Video editing software and Microsoft PowerPoint to create pre-recorded videos from video/audio files

Experience needed: Experience with Microsoft PowerPoint and comfortable with computer technology. We will train you to use the video editing software.

Skills needed: Use Microsoft PowerPoint

Time commitment: Depends on the project. You would only do as much as you are able to.

Age requirements: 15yrs or older

Scheduling: You can let us know how often you would like to help. You will be asked before being assigned to a project.

January 17, 2 Epiphany- Live at 9 and 11am on



and



## Pastor Nanette's Sermon Title: Why do you believe?

### 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

2 At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup> Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' <sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. <sup>12</sup>On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup>For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. <sup>14</sup>Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.'

<sup>15</sup> Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. <sup>16</sup>But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' <sup>17</sup>Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' <sup>18</sup>So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.'

<sup>19</sup> As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup>And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

### 1 Cor. 6:12-20

<sup>12</sup> 'All things are lawful for me', but not all things are beneficial. 'All things are lawful for me', but I will not be dominated by anything. <sup>13</sup>'Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food', and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, 'The two shall be one flesh.' <sup>17</sup>But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you

were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

## John 1:43-51

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' 46 Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' 47 When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' 48 Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' 49 Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' 50 Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' 51 And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

We are encouraging all of our faith community to participate using the Faith In The Home suggestions. This is an excellent way for all of us to grow individually as well as sharing it with others. We ask that you take advantage of this resource during this time of temporary suspension of Bible Studies and other fellowship activities that are normally here at the church.

JANUARY 17, 2021  
SECOND SUNDAY  
AFTER EPIPHANY



*God reaches out to us.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael
Monday	1 Samuel 3:1-20	The call of Samuel
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Honor God in body and spirit
Wednesday	Psalms 40:1-11	Happy are those who trust in God
Thursday	Romans 8:26-30	God reaches out to us
Friday	2 Thessalonians 2:13-17	Be faithful
Saturday	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18	The Lord knows us well
Sunday	Mark 1:14-20	Jesus calls the first disciples

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."*

1 Samuel 3:10 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Awesome God, for your desire to have a relationship with us through Christ our Lord, we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

For the food that we eat, for your love that we meet, for this meal that we share as a sign of your care. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the God that searches you and knows you give you hope and peace through Christ our Lord. (Psalm 139:1)



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JANUARY 17, 2021  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Listen, God Is Calling*



### 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:

- Are you more of a listener or a talker? Explain.
- Is it easy for you to tell others about Jesus? Why or why not?
- As a disciple of Jesus, why is listening to God so important?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* 1 Samuel 3:1-20.

Human efforts are important for lots of things in this world, but in the Bible, it is God's efforts that make all the difference. It is not first that we as humans call on God to make God a saving presence in our lives. It is God that reaches out to us. We see this in the story of Jesus calling disciples (John 1:43-51). Jesus takes the initiative with Philip, Nathanael, and with us. We see that same pattern when God calls Samuel. God repeatedly reaches out to a boy who does not know God yet. This is also the theme of Psalm 139:1: "O LORD, you have searched me and known me." According to the psalmist, that is unbelievably awesome news. That news is worthy of our full attention, like the boy Samuel saying to the LORD, "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10). With a God who comes to us, knows us, and calls us to do God's work in the world, it is worth taking the voice of Samuel and making it our own: "Speak, Lord, for I am listening." The church, body of Christ, wants to acknowledge that we are listening to Jesus; the faithfulness of each disciple of Jesus says, "Lord, I am listening to you." How do you listen to God? Is it through prayer, reading the Bible, public worship, or listening to the voice of God through others around you? Explain.

*Pray:* Dear God, just as you pursued Samuel and the disciples Philip and Nathanael, we thank you for pursuing us with your love and grace today through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### SERVICE

To care for someone is to listen to them as Samuel listened to God when God called out to him. Is there someone who could use your attentive listening this week?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 139 is a beautiful and reflective psalm. Read Psalm 139:1-6 this week using a meditative tradition called *Lectio Divina*. Read it once slowly and pause for reflection. Read it again and pick out a word or phrase that stands out for you. Pause, then read it one last time and wonder how the verses can guide your life this week. Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer.



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)

This insert and others in the series can be found on the website under "About Us", "Worship Times and Directions".