



# Love of Christ... Weekly E-News

## Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

E-News for Sunday, April 11, 2021



Truth be told I (Pastor Nanette) think Thomas gets a bit of a bad rap. I don't think he's a "doubter" as much as he is a realist. I mean, he saw Jesus nailed to the cross and die. So, you can't blame him for wanting a real encounter with the risen Lord just like the other disciples got.

That is what strikes me about this story: the realism. Not just of Thomas, but the realism also about how hard it can be to believe. When you read through the resurrection accounts of all four gospels, you quickly realize that Thomas is not alone in his doubt. In fact, doubt isn't the exception but the rule. No one -- even after all the predictions -- no one says, "Welcome back." Or "We knew this would happen." Or even "What took you so long?" No. No one anticipates Jesus' return and when he shows up, everyone doubts. *Everyone*.

Which makes me think that maybe doubt isn't the opposite of faith but, actually, part of it, maybe even an essential part to our faith.



### **Winter Visitors Returning North**

We have been privileged to see some of you in our in-person worship offerings. As you pack your bags and prepare for your return to the north country, please let the church office know, so addresses can be updated. Please continue to stay connected by receiving our weekly ENews, watching our weekly worship livestream, or participating in an online offering of faith formation.



### **Just a few more piles to go!**

Volunteers continue to be needed to assist with the final leg of our major campus tree-trimming project. Please contact Dick Beckman ([dickbeckman@loclc.org](mailto:dickbeckman@loclc.org) or 480.981.3550) if you have a few hours to help load the cut branches into the dumpster or help rake some of the recently trimmed areas. Thank you to the many who have already given of their time and talents the past three weeks. "Many hands make for a light load."



The LoC Board of Directors will continue to monitor current Covid-19 trends and realities from the Maricopa County Health Department and the CDC to help determine how we can safely get to the point of less restrictions and more opportunity to come together. For now, current protocols are being followed requiring face-coverings and social distancing. We know not everyone is of the same mind when it comes to the speed at which we are implementing changes. We continue to ask for your patience and understanding, while we are grateful for the perseverance required. We all long for the sense of community and connection we had before March 2020.



A word of thanks and appreciation is extended to all volunteers and staff who contributed to create and carryout our Holy Week services, **particularly our AV Team and the Music Staff.**



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

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

**Mid-week Small Group Communion in the Sanctuary at Noon on Wednesday, April 14 and 28 is available through Sign-Up Genius.**



Thank  
you



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.

## 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.

**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.

### I-Help Women

We have company! We are providing respite care for our I-Help women Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 5:00pm for the month of April. If you would like to come and spend a little time visiting with these women, they would appreciate it! Please email Darlene ([darlene@loclc.org](mailto:darlene@loclc.org)) with a day and time you are interested in coming by. She will then forward your message to Rhonda Vaglio or Carol Moseley. They will confirm your day and time to visit. Protocols of masks and social distancing are required. If you have any questions, you may contact Pastor Nanette at [nanette@loclc.org](mailto:nanette@loclc.org).

# FAITH IN ACTION

## Latest Habitat Family



**Habitat for Humanity®**  
Central Arizona

## 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 | Ljfalcken2@gmail.com**

# FAITH IN ACTION

We had a very fruitful Lenten Journey with all of the donations to three different organizations. Thank you so much for your participation.

**The Lenten Donation Challenge at Love of Christ** was a blessing to all those receiving much-needed help, and to our church community as we tried something new.

Many of our members want to make donations, but don't know what is needed, or how to make drop-offs. At the start of Lent, we posted a list of items requested by our Faith in Action Community service partners, and then set up a weekly Donation Station to accept and deliver the items.

The response was heartfelt, spirited, and generous. More people responded each week as the project grew. We collected hundreds - yes, hundreds - of cans, and boxes of food. Food was distributed to Victory Food Bank, which we managed to overwhelm their shelves, and to House of Refuge.

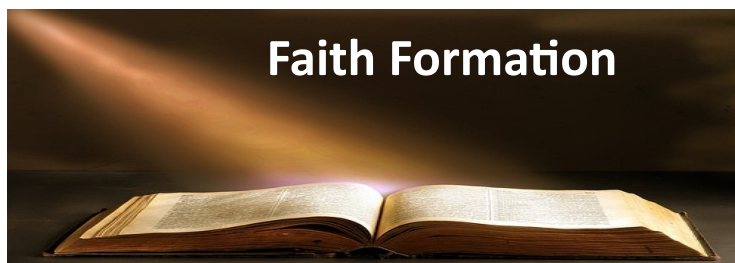
Paper products and personal hygiene items will be delivered to Lutheran Social Services, a need they requested for several of their on-going programs. House of Refuge also received personal hygiene items, as they have a constant need in their service to those in transitional housing. Once again, our community showed understanding of what is practical and needed with boxes and bags of products.

We also informed our community about a quiet need at Love of Christ - gift cards. The cards are used by staff for someone with an immediate need, such as fuel or food, and the need has only grown during the pandemic.

We made every attempt to distribute the donations as quickly as possible, and with thanks to Jack and JoAnn Grant, and Jackie and Bill Rensel, that was accomplished. We also cleaned out some storage areas, and Karen Humbert and Jodi Bogushefsky made those extra donations available for use.

Thank you for your donations, your suggestions, and your enthusiasm for a new project. You showed how we keep moving forward in uncertain times, sharing our faith in prayer for those in need, and responding with help.

We are looking for a new coordinator for Habitat for Humanity. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Nanette Christofferson at [nanette@loclc.org](mailto:nanette@loclc.org)



## Faith Formation

Sunday School and Confirmation resume and will continue with our hybrid model. If you have any questions or would like to be a part of a class, please contact Kevin Anderson at [Kevinanderson@loclc.org](mailto:Kevinanderson@loclc.org) There is also a table for Sunday School and Confirmation out in the courtyard on Sunday mornings.





Please invite your friends to like us on



Or Subscribe to LoveofChristLC on

Livestream our 9:00AM and 11:00AM services on Facebook and YouTube

**Naomi's Circle** Our next zoom meeting is Monday, April 12 at 1:00pm Arizona time. If you are interested in participating, please call the church office 480 981 6199. Christa Van Zychlin Author of "Turn Around Angels" Gather magazine  
[www.gathermagazine.org/christa-von-zychlin-leads-gathers-march-bible-study-session-of-journeys-with-angels/](http://www.gathermagazine.org/christa-von-zychlin-leads-gathers-march-bible-study-session-of-journeys-with-angels/)

## LOVE OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL NOW ENROLLING



- Nurturing Christian environment
- Phonics based readiness program
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- Affordable rates
- Art, crafts, stories, music, chapel and exciting special events
- Named a "Top Preschool in Mesa"

Available positions for the **2021-2022** school year are filling. Call (480)681-0937 today for registration information.

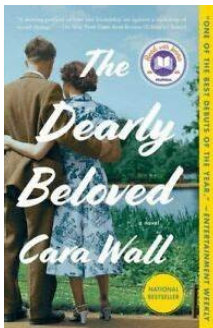
For Additional information about upcoming events or Faith Formation offerings, please go to [www.loveofchristchurch.net](http://www.loveofchristchurch.net) or contact the Church Office 480.981.6199.



The next meeting of the LOC Book Club will be **Sunday, April 11th** in the church Fellowship Hall after the 9:00 am service. We practice social distancing, use masks and hand sanitizer. You must use Sign Up Genius to attend.

We will be reading **The Four Winds** by Kristin Hannah. Here is a synopsis:

Set during the Great Depression, the book introduces us to Elsa Wolcott Martinnelli. Millions are out of work and the drought has devastated the Great Plains. Farmers are fighting to keep their land and their livelihoods as crops fail and water dries up and the earth cracks open. Everything on the Martinnelli farm is dying, including Elsa's marriage. Each day is a desperate battle against nature and a fight to keep her children alive. Elsa must make a choice to fight for the land she loves or leave it behind and go to California. In a time of horrible hardship, this is a story worth telling, from a female point of view. A testament to hope, resilience and the human spirit to survive.



We will meet again on **Sunday, May 23rd** at the same time and the same place. Safety protocols will be in place and you must use Sign Up Genius to attend.

We will be discussing **The Dearly Beloved** by Cara Wall. Here is a synopsis:

Charles and Lily, James and Nan meet in Greenwich Village in 1963 when the two men are hired to be co-pastors at the historic Third Presbyterian Church. We witness how their lives unfold during tragedy, friendship, discovery, relationships, parenthood, work and community. Lily really doesn't get along well with Nan. She is her own person, with her own career and becoming a minister's wife was not on her radar. Nan grew up as the daughter of a minister and feels she knows what to do to help her ministering husband. Charles and James become social activists which does cause some problems with some of the church members. The time line for the book ranges from the 1950's to the 2000's. The book could be said to be a meditation on Faith and faith.

We welcome your interest in the Book Club by attending in person if you are able or by reading our selections at your leisure.

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

Happy Reading!



April 11, 2 Easter - Live at 9 and 11am on



and



## Pastor Nanette's Sermon Title is "Thomas: Doubter or Realist?"

### Acts 4: 32-34

<sup>32</sup> Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold.

### 1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— <sup>2</sup> this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— <sup>3</sup> we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup> but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

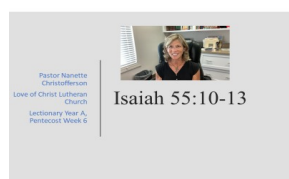
<sup>2</sup> My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup> and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

### John 20: 19-31

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do



**Online Introduction to Lectionary Lessons resume next week.**

On Facebook, YouTube, and [www.loveofchristchurch.net](http://www.loveofchristchurch.net).

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.

APRIL 11, 2021  
SECOND SUNDAY  
OF EASTER



*Seeing is believing, and believing is seeing.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Come and see and believe
Monday	Acts 4:32-35	The sharing of goods
Tuesday	1 John 1:1–2:2	The word of life
Wednesday	Hebrews 11:1-40	The meaning of faith
Thursday	2 Corinthians 4:7-18	Living by faith
Friday	2 Corinthians 5:6-10	We walk by faith
Saturday	Psalms 133	The blessing of unity
Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to the disciples

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Jesus said to [Thomas], "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."*  
John 20:29 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, give us the eyes of faith that we may believe and have life in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let this food to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May the Holy Spirit give you eyes to see and believe in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.



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APRIL 11, 2021  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*We Walk by Faith*



### 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:

- Talk or think about something you need to see in order to believe it is real.
- What does the expression "seeing is believing" mean to you?
- Jesus wants us to see with the eyes of faith. How is this possible?

### DEVOTIONS

Read: John 20:19-31.

Thomas wants what the other disciples experienced: seeing the risen Lord. Seeing is a major theme in the Gospel of John. Jesus says to two disciples, "Come and see" (John 1:39). The woman at the well tells the townspeople to "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done" (John 4:29); the man born blind sees Jesus and says, "Lord, I believe" (John 9:38). Mary Magdalene sees the resurrected Jesus in the garden and tells the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" (John 20:18). Our reading for this week ends with sensitivity to those who will not see the resurrected Lord Jesus yet will come to believe. The Gospel of John wrote down enough signs from Jesus that people "may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God" and "have life in his name" (v. 31). Today's disciples, like the ones in the Gospel of John, believe because they see through the eyes of faith. We have the Holy Spirit that we may have a living relationship with Jesus through today's disciples, those who continue to tell the stories of the Scriptures that we may come "to see," to believe and have life in the name of Jesus. Who or what has helped you see with the eyes of faith?

Pray: Risen Lord, we thank you for blessing us with a community of faith and the Scriptures that we may see that you are the Messiah, the Son of God. Amen.

### SERVICE

In Acts 4:32-35 the first Christians gave witness to their faith by how they lived and cared for one another so that there was no needy person in their midst. It is still important for Christians to care for the needs of others. How can you reach out to someone in need this week?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

John 20:19-31 tells us that Thomas found it hard to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. Jesus appeared to him and invited Thomas to touch him. God's love is not turned away by our questions and doubts. Complete this statement: Something I wonder about the Christian faith is \_\_\_\_\_. Then pray: Lord Jesus, please come to me so that I may see you and believe. Amen.



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)