



Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

E-News for Sunday, June 20, 2021



“Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

The public ministry of Jesus involved preaching, teaching and demonstrations of power over forces of nature, sin, death, and evil. All three were used by Jesus to invite his followers and listeners to recognize that God is at work in and through him revealing what the kingdom or reign of God is like. For many who might consider themselves “enlightened” or others “grounded in what can only be proven,” the miracles of Jesus are easy to write off as mere fantasy. But we need to ask why would all four gospel writers include these unexplainable events? Could it be our attempts to shape God into our understanding of how things work, or how things are possible is really just an imposition of our own limits on God?



Whether you are joining us in-person or online, we are glad that you are seeking to worship our Lord. If you are interested in learning more about Love of Christ Lutheran Church or joining our congregation, please contact Dianne Oien (dianneoien@loclc.org). We are anticipating offering New Member/ Growing Disciples classes in September.



Dear Lord,
Bless every father and every grandfather with the best of your spiritual blessings today. Let him know he is not alone in the tasks you have given him to provide for, and support those under his care. Show him how much you delight in his work, and affirm the value of whatever You have given him to do—both as a father or grandfather and as a child of Yours. Confirm his worth daily so he has no reason to doubt whether he is loved in the eyes of his Heavenly Father. Amen.



June Brings Changes to our Worship Life

Now our 9:00 and 11:00 worship services will allow up to 150 worshippers in the Center of Compassion. The 50 in-person limit for 7:50 in the Sanctuary currently remains.

Also, fully vaccinated individuals have the option of not wearing a mask or face covering. Social distancing and hand sanitizing is still being asked.

If you see someone masked after the CDC/IDPH removed masking requirements for fully-vaccinated people, please remember:

- People may have cancer
- People may have autoimmune diseases
- People may have unvaccinated children at home
- People may have high-risk loved ones they are protecting
- People may have asthma and have realized over the last year that their symptoms are alleviated by a mask outdoors
- People may be unvaccinated

Please be kind.



Contemporary Worship Song Recommendations are Welcome!

If you have some favorite contemporary worship songs that we might try to incorporate into our 9:00AM worship service, please email or speak to William Hewes (williamhewes@loclc.org).



Holy Communion is offered at the close of all Sunday Services.

All who are baptized are welcome to share in the Lord's Supper at Love of Christ.

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



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

Faith in Action



Love of Christ Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Grand Canyon Synod. There are approximately 89 congregations in the Grand Canyon Synod, including new mission starts. The territory of this synod is the State of Arizona; the counties of Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Nye in the State of Nevada; and New Promise Lutheran Church, in St. George, Utah.



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



On Saturday, June 12, 2021, Pastors Steve and Nanette, Elizabeth Danielson, Denise Haala, Barb Hummel, Jeff Michaels, and Dan Wilke participated among the 292 voting members, conducting by Zoom the Grand Canyon Synod Assembly. Like congregations required to hold an annual meeting, the Grand Canyon Synod is required to hold an annual assembly of voting members from every congregation within the synod. Barbara Carl, Holy Trinity, Chandler, AZ was elected as our new Vice-President. Other elections brought new members to the Synod Council, voting members to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August 2022. Greetings, a bible study, and the worship sermon were provided by the Rev. Dr. Al Starr from the Churchwide organization. A video greeting was provided by our Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton. Various milestones, anniversaries and remembrances of congregations that have closed and rostered ministers who have died, were acknowledged. A mission spending plan of over \$1.8 million was approved for February 1, 2022-January 31, 2023. 50% of all unrestricted income provided by congregations of the synod are passed on to support the global and national work of the ELCA. A new Synod Capital Campaign “Growing Generosity: Planting Seeds for a New Generation” was launched with a goal of \$500,000 to be raised by 12/31/23. The three foci for the campaign are: Planting seeds of financial support for pastors and congregations through an Educate, Equip, and Enact Lilly Grant match of \$150,000; Planting seeds for Lutheran Campus Ministry (ASU, UA, NAU, University of Nevada at Las Vegas), and new and emerging ministries within the synod; Planting seeds for Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Arizona and Lutheran Engagement and Advocacy of Nevada with a focus on childhood hunger and needs of vulnerable elderly. \$281,656 has already been given or pledged from congregations and individuals! Small group breakouts took place to discuss with others around the synod new relevant issues facing our congregations since going through the pandemic, and what new ministry collaboration or connection has developed because of doing ministry through the pandemic.

The theme “Freed in Christ” was based on Galatians 5:13-14:

“For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

For more information on the assembly go to www.gcsynod.org/assembly

For more information on the Capital Campaign go to www.gcsynod.org/generosity

Our summer water project has started. We will continue to collect bottled water for Grace in the City who will chill it and share it with those experiencing homelessness. This project will also be sponsored by the youth. Please bring your water on any of the following Sundays, June 20, 27, and July 11. Please leave your water outside your car by your trunk and it will be picked up during the worship service. If you would like to bring your water during the week, you may drop it off at the office. If you would prefer to bring a gift card for water or write a check, please give it to Dick Beckman. Thank you so much for sharing what you have with others. (Any questions, please contact Patti DeLaney at pattidelaney03@gmail.com).

LAST WEEK WE COLLECTED 40 CASES OF WATER THAT WERE PACKED UP AND TAKEN DOWN TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN DOWNTOWN PHOENIX! THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



Backpacks and school supplies collecting begins July 27th!

Hard to believe but it's already time to start thinking about "Back to School" for students. This year will be more in-person learning, so let's make sure that they're ready for a fabulous year!! What better way than to have a new backpack filled with school supplies. Collection of backpacks and school supplies will be **from June 27th - July 18th**. Your donations will go to the families of La Mesita Family Shelter and the students of Salk Elementary. Please remember them when shopping this summer - bring your donations on either of the Sundays or during the week.

Thank you,
Pat Shaw



Clothes for Kids: We would like to thank Kathy Doody for her many years of collecting Clothes for Kids. She, along with our congregation, helped many children with back-to-school clothes. Unfortunately, Kathy is no longer able to continue this ministry. If you are interested, please read the job description below and contact Pastor Nanette at nanette@loclc.org

Job Description for Clothes for Kids

- This volunteer position is short term for the month of July. It takes a total of 4-6 hours.
- Touch base with Robert Sanders at Lutheran Social Services (LSS)
- Write up an enews insert and have it run one week before collections begin and check with Dar or Dianne for the best time to start the collections.
- Collections usually cover 3 Sundays.
- Coordinate delivery with LSS at Victory Lutheran for end of July or early August.

*Thank
you*

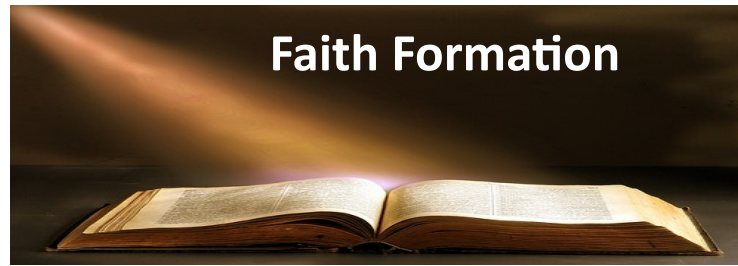


Thank you for joining us in worship this Sunday. If you need pastoral care, please contact the Church Office or one of the pastors for assistance.

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 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 Formation

Vacation Bible School (VBS) Volunteers Needed



“Jesus Pulls Us Through” is part of our Rocky Railway theme this year! I thought this was a befitting theme being all that we have been through this past year of pandemic and as we continue to live in a liminal space. Jesus is always there through the tight corners, up the hills, and down in the valleys. We have the presence of Jesus with us whether we are chugging along or sliding on the rails. As Jesus in John 16 explains, the Holy Spirit is with us, offering us assurance that Christ is integrated into our community and our daily living.

VBS this year will be held on **July 20, 21, and 22 from 9:00-10:30 am**. We are looking for volunteers to be a part of the Rocky Railway. Each of the areas comes with an information and explanation guide to help you with your planning. Pastor Nanette and Kevin Anderson are more than happy to talk with you about any of the volunteer areas.

Chew Chew Snack Coordinator (filled)
Snack Helpers 2-3

Loco-Motion Games (1-2 Leaders)

Music Express (1-2 helpers) These helpers will be helping Jung.

Bible Adventure Story Tellers (3) This involves telling a Bible Story to different groups of children and guiding them through a lesson.

Imagination Station: (2 Leaders) This is an activity that has a craft as well as a little science lesson.

Kidvid Cinema: (2 leaders to run video and discuss questions) Learn how other children face difficult times during their life and how God helps them through dance, friends, and music.

Youth Leaders and Assistant Leaders: Youth leaders are those who will be entering grade 9-12. (Or college!) Assistant leaders are for those going into 6th grade -8th grade. All youth, please sign up on Sign Up Genius or talk to Kevin Anderson.

Decorations: We will need youth and adults (3-4) creating and helping make decorations as well as putting them up.

Here is the Sign Up Genius link.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AACA62EA3FA7-vacation>



YOUTH AT LOVE OF CHRIST
CALLED. GATHERED. SENT.

Our Youth Ministry protocols have been updated. We resumed our summer Wednesday gatherings. Our 4th - 6th grade students are invited to participate once per month (see Youth Ministry calendar). We will enjoy some time in fellowship and have conversation around making updates to our summer calendar in light of our updated protocols. Please reach out to Kevin (kevinanderson@loclc.org) if you have any questions.



Prayer is a central part to who we are as Christians. When we turn to the Gospels, we find Jesus in prayer with the Father. But many times we can find ourselves in what I would call a prayer rut, where one feels that they are just praying the same things over and over again. In the next 2 classes, we will be exploring the many aspects and many different kinds of prayer. We will spend time looking into the Word of God and learning what the Bible says about prayer. Hopefully, each week will bring new insight into

your prayer life. Some of the resources that will be used are from Phillip Yancey, Jane Vennard, Richard Rohr, and many more.

This study is for women and it is through the “Prayer, Care, and Share Bible Study”. This study is offered on ZOOM and will be at 1:00pm. Pastor Nanette will be leading monthly sessions on prayer and each month we will be looking at a different aspect of prayer. Our summer dates include: Thursday July 8th, and Thursday August 12th. If you are interested in joining, please contact Connie Lehrke at cmlehrke@yahoo.com

Naomi Circle will meet on Monday, July 12 at 1:00 by Zoom. This lesson continues our three-part Summer 2021.

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



Nanette included the book, **American Dirt** by Jeanine Cummins in her sermon on June 6th. The next Book Club date will be scheduled for **Sunday, August 8th** to discuss the book **American Dirt**. We will meet in Fellowship Hall soon after **the 9:00 service**. I invite everyone who is interested to join us, men as well as women. Here is a synopsis of the book:

Lydia Quixano Pérez lives in the Mexican city of Acapulco. She runs a bookstore. She has a son, Luca, the love of her life, and a wonderful husband who is a journalist. And while there are cracks beginning to show in Acapulco because of the drug cartels, her life is, by and large, fairly comfortable.

Even though she knows they'll never sell, Lydia stocks some of her all-time favorite books in her store. And then one day a man enters the shop to browse and comes up to the register with a few books he would like to buy—two of them her favorites. Javier is erudite. He is charming. And, unbeknownst to Lydia, he is the *jefe* of the newest drug cartel that has gruesomely taken over the city. When Lydia's husband's tell-all profile of Javier is published, none of their lives will ever be the same.

Forced to flee, Lydia and eight-year-old Luca soon find themselves miles and worlds away from their comfortable middle-class existence. Instantly transformed into migrants, Lydia and Luca ride *la bestia*—trains that make their way north toward the United States, which is the only place Javier's reach doesn't extend. As they join the countless people trying to reach *el norte*, Lydia soon sees that everyone is running from something. But what exactly are they running to?

American Dirt will leave readers utterly changed. It is a literary achievement filled with poignancy, drama, and humanity on every page. It is one of the most important books for our times.

Already being hailed as "a *Grapes of Wrath* for our times" and "a new American classic," Jeanine Cummins' *American Dirt* is a rare exploration into the inner hearts of people willing to sacrifice everything for a glimmer of hope.

I have already started to read this book and highly recommend it to everyone. It starts off with a real bang that makes it hard to put down. Hopefully, you will read this book and join us on August 8th.

Penny

IT'S ABOUT TIME!

The Book Nook is opening this Sunday, June 13th between the 9:00 and 11:00 service. We will manage the Book Nook the same way that LOC has monitored its church services. Please observe the 3 ft. distancing rule, wear a mask if you have not been vaccinated, and sanitize your hands before entering the Book Nook. The Book Nook is a small room and will be monitored closely to make sure only one or two people are in there at a time. Tables and book carts will also be found outside the Book Nook so more people may shop without being too close to one another.

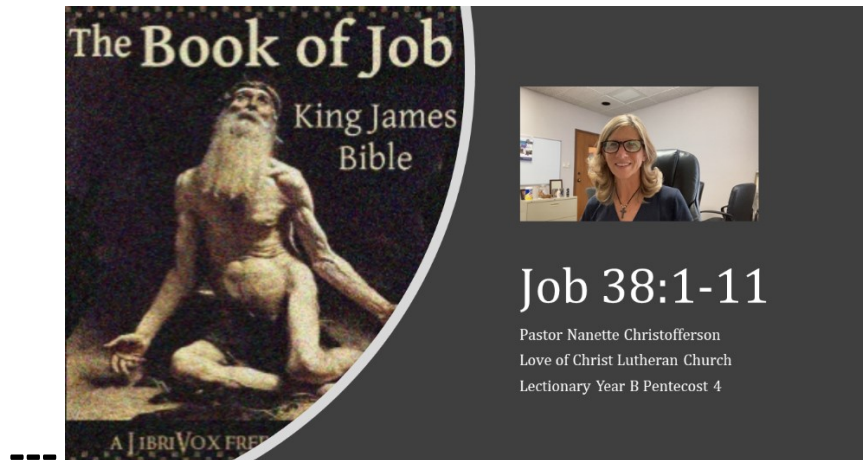
Barb and I are so excited to be opening the Book Nook and can't wait to see you there this Sunday!

A big **Congratulations** to Kevin and Erin Anderson! Our Youth and Family Faith Director and his wife Erin along with big sister Reese (2 years old) have a new arrival! We would like to welcome Miles Thomas Anderson (6 lbs. 6 oz. 19 in. long, born on May 27th) and welcome him with a Baby Shower.

Our congregation is invited to participate in a diaper shower! Erin and Kevin could use diapers! Size 2 on up and any brand is fine. If you would like to donate a gift card from WalMart or Target, that would also be appreciated. The collection will end on Sunday June 27th. Please leave the diapers in either the Sanctuary narthex or the CoC narthex. You can place the gift cards in the offering plate labeled for Baby Shower.



Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Job 38: 1-11
by Pastor Nanette Christofferson
(12min)



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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=800606103928605>

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

Gospel Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Mark 4:35-41
by Pastor Nanette Christofferson
(12min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/8xN945CfeKE>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=989005308304817>

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

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

On Facebook, YouTube, and www.loveofchristchurch.net.



Pastor Nanette's Sermon Title is "What do you fear more... Miracles or Change?"

Job 38:1-11

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

² 'Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³ Gird up your loins like a man,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴ 'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶ On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

⁷ when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

⁸ 'Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb?—

⁹ when I made the clouds its garment,
and thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰ and prescribed bounds for it,
and set bars and doors,

¹¹ and said, "Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stopped"?"

2 Cor. 6:1-13

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.'

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

¹¹ We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. ¹²There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. ¹³In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

Mark 4:35-41

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.' ³⁶And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' ³⁹He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' ⁴¹And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'