

Love of Christ Lutheran Church

1525 North Power Road
Mesa AZ 85205

Fax: (480) 832-2583
Office: (480) 981-6199

Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

5th Sunday of Epiphany, February 8, 2026



"This Little Light of Mine"

Many of us learned the song, "This Little Light of Mine, I am going to let it shine!" In baptism we are united to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We have been sealed by the gift of the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Filled with the power and fruit of the Holy Spirit we have God's presence within us to let the good news of God's unconditional love and forgiveness shine. What does it mean to reflect this good news in our daily lives to our loved ones or even the strangers we encounter? With so much troubling, unsettling and difficult news filling the social media platforms or airwaves, how might God be using each of us to let a little good news beam forth from us?

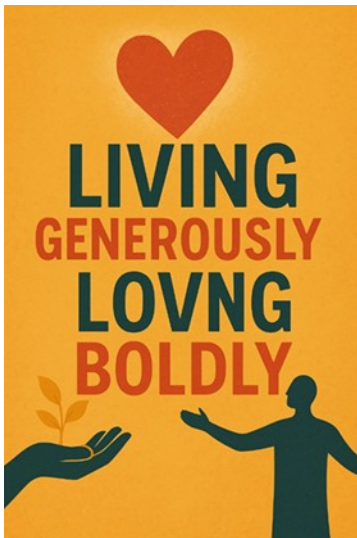


Sunday, February 22, 9:45AM-10:30AM in the Center of Compassion.

We will elect new Board of Directors, Endowment Committee members, and approve the 2025 Financial Report and 2026 Mission Spending Plan/Budget. All Confirmed voting members are asked to attend. Annual Reports will be available in the Sanctuary and Center of Compassion next Sunday as well as emailed by the end of next week to all active households.



Our Sympathy and Comfort to Pat Engel, family, and friends on the loss of her dear Husband, Dennis. If you would like to send a card, Pat's address is—3975 Superior Dr. N/W #3045, Rochester MN 55901



Two New Stories of Living Generously

A son tells a story about his dad: "This evening my dad brought me into the city to one of his favorite restaurants. He ordered a substantial amount of food and only ate half of it. On the way home, he drove a route I was unfamiliar with. He pulled over near an alley and said, 'I'll be right back.' Then he grabbed the leftovers, ran into the alley, and returned empty-handed. When I asked him what he did, he replied, 'There's a homeless veteran back there who I've been giving leftovers to for the last year or so.'"

A young woman celebrates the gift of being generous: "It's been ten years since my best friend became ill and needed a kidney transplant. As I was a fitting donor, I chose to donate one of my healthy kidneys to her even after doctors said her chance of survival was only 25%, and that there would be inherent risks to my health as well. But here I am on a Saturday afternoon, getting ready to drive to her wedding venue where, in just a few short hours, I will be her maid of honor as she marries the love of her life – a man whom she happened to meet at the hospital ten years ago."

How have you witnessed the power of generosity happening unexpectedly? What difference does it make? Love of Christ Lutheran Church is a community which seeks to be known for living generously and loving boldly!



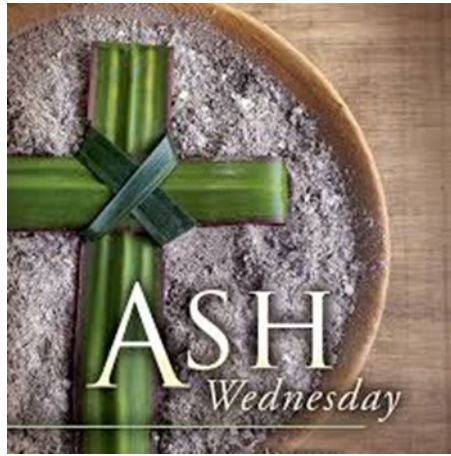
We will again be offering midweek Lenten services on Wednesdays during Lent. We will be using a Taize' service of meditative song and each week focus on themes from "Lent in Plain Sight." A soup supper will be available at 5:30 in Rooms 48-49 in the Center of Compassion, followed by the service in the Sanctuary at 6:15PM. Following the service, we hope to continue the practice of our Faith in Action team bringing in some of our mission partners for sharing updates and answering questions of how we are joining others in loving our neighbors and making the love of Christ known.

Love of Christ is Turning 40

On April 12, we will join together at 9:00 to celebrate this milestone in the life of our church congregation. There will be just one combined worship service in the Center of Compassion with Bishop Deborah Hutterer preaching the word. A time to celebrate and share memories will follow the worship service.

More details will follow as we get closer to April 12, but for now we are asking for photos and memories. If you have photos of church activities or outreach missions, please share them. We are especially interested in photographs from the last 10 years. If you have photos we can use in creating displays, please contact Kirk Mahoney at 602-309-3548 to determine how best to share them. We hope to have all photos in hand within the next two weeks.

If you would like to help with preparations for the 40th Anniversary celebration, please contact Elizabeth Danielson at 480-710-5032 or ekdanielson@gmail.com.



Ash Wednesday Worship, February 18, 2026

Noon or 7PM in the Sanctuary

Ash Wednesday marks the solemn start of Lent, a 40-day journey of repentance and preparation for Easter, reminding us of our mortality ("dust to dust") and sin through the imposition of ashes, while simultaneously pointing to God's mercy, forgiveness, and the promise of new life through Christ's resurrection, transforming our brokenness into belovedness. It's a call to honest self-reflection, confession, and a commitment to living out our baptismal faith through outward actions of love and justice.



By What Authority: Rethinking Early Christian History

Wednesday, at 6PM in the Fellowship Hall

We are on a journey through the first five centuries of the Early Church. It provides helpful background in how the Holy Spirit worked through the global and diverse movement of believers and communities coming together. How they dealt with Emperor and Empire. How they navigated, debated, and determined our early creeds and church organization. This course is on Wednesdays through February 11. Whether you can attend some of the classes or all, all are welcome to join. **Last topic before Ash Wednesday:** 2/11 Eastern and Western Church.

Music Notes....



Handbell Ringers Needed

Do you read music and count beats? We would love to have you join our Handbell Choir! We are looking for ringers for monthly Sunday performances.

Rehearsals are held **Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Greenroom**. If you're interested, please let me know—we'd love to ring with you! You can contact me at jungmusic@loccl.org

We can't wait to celebrate this wonderful season of music, fellowship, and joy with all of you.

With gratitude and excitement,
Jung Lee



Calling All Bakers

Cookie Ministry is looking for people who like to bake. The Cookie Ministry is part of the Faith in Action programs at Love of Christ. This ministry makes cookies for our various events that are held here on our campus and beyond our campus. If you are interested in baking cookies for this ministry, please contact Eunice Ketterling at ketts14az@gmail.com



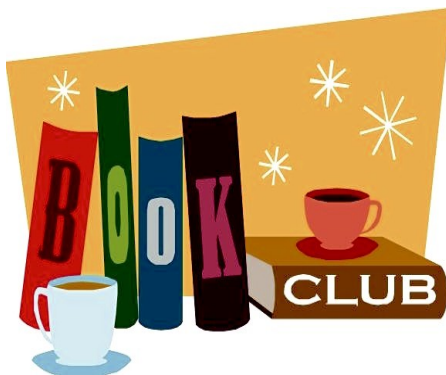
Community Garden News

Come join us and grow something beautiful. Questions, contact Nancy at Dntoll74@gmail.com



Naomi Circle will meet on February 9th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome—invite your friends!

On February 14th, The LOC Hiking Ladies will be traveling to Cave Creek County Park and hiking the Go John and Quartz Loop Trail. This **3.8 mile loop** follows along a low ridge on mostly smooth dirt with occasional rocks, ruts, and loose material, opening to wide Sonoran Desert views. Saguaros and palo verde trees line the slopes, and as an extra treat, we will pass by the Michelin Man cactus. We will meet at 7:00AM. Contact: Pat Shaw at 480 334-9123 (better to text).



The next meeting of the LOC Book Club will be held on Sunday, March 22nd in the Leadership Room after the 9:00 am service.

We will be discussing **The Glassmaker** by Tracy Chevalier. Here is a synopsis of the book:

In 1486, Orsola Rosso is the eldest daughter in a family of glassblowers in Murano, Italy. As a woman, she is not meant to blow glass - but when her father dies, she teaches herself to make beads in secret, and her work becomes the cornerstone of the Rosso family fortune. Skipping through six centuries, we follow the Rosso family as they live through creative triumph and heartbreaking loss. From a plague in Venice to Continental soldiers stripping its palazzos bare, from the domination of Murano and its glass maestros to the transformation of the city of trade into a city of tourists, we experience it all.

In every era, the Rosso women ensure that their work and their bonds endure.

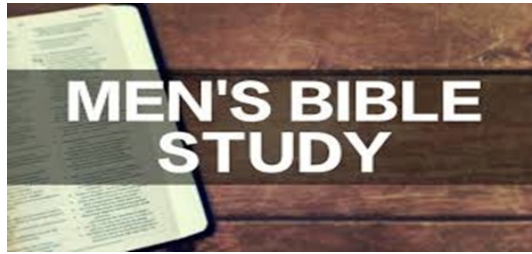
Please join us on March 22nd as we explore the beauty of glassmaking and the family who endured through centuries of change.

Grab a cup of coffee and a treat in the Hospitality Room and head over to the Leadership Room located next to the church offices.

Happy Reading!



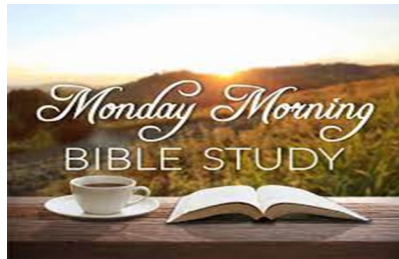
Troop 301/3301 will proudly serve breakfast for Scout Sunday on February 8th, bringing Scouts together in the spirit of service and fellowship. The Scouts will prepare and serve a warm, welcoming meal for the congregation, putting their leadership and teamwork skills into action. In addition to breakfast, the troop will hold a fundraiser selling delicious Nothing Bundt Cakes, helping support upcoming activities and adventures. Each bundt cake will sell for \$7. Cash or checks accepted.



Pastor Steve Talmage will be leading this week's early morning Men's Bible Study on Monday, 6:30-7:30AM in the Leadership Room. We are studying Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Men of all ages are welcome to participate.



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

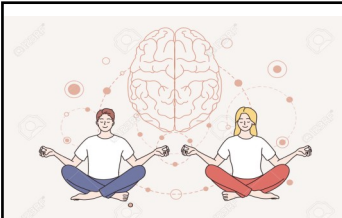


**Monday Morning Bible Study in the Leadership Room
10:30 Coffee Fellowship, 11:00AM Bible Study**



Prayer Share Care Women's Bible Study

All women are invited to a weekly Bible study group called Prayer Share Care. This group meets on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 in the Leadership Room. This group will be using Marcus Borg's book: ***Reading the Bible Again for the First Time***. Books can be purchased **at class** for \$10. Please contact Ruth Leonard or Margrit Aeschbach at the following emails for more information. (Margrit: mswiss43@gmail.com and Ruth: rutholeonard@icloud.com)



Faith stretch yoga **meets on Thursdays at 9:00am in Outreach room.**
For questions and more information, text Georgia at 406-925-0013 or
email: nonnagg51@gmail.com .



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!

Contact Mason Weatherly for more info at masonw@locic.org



Confirmation

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

Next Confirmation classes are on Wednesday, February 4th.

Any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at nanette@locic.org

A brief Overview for 2026 Save the Dates:

2026 Lenten Challenge sign up by Feb. 18

February 22: Citrus Sunday and Congregational Meeting

February 23: Lutheran Day at the Legislature, more information coming.

Wednesday during Lent, sharing our Outreach Ministries

April 12: 40th Anniversary Celebration

June 11,12,13: Synod Assembly at LoC

July 6-10 VBS

Faith in Action Ministry of the Month:

LAMA

This month our Faith In Action Team will be focusing on our Ministry partners that are a part of LAMA (Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Arizona). This organization is a part of the Grand Canyon Synod of the ELCA and works with legislators and our state legislation on Hunger issues in Arizona. LAMA joins with the most vulnerable of our society to voice our common needs in the public square, activating our faith in love.

Lutherans from across Arizona will gather at the Arizona State Capitol on **Monday, February 23, 2026**, from **9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.** for **Lutheran Day at the Legislature**, a day of faithful advocacy hosted by Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona (LAMA). Registration opens at **8:30 a.m.** at **Wesley Bolin Plaza**, where participants will begin the day with a light breakfast and coffee before stepping into a full morning of learning, witness, and public engagement.

This annual gathering equips and encourages Lutherans to live out our baptismal promise *“to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.”* Throughout the morning, participants will meet their legislators, connect with congregational LAMA liaisons, hear from policy council members, and join other Lutherans committed to justice shaped by our Lutheran faith.

You can go to this link and it will tell you more about this exciting day. <https://www.gcsynod.org/news/join-us-at-the-capitol-lutheran-day-at-the-legislature-returns-feb-23-2026-2>

If you are interested in being a part of the Lutheran Day at the Legislature, please contact Charles Martiny our new LAMA liaison at cmartiny@cox.net . Or you can contact Pastor Nanette at nanette@locic.org.

Refugee Family Co-Sponsorship with Lutheran Social Services:

Our Co-Sponsorship Team has been helping with a refugee family from Syria. They been 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



About the Lenten Challenge

In **2023**, the Grand Canyon Synod and the Southeastern Iowa Synod challenged one another to participate in spiritual and physical practices during the 40 days of Lent. This 40-40-40 Challenge was a good-natured way to engage each other and raise awareness of anti-hunger ministry and wellness for both synods. In **2024**, all of the ELCA synods in Region 2 challenged one another to raise money for ELCA World Hunger in honor of ELCA World Hunger's 50th year in mission and ministry. In **2025**, Isaiah 58:11 grounded the year's Lenten journey, in which the five Region 2 synods challenged one another to explore the intersection of hunger and water while learning of one of our Region 2 Indigenous Ministries, the 70-year-old Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission (NELM) in Rock Point, AZ.

The 2026 Lenten Challenge theme — "Lord, When Did We See You?"

The theme of this year's challenge derives from Matthew 25:37-40. The passage emphasizes that caring for the poor, sick, and marginalized is an act of service to Christ, and that a person's treatment of others is a reflection of their relationship with God. The spiritual practices for the six weeks of Lent will focus on stretching our learning, care, and advocacy muscles on behalf of underserved communities. The six weeks will be broken up according to the gospel text, as below, with participants focusing on what we know and think about these siblings in Christ, as well as how we act in support and on behalf of these communities. [Refer to the Matthew 25 Lenten Practices Toolkit for ideas.](#)

- **Week 1**, February 22: Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food?
- **Week 2**, March 1: Lord, when was it that we saw you thirsty and gave you something to drink?
- **Week 3**, March 8: Lord, when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you?
- **Week 4**, March 16: Lord, when was it that we saw you naked and gave you clothing?
- **Week 5**, March 22: Lord, when was it that we saw you sick and visited you?
- **Week 6**, March 29: Lord, when was it that we saw you in prison and visited you?

Why Lent? Lent is a season of 40 days to reflect, remember our dependence on God and one another, and look forward to the ways God calls us to be. Adding one or more of these spiritual practices to your observation of Lent might help you feel more connected. A light-hearted challenge like this could help our synods be the Church together, and to see God's vision and invitation for us to be a church for the world as we share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Participating synods:

[Sierra Pacific](#) (2A) – Rev. Jeff Johnson, bishop
[Southwest California](#) (2B) – Rev. Brenda Bos, bishop
[Pacifica](#) (2C) – Rev. David Nagler, bishop
[Grand Canyon](#) (2D) – Rev. Deborah Hutterer, bishop

[Rocky Mountain](#) (2E) – Rev. Meghan Johnston-Aelabouni, bishop

How does the 40-40-40 Lenten Challenge work?

There are 4 Lenten practices to consider, and you commit to 3 of the 4.

Daily Devotion ~ Subscribe to receive devotions every day of Lent via email. These short reflections represent diverse voices and circumstances across our church. [Learn more.](#)

Daily Learning ~ Suggested learnings for children, youth, families and congregations such as reading ELCA social teachings, studying Matthew Chapter 25, joining ELCA networks, group studies, etc. are in the Matthew 25 Lenten Practices Toolkit. [Learn more.](#)

Daily Action ~ Suggested actions, such as volunteering at a food bank, donating clothes and sundries, visiting someone in the hospital, and praying for elected leaders can be found in our Matthew 25 Toolkit. [Learn more.](#)

Daily Donation ~ Pledge to give \$1 a day (or more) to ELCA World Hunger for the 40 days of Lent. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to farm animals, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty. [Ways to give.](#)

How is this a Challenge?

This a little friendly competition for a good cause. Individuals from across the Region 2 synods will sign up to do three of four (or all 4!) of the practices and the synod with the most individuals signed up wins the challenge! **Our goal is for individuals representing 50 congregations per synod to participate.**

Join the Cross-Synod Challenge for Lent

The more individual sign-ups, the better.

Bragging rights goes to the synod with the most individual registrations. So if you're a family of 4, enter all 4 email addresses, and have all 4 people commit to 3 things. And no, not all 4 need to donate to ELCA World Hunger (though it's worth considering).

What do we get if we win?

The 'winning' bishop will play a short video with congratulatory clips recorded by the other participating bishops. This acknowledgement of the 'superiority' by the other synods *for this one challenge* is all in fun. All bishops may choose to air the video at their synod assemblies in 2026. Hunger leaders in each synod will receive progress updates each week.

[SIGN UP FOR THE 40-40-40 LENTEN CHALLENGE](#)

Feed My Starving Children Update: The food we packed this past November was sent to the Philippines where our partner [International Care Ministries](#) will receive them. Thank you so much for all that you do.



Our Sunday School Ministry continues on throughout the New Year! For ages 4-2nd 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 3-6, 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



Grades 4,5, and 6 will meet in the CoC on February 15th for games, a lesson on worship, and an amazing snack! The fun begins at 3:30 and ends at 5:00! Please contact Laura Ontiveros or Pastor Nanette for more information.

WOW! Word on Wednesdays has resumed!

Children's Musical, Adult Bible Study, and Confirmation/Youth Group begin at 6PM. A light meal will be served at 5:30 in rooms 48 & 49 in Center of Compassion.

Children's Musical—The FAB 4 Kids Show—Rockin' the Gospels All the Way to the Cross!

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 6pm to 7pm in Room 50

Performance: Sunday, May 3rd at 9AM

🌸 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:

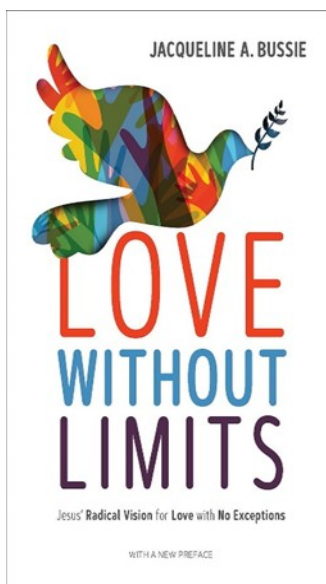
- Build meaningful, lasting friendships
- Encourage and equip moms to lead with love
- Grow the church by nurturing families in faith
- Bring mothers and their families closer to Jesus

Join Us! Location: Love of Christ

📅 When: **Next meeting March 4th**, first Wednesday of the month from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM in Godly Playroom (Nursery) located in entrance to Center of Compassion.

📞 Contact: Kacey Weir or Pastor Nanette Christofferson 🌐

Online Options: - <http://www.themom.co/groups/loveofchristmesa>



Love Without Limits meets again on March 4th at 4:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

In her book, Jacqueline Bussie says nothing is more scandalous than a “love without limits.” How does a love without limits mirror Jesus and the God we are called to serve? How does this echo Jesus’ ministry in Luke 15 (the parables of being lost) or Paul’s proclamation in Galatians 3:28 (There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one Christ Jesus)? This study is open to all women who are interested in learning about our God who loves without limits! They will be discussing Chapter 4 for the February 4th meeting.



Lemon (*C. limon*)



Mandarin (*C. reticulata*)



Grapefruit (*C. paradisi*)



Pummelo (*C. grandis*)



Sour orange (*C. aurantium*)



Sweet orange (*C. sinensis*)



Lime (*C. aurantifolia*)



Kumquat (*C. japonica*)



Citron (*C. medica*)



Blood orange
(*C. sinensis* L. Osbeck)

Citrus Sunday Is Coming!

On Sunday, February 22, we are asking that you bring your citrus fruit to share with others. Whatever fruit isn't taken by our community will be taken to St. Mary's Food Bank as they accept fresh fruit. Please take your fruit to the tables outside of the COC.



Young Adults are typically between the ages of 18 and 30-5 ish! We are fortunate to have the above Young Adults interested in gathering and learning together. Our next meeting time will be on Sunday, February 15. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette or Laura Ontiveros.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace News



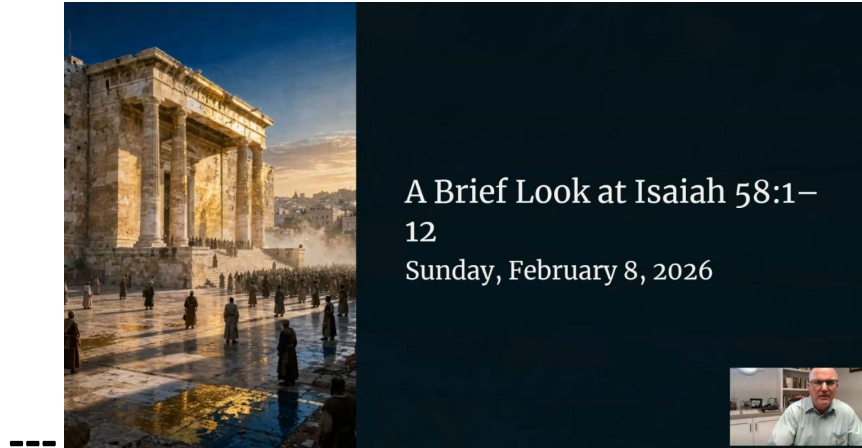
We are celebrating the 10,000th bed to be delivered soon to a child in the Phoenix area! The Phoenix Chapter began 7 years ago and is still going strong to meet the need of our community.

Thanks to all the donors of time and funds to make this exciting milestone happen. The reason for this effort which improves the lives of children in our community is brought home every time we witness a child receiving a bed for the first time!

We are also fortunate to have a lot of individuals who continue to make blankets and contribute stuffed animals, books and sheets.

THANK YOU!

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Isaiah 58:1-12
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(14 min)

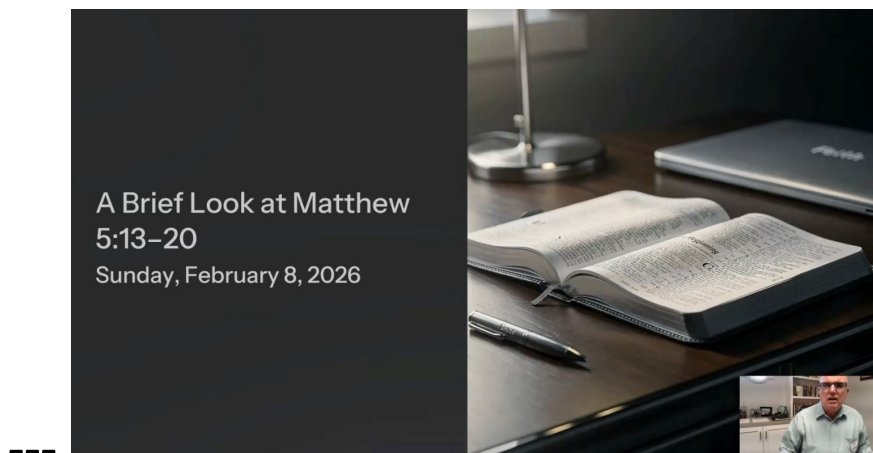


YouTube: <https://youtu.be/5i2T6WBjDCs>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1255658169747309/>

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

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Matthew 5:13-20
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(9 min)



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

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1862471004373287/>

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

Sunday, February 8, 2026, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on  &



Pastor Steve Talmage—"This Little Light of Mine"

Bible Version—NRSVUE

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

"Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;

you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

1 Corinthians 2: 1-16

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come
proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior
speech or wisdom.

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus
Christ and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness
and in fear and in much trembling.

My speech and my proclamation were made not with per-
suasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the
Spirit and of power,

so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on
the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is
not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who
are being destroyed.

But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which
God decreed before the ages for our glory

and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if
they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit
searches everything, even the depths of God.

For what human knows what is truly human except the
human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends
what is truly God's except the Spirit of God.

Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the
Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the
gifts bestowed on us by God.

And we speak of these things in words not taught by hu-
man wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual
things to those who are spiritual.

Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's
Spirit, for they are foolishness to them,

and they are unable to understand them because they are
spiritually discerned.

Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are
themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

"For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?"

**Sunday, February 8, 2026, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,
Pastor Steve Talmage—"This Little Light of Mine"**

Bible Version—NRSVUE

Matthew 5:13-20

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?

It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket;

rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven,

but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.