



Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

ENews for Sunday, April 5, 2020

Governor Ducey orders "Stay at Home" effective Tuesday, March 31, 2020 5:00PM

In response to this order staff will be working remotely from home with the exception of Dick Beckman. He will continue to come into the office to manage our finances and property needs. Gary Fuller and Angela Birney will be working outside on landscape maintenance. Darlene Fleischhauer will come in one day a week to distribute our ENews. This will continue until the order is lifted. Both pastors will be available by phone or email. Any voicemails placed on our office phones we can receive remotely.

Pastor Steve Talmage 480.681.0939 or 480.981.6199 ext. 135 or email stevetalmage@loclc.org

Pastor Nanette Christofferson 480.681.0940 or 480.981.6199 ext. 136 or email Nanette@loclc.org

Sunday and Holy Week Worship

Our team of staff and volunteers will be using the gift of technology to continue to provide virtual worship on Facebook Live on Sundays at 9:00AM. Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 6:30PM, Good Friday, April 10 at 6:30PM, Easter Sunday, April 12, 9:00AM. Just go to Love of Christ Lutheran Church, Mesa AZ Facebook page. Services will also be posted on www.loveofchristchurch.net. If you can't join live you can download and view later all services.

Love of Christ Umbrella of Care

Our team of 13 callers continues to check-in weekly with all active members of Love of Christ, where we have current contact information. Though we may be separated from each other for awhile we are only a phone call or email away from one another. Thank you to the volunteers making these calls.

An additional team of 11 volunteers have offered to be available to get groceries or prescriptions for any of our homebound or more vulnerable members. Karen Thompson has also offered to provide Compassionate Cook meals for those in need. If you could benefit from this act of loving our neighbor, please contact one of the pastors.

Opportunities to Serve

With the expansion of the order to stay at home, some who are healthy want to serve. We are directing those, who are able, to contact our primary social ministry partner Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest-<https://www.lss-sw.org/volunteer> or stop by Victory Lutheran or First Evangelical Lutheran Food Banks, as most of their volunteers have had to step back because they fall under the category of most vulnerable.



What do I do with my offering? Like every household in our faith community we are wrestling with the economic and financial realities that addressing the coronavirus is creating. Love of Christ is dependent on the free-will offerings of the membership to sustain the ministry in good times and bad. Our mission partners need their support, our mortgage requires payment each month, and our staff, though working differently than usual, needs to be paid. As you are able please mail in your regular support or, if you want to move to online giving, contact Dick Beckman (dickbeckman@loclc.org). Because Dick Beckman will continue to be in the office part of the time during this time you can drop off in person your offering by scheduling with him 480.981-3550 or 480.981.6199 ext.121.

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country
Let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen. -by Cameron Bellm

We are encouraging all of our faith community to participate in our Lenten Journey by 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 9-11, 2020
HYMN FOR HOLY WEEK
Go to Dark Gethsemane

taking+
 faith
 home

HOLY WEEK 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:

- Describe feelings a person has when a pet or a loved one dies.
- If you saw something dangerous happening, how would you respond?
- Why was Jesus' death at the hands of human powers necessary?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 18:1–19:42.

Read the passage from the Bible or use a storybook Bible to tell the story of Jesus' death. Jesus' death was no accident. Jesus knew what was to happen to him, but the powerful nature of the event was in God's hands, not human hands. When Jesus said "I am he," that is, I am Jesus of Nazareth, the one the soldiers wanted to arrest, they—not Jesus—fell. It has always been hard for us to grasp that God in Christ suffered a painful and humiliating death, one reserved for the most despised by those in power. Yet, true power: the power to forgive and to give eternal life remains God's greatest gift to humanity. Nothing stops God's purposes for life, reconciliation, and eternal life. Jesus' concern for the sacredness of daily life is even shown from the cross when he tells his mother that she will not be abandoned but be given one of the disciples (likely John) as a new son to care for her (John 19:26-27). What are some ways that God blesses your life today?

Pray: **Holy and gracious God, we thank you for suffering and dying for us that we may receive eternal life through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus gave his followers an example of how to live and how to love when he washed their feet before the last supper. This was the act of a servant. In what ways are you a servant?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Light the six purple candles on the Lenten Candle Cross on Maundy Thursday. Tell the story about Jesus washing the feet of the disciples and the last supper in your own words. When you finish telling the story, blow each candle out and say this prayer: **Dear Lord Jesus, help us to honor your commandment to love one another as you have loved us. We ask this in your precious name, amen.**

On Good Friday cover the Lenten Candle Cross with a black cloth and be silent for a moment.



In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

APRIL 9-11, 2020
MAUNDY THURSDAY
GOOD FRIDAY
HOLY SATURDAY

taking+
 faith
 home

Jesus died that we may have eternal life.

HOLY WEEK BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Holy Week observances.

- Thursday** John 13:1-17, 31b-35 **Jesus gives a new commandment**
Friday John 18:1–19:42 **The suffering and death of Jesus**
Saturday Matthew 27:57-66 **The burial of Jesus**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR HOLY WEEK

Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them [the soldiers], "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. **John 18:4-6 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Holy Week:

Almighty God, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, you stretched out your arms in love for us. Through your suffering we are healed. Open our hearts to receive your love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Merciful God, through suffering and death you heal us. Through this food you restore us daily. Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the crucified Christ shine his face upon you and save you through his steadfast love. (Psalm 31:16)



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This insert and others in the series can be found on the website under "Worship".

ORDER OF SERVICE PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Announcements

Hymn of Praise: Hosanna

Gospel reading

Message— Pastor Steve Talmage—“High Expectations”

Hymn/Song: Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Prayers

Offertory

Blessing

Sending Hymn: All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!

² Let Israel say,
'His steadfast love endures for ever.'

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.
We bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷ The LORD is God,
and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.

²⁹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Matthew 21: 1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' ⁴This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵ 'Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' ¹¹The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

Hosanna

Verse 1

I see the King of glory
Coming on the clouds with fire
The whole earth shakes
The whole earth shakes yeah

Verse 2

I see His love and mercy
Washing over all our sin
The people sing
The people sing

Chorus

Hosanna hosanna
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna hosanna
Hosanna in the highest

Verse 3

I see a generation
Rising up to take their place
With selfless faith
With selfless faith

Verse 4

I see a near revival
Stirring as we pray and seek
We're on our knees
We're on our knees

Bridge

Heal my heart and make it clean
Open up my eyes to the things unseen
Show me how to love like You have loved me
Break my heart for what breaks Yours
Everything I am for Your Kingdom's cause
As I walk from earth into eternity

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Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand; the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land, a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see the very dying form of one who suffered there for me. And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess: the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face; content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss, my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain:

All glory, laud, and honor,
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

1. You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son, now in the Lord's name coming our King and Blessed One.
2. The company of angels are praising you on high; creation and all mortals in chorus make reply.
3. To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise. To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.
4. Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring, great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King.

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Attention to families with seniors graduating high school! We will be having our graduation celebration Sunday, May 17th, at the 9:00AM service. Please contact Kevin (kevinanderson@loclc.org) by May 3rd with the full name, a recent photo of your graduate of your graduate and what their plans will be after high school. At the service, the congregation will celebrate with you all in our Faith Stepping Stone. Please let me know if you have any questions!

LOC Compassionate Cooks

If you are experiencing a food shortage as a result of COVID-19 self-quarantining and social distancing, please contact the LOC office or email Karen Thompson at krevelle113@gmail.com.

We will arrange for a meal drop off at your home.