Love of Christ Lutheran Church
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# Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

ENews for the 24th Sunday after Pentecost, November 8, 2026



Living in Anticipation

The parable of the ten bridesmaids appears in Matthew 24–25: Jesus' teaching about the coming of the Son of Man, the end of the world as we know it, and faithful discipleship while awaiting that future. The bridegroom represents Christ; the wedding feast evokes the final joy of God's kingdom. The decisive issue is that the bridegroom will arrive, though no one knows when. All ten bridesmaids become drowsy and sleep. That detail matters: the contrast is not between five tireless, morally superior people and five who fail because they slept.

The difference is between the prepared and unprepared—five brought extra oil for a delay, and five did not. Jesus concludes: **"Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour"** (v. 13). In this context, scholars often explain "keep awake" less as literal sleeplessness and more as vigilance—a durable, expectant faithfulness in the face of uncertainty and delay.

The parable addresses the perennial temptation of disciples who begin well but lose readiness when the promised future seems slow in coming. Matthew's Jesus teaches that delayed fulfillment is not cancelled fulfillment.

The closed door and "I do not know you" make this a serious judgment parable. It warns that outward association with the wedding party—or, by extension, nominal membership in the visible church—is not itself the same thing as an abiding, ready relationship with Christ.




A Prayer for Post-Election America

Lord, we pray for those who have been voted in to lead our nation. Regardless of which side of the political aisle they fall on, they need your wisdom to lead. We pray that our political leaders would work together to solve the challenges of our nation and not just live in their party silos. Let those who are leading recognize their job is not just to lead but to serve. Let them care about the interests of the people they represent more than just the party they represent. Give them the courage to stand for what is right, even when they must go against their own party's interest. Let their hearts and minds turn towards what is best for our country, not just what is best for their own political future. We pray they will do the right thing regardless of the cost associated with it. Amen.




**The Church Office will be closed in observance of Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11.**

**A prayer for all who have served**

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all who have served in our nation's military. Bless them for their courage, their sacrifice, and their dedication to the cause of peace and freedom. Grant comfort to those who still bear wounds of body, mind, or spirit, and peace to those who mourn fallen comrades. May we honor their service by striving for justice, mercy, and lasting peace in our world.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.




(No class 11/11 due to Holiday)
Adult Study, Wednesday evenings, starting at 6:00PM in the Fellowship Hall
It's no accident that America is home to a wide range of religious expressions. Immigrants brought their faith with them from around the globe and established churches and denominations. But the most unique quality of American religious life is the innovation and experimentation that takes place here. This makes this country a free marketplace for faith.

This series documents the eternal argument about the relationship between the church and civil authority. The country's founders, seeing the intolerance of the early immigrants, wisely sought to create a republic where faith could be practiced freely but where a theocracy would be avoided.

Lutheran
Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response provides partnership support
https://www.elca.org/how-we-serve/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response

Since 1973, we have remained grounded in our mission to share God’s hope, healing and renewal with people impacted by disasters and other humanitarian crises. We recognize that every disaster is local and that community leaders and organizations are best equipped to address needs following a disaster.

We accompany partners worldwide across the disaster cycle—response, recovery, mitigation and preparedness—providing financial support, technical assistance, advocacy and networking.

This work is relational: we stand with communities, congregations, and synods, social ministry partners, community-based organizations, tribal nations, companion churches and ecumenical partners. Through the faithful work of our network, the Community of Practice, Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is a trusted and dependable partner.

We work with everyone and stay as long as needed, often for years. Key work includes providing emotional and spiritual care for affected people and leaders who respond, assisting communities holistically to meet varied needs, and preparedness planning and providing long-term recovery by addressing unmet needs months or years after a disaster strikes.



The next meeting of the LOC Book Club will be held on Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 10:15 am in the Leadership Room (located next to the Church Offices). We will be discussing Whistler by Ann Patchett. Here is a brief synopsis:

Whistler is a story about two adults, Daphne Fuller and Eddie Triplett, who knew each other for just over a year, 40 plus years ago, as stepdaughter and stepfather. They hadn't seen each other since the fateful event that changed the direction of both of their lives. This chance meeting at the Metropolitan Museum of Art deeply impacts both of them, neither wanting to lose touch again.

This is a story about the choices they made and the choices that were made for them. A story about bravery, memory and the small, yet consequential, moments that define our lives, and the endless stream of loss that in time comes for us all. It's ultimately about how love endures and the feeling of being known by another, even for a short period of time.

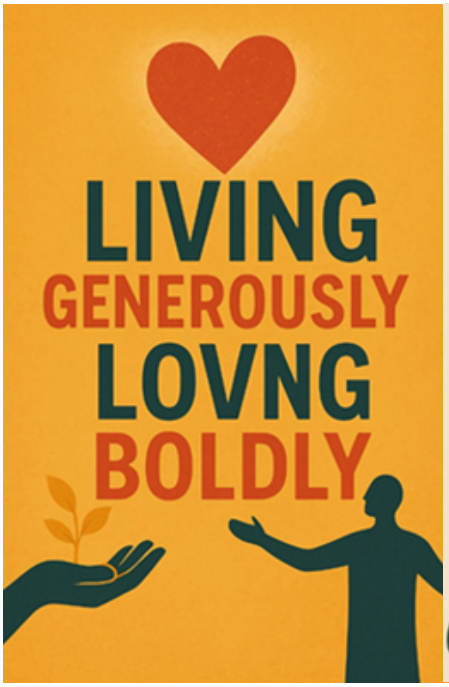
Please join us for this discussion on November 15th. On your way to the Leadership Room, stop by the Hospitality Room for coffee and goodies so you'll be fortified for an engaging conversation of Whistler.

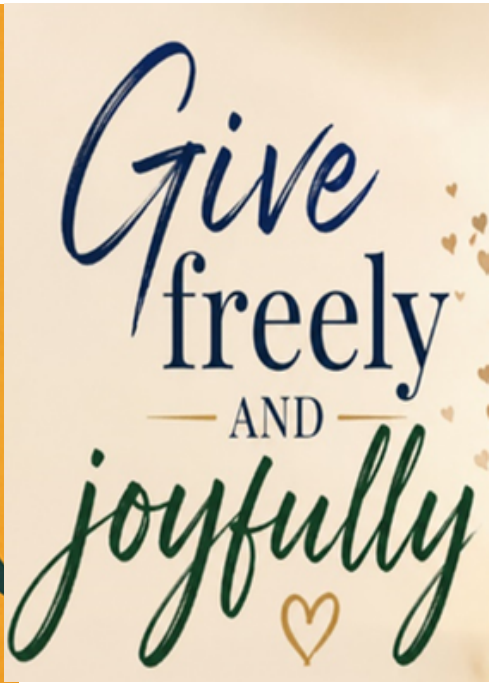
For those of you who want to read ahead, our next book in January, 2027 will be Kin by Tayari Jones. Here is a brief synopsis:

Vernice and Annie, two motherless daughters raised in Honeysuckle, LA have been best friends and neighbors since childhood but are fated to live starkly different lives. Vernice leaves Honeysuckle at eighteen having been raised by a fierce aunt after her mother's death. She goes to Spellman College where she joins a sisterhood of powerfully connected Black women and discovers a world of affluence, manners, aspiration and inequality. Annie, abandoned by her mother as a child and fixated on the idea of finding her, sets off on a journey that will take her into a world of peril and adversity, as well as love and adventure, culminating in a battle for her life.

This book is about mothers and daughters, friendship and sisterhood, and the complexities of being a woman in the American South.

See you on November 15th for Whistler!






2027 Financial Stewardship Theme takes us from Living Generously and Loving Boldly to Give Freely and Joyfully.

If you are struggling to balance your home budget or the realities of ever-increasing costs, help is available. A new free resource is available to help you walk through and develop a plan to lessen the stress.
Money Canvas is a **free coaching program** from Thrivent, a not-for-profit organization. It was created to help you build confidence with your money - no account linking, no sales pitch, and no pressure to use any other services. To learn more, check out this link:
https://www.thrivent.com/generosity/money-canvas




The Love of Christ Lutheran Board of Directors meets this Tuesday, November 10 at 6 PM in the Leadership Room

ENDOWMENT FUND

**The Love of Christ Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Committee meets this Tuesday, November 10 at 5 PM in the Leadership Room**

**Continuing the Love of Christ**
**Endowment News**

Three financial planners were asked what's one 'quiet' risk people forget to plan for-and what's a first step to address it?

"Many people neglect to create or update estate legal documents. Those who have them often think it's a one-and-done task. Once estate documents are made, have them reviewed by a legal professional every 10 years or whenever significant life changes have occurred, such as a marriage, birth, death, or change of residency."

"Waiting is a 'quiet' risk we all like to take. We tell ourselves we'll act when things are more settled, more certain, more 'in place.' But waiting can cost us growth, flexibility, and opportunities. Even if the first step feels small or imperfect, starting your plan today builds momentum, and momentum creates choices for tomorrow."

"Required Minimum Distributions" (RMDs) are the IRS's sneaky way of creating tax revenue off your retirement assets. Without planning, RMDs can push you into higher tax brackets, reduce deductions, and increase Medicare premiums. Planning early enables gradual, tax efficient moves. Later, strategies like Roth conversions, wealth transfer strategies and longevity planning can help defuse the accumulated 'tax time bomb.'"

To learn more about this Fund: https://loveofchristchurch.net/endowment



Update on Dianne Oien

Hi, as some of you may have noticed, I have recently missed several Sundays. I have been diagnosed with a neuro-muscular disease. I am currently in PT to help keep as much muscle strength in arms and legs as possible. I am still working Monday through Wednesday but not as many hours. I plan to attend church on Sundays as I can, but not all three services. The Pastors will keep you posted on any changes in the future. God always has a plan; it may not be what we want or expect! Thank you for your prayers and concern. Dianne

**Please join us in upcoming Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed deliveries….**

Kids without beds….This is a need in many communities that I was not even aware existed—it is something most of us have not experienced and were not even aware of the need.
But Sleep in Heavenly Peace here in Phoenix has been hard at work to make sure that “No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town!” and has delivered over 11,000 beds in the valley in the last 7 years.
There is nothing quite like seeing the joy of a child who is receiving a bed, complete with mattress, pillow, bedding, stuffed toy and book. Come and experience this for yourself and help give a child a safe place to sleep and call their own.
We help deliver beds on the 3rd Saturday of the month from the East Valley hub located at St Luke Lutheran Church in Mesa. It’s a half day of your time, with a fun group of folks committed to making children in our community a priority. It’s easy to bring the beds and assemble them and make them up with handmade quilts, fleece blankets, sheets and stuffies - all tools are provided and there is easy hands-on instruction for beginners. We are also so grateful for the many donors of blankets, sheets, stuffies and books.

If you would like to get involved, text or call JoAnn Grant at 571-334-5028





Subject: Come Enjoy Coffee Fellowship with Us!

Dear Members of Love of Christ, Enjoy a friendly time of coffee, conversation, and fellowship with fellow Love of Christ members on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

We meet at 10:00 AM in the Superstition Springs Mall food court near the carousel. Coffee is available at Cinnabon, and cold beverage options are available nearby. It is a wonderful opportunity to visit, laugh, catch up, and strengthen friendships within our church family. We would be delighted to have you join us! If you have any questions, please contact Eunice Ketterling at 701-871-1445.

Best regards, Eunice Ketterling



**Music Notes....**

Please contact Jung Lee at: jungmusic@loclc.org for how you can be involved with the music program.

Choir practice on Thursdays, 6PM to 8PM in Sanctuary.

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 program 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**

Think about trying out a garden in the fall. We are all learning new things and getting to know new people in the fresh air.

Contact Nancy. Dntoll74@gmail.com



Naomi Circle will meet on: November 9th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall.

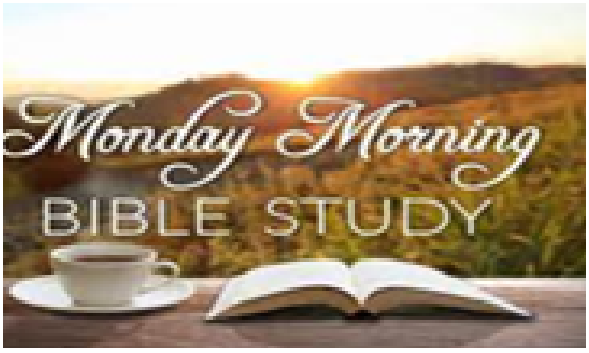
All women are welcome—invite your friends!




**Monday Men's Bible Study on 2nd Corinthians at 6:30-7:30AM in the Leadership Room. Men of all ages are welcome to participate.**



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




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



**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 PM in the Leadership Room.
Please contact Ruth Leonard or Margrit Aeschbach at the following emails for more information:
Margrit: mswiss43@gmail.com and Ruth: rutholeonard@icloud.com

# YOUTH AT LOVE OF CHRIST

CALLED. GATHERED. SENT.

Youth will be meeting on Sundays for Sunday Morning Hangout from 10:00am to 12:00pm

Contact Mason Weatherly at: masonw@loclc.org



**Confirmation**

Confirmation will meet on Wed. November 4th, from 6:00-7:00 pm



Food Faith and Fun!

Grades 4,5, and 6 will meet on Sunday, November 15th, 3:30-5:00 pm.

Please contact:

Laura Ontiveros (laurakuegemann@gmail.com) for more information.

**Save the Dates**

**NO WOW, Confirmation or Light dinner on November 11th!**

**Children and Youth Ministry Fall Overview for 2026**

**Children's Musical Rehearsal every Wednesday at 6:00 pm**

**Light dinner at 5:30 for anyone.**

**Grades 4,5,6 meet Sunday, November 15, 3:30-5:00 pm in the CoC**

**Sunday School Every Sunday in Godly Play Room**

**Youth Sunday Hangout at 10:00am in the Youth Room**

**Confirmation Every Wednesday (6:00pm-7:00pm)**

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is offered for ages pre-K-6th grade. Sunday School takes place in the Godly Playroom. Children come to church with their parents and are dismissed for Sunday School after the Children's Message. They return to worship during Communion. For families that attend 10:30 church, Sunday School is offered at 10:00 -10:25 in the Godly Playroom. For any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at: nanette@loclc.org

**Service Opportunities - Save the Date!**

**November**: Feed My Starving Children: Nov. 5,6, and 7; Gift cards for food banks to purchase turkeys and canned food donations

**December**: Gifts for kids; Reverse Advent Boxes; and Family Promise

**Ongoing Donations:**
Shelf-stable food for Victory Food Bank and First Evangelical Food Bank;
Sleep In Heavenly Peace: Twin Bed Sheets

Feed My Starving Children: There is still time to sign up for Nov. 5,6, and 7
To learn more about the mobile packing events click on the link below.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPWIQ7MdQmk
To sign up through our website click on the link below: www.loveofchristchurch.net

Opportunities to Share the Love of Christ
"Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." — Matthew 25:40
As we enter November and December, we are reminded that generosity is one of the beautiful ways we live out our faith. In Matthew 25, Jesus reminds us that when we feed the hungry, clothe those in need, and care for our neighbors, we are serving Christ himself. Generosity is more than what we give; it is about sharing God's love with others.

This holiday season, Love of Christ's Faith in Action Team is offering several opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others, both locally and around the world.

You may donate online as well by going to our website!

Grocery Gift Cards (November 1st–20th) Please place in offering plate.
Our local food banks need $25 grocery store gift cards to distribute alongside their food boxes. These gifts allow families to purchase additional food and necessities.

Christmas Gifts for Neighborhood Families (Collecting Target Gift Cards Nov. 8-29) Please place in the offering plates.

Once again, we are partnering with two local elementary schools to provide clothing, shoes, and Christmas toys for families in need. Our youth will do the shopping using donated Target gift cards. The schools have expressed their gratitude for Love of Christ's generosity in past years. What a wonderful way to share Christmas joy!



ELCA Good Gifts (November 20–December 13)
Looking for a meaningful gift for someone who is difficult to buy for? Through ELCA Good Gifts, you can purchase a goat, chickens, or other animals in someone's honor, helping families around the world build a better future. Visit our ELCA Good Gifts table to learn more! Or go to their website by clicking this link: https://goodgifts.elca.org/

Reverse Advent Boxes (Please return by December 20, 27, and January 3)

This Advent, instead of opening something each day, consider giving something! Pick up a Reverse Advent Box with an attached list of needed items and fill it for our partner food banks, Victory and First Evangelical Mesa. Filled boxes will be collected to help replenish food bank shelves following the holidays.

Generosity Is Faith in Action!

A pair of shoes, a Christmas toy, a grocery gift card, or a box of food may seem like a small gesture, but to someone in need, it can make an enormous difference.
Thank you, Love of Christ, for your generous hearts! In a season when so many are experiencing hardship, your compassion reminds us that we are Called, Gathered, and Sent to share the Love of Christ.




Women's Monthly Bible Study will meet today on Wednesday, November 4th from 4:30-5:30 pm in Fellowship hall. The study will be on Ephesians. Next meeting will be December 2nd.

No homework. One hour. Enjoy great discussions. All are welcome.
Barb Talmage and Pastor Nanette

Next Dates: Jan 6, Feb 3, No March (lent) and April 7th.



**Young Adults will meet on Sunday November 8 in the CoC parking lot at 4:30. We will be carpooling to the Vesper and Jazz service at Mt. of Olive Lutheran Church.**
**If you have questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at: nanette@loclc.org**

**Mark your calendars for November 28th for LOC Women's Hiking Group next hike. Will be meeting at 7:00 and then going to 2 different places. First hike will take us to The Vietnam Memorial Trail located on the Surprise / Peoria border. The trail will take us up a hill, with many plaques commemorating the Vietnam Veterans – plaques sharing Vietnam War history, quotes, statistics, and signs honoring fallen soldiers. Total RT is 1.25 miles. The 2nd place is not really a hike but a fascinating place of AZ history. We will continue our drive to Wickenburg. And explore a historical gold mining site (Gold Mine Experience). Will be able to take a 30 minute tour of Bloo Nelly Mine ($10). There are several old buildings and equipment dating back to 125 years or more. Contact ~ Pat Shaw @ 480 334-9123.**

**BLANKETS FOR KIDS!!!**



Questions? Contact Jan Barnett at: barnett105@gmail.com
· 2 Methods of finishing the edges of the blankets
· Sewing around the edges
· Crocheting around the edges
· Both methods start the same

Lay Fabric on a table, trim off the Salvage edges of the fleece;
Sewing around the edges
Fold ¾ to 1 inch around the edge;
Pin the folded edges all around the edge;
Choose a decorative stitch on sewing machine and start sewing
If your machine only does Zig Zag, that is great also.

· Optional--Baste 3/8 to ½ inch of fold around the edge of the fleece with a needle and thread (Optional)

OR

· Just fold the fabric over about 3/8 to 1/2 an inch and cut very small slits in the fold;
· Slits should be no more than ¼ of an inch in length and around ½ to 5/8 inch from the each other

· If you basted around the edge
· Remove the basting from the fleece
· If you have a rotary cutter, you can purchase wheels that will cut the slits in the fleece material the same distance and the slit created is large enough to slip the crochet hook through. Then follow the remaining directions.
· If you just folded and cut the slits;
Start crocheting around the edge. (I start 6 or 7 inches from the corner of the fleece to make turning the first corner easier.)
1. Start by creating a slipknot.
2. Insert the crochet hook through a slit in the fleece and pull the loop of the slip knot through;
3. Chain 3 times (create a chain by yarning over the hook and pulling it back through the initial loop.); chain only 2 times if you have used the rotary cutter;
4. Push the crochet hook through the slit next to the one just used (back to front) and pull a loop back through the slit. (You will have 2 loops on the crochet hook.)
5. With the 2 loops still on the hook, yarn over the hook and pull through both loops. Now chain 2 more times.
6. Proceed around the fleece using steps 4 and 5.
7. To turn a corner, follow steps 4 and 5, but insert the hook again in the same slit and do 1 chain and then insert the hook again and perform steps 4 and 5, Then you should be on a new side of the blanket and proceed following steps 4 and 5
There is an additional set of slides which have instructions on how to start crocheting. If you do not need those instructions, ignore.

**Scripture Lesson**
**A Brief Look at Amos 5:18-24**
**with Pastor Steve Talmage**
**(12 min)**




**YouTube: https://youtu.be/W4oaXRGJZ_k**
**Facebook: https://facebook.com/reel/1849855849382822/**
**Website: https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons**

**Scripture Lesson**
**A Brief Look at Matthew 25:1-13**
**with Pastor Steve Talmage**
**(14 min)**




**YouTube: https://youtu.be/ONzUWPZbRpc**
**Facebook: https://facebook.com/reel/1099418966040923/**
**Website: https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons**

**Sunday, November 8th, 2026, 7:50, 9 and 10:30am**

**some on**  


**Pastor Steve Talmage "Living in Anticipation"**

**Amos 5:18-24**

**18** Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light,
**19** as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
**20** Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
**21** I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
**22** Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
**23** Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
**24** But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**13** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died,so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. **14** For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. **15** For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. **16** For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. **18** Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**Matthew 25:1-13**

**The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids**

**25** "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. **2** Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. **3** When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, **4** but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. **5** As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. **6** But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' **7** Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. **8** The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' **9** But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' **10** And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. **11** Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' **12** But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' **13** Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.