

Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

Pentecost 11, Sunday, August 24, 2025



“Missing the Point”

How often the religiously right-thinking people missed the point of why Jesus came? A woman who has been suffering for eighteen years has an opportunity to engage Jesus and receive the gift of healing and restoration. Unfortunately, the event took place on the Sabbath day, resulting in a group of critics claiming Jesus broke the law by “working” or healing on the Sabbath day. Thankfully, Jesus reminded them of their hypocrisy and what really matters to God is being compassionate and loving our neighbor even if it does not work within our religious calendar.



Sympathy & Comfort to:

Debra Czudak, family & friends, upon the death of her father Earl Hardy.

Please keep them in your prayers.



Altar Flowers this Sunday are given in celebration of Art & Donna Larson's 69th Wedding Anniversary. Blessings to you on this special day

Thank you for the well wishes, cards and prayers. I love receiving them. I'm doing really well - from Darlene Fleischhauer.

Welcome and Thank you

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We welcome today as our preacher and presider, recently retired Pastor Steve Crittenden who will be assisted by LoC member Ben Peters in leading worship at all three services Sunday, August 24. Pastor Steve most recently served at Epiphany of Christ Lutheran Church in Apache Junction. He and his wife Kay are planning to join LoC in the Fall as they live in Mesa.

Pastor Steve will return from vacation on Monday, August 25. Pastor Nanette is on vacation and will be visiting her son and his wife in Vancouver, BC, August 21-26.



Love of Christ turns 40 next April. Volunteers are needed to assist in planning our celebration. Please contact Dianne Oien (dianneoien@loccl.org) if want to be part of the planning team.

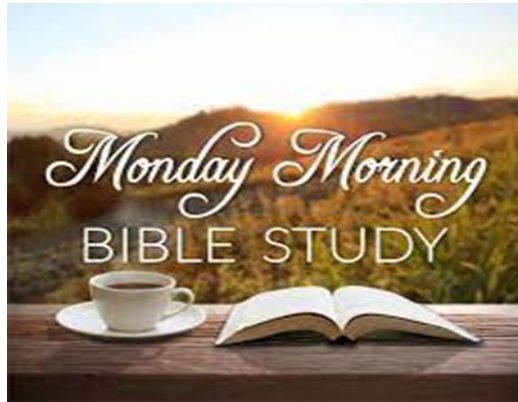
What Does it mean to be Welcoming? Wearing Nametags Help!



If you would like a nametag or have lost the one you had please contact Dianne Oien (dianneoien@loccl.org) and we will get you one. Nametags help the staff and the congregation remember and broaden our sense of community. Thanks.



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



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



Prayer Share Care Women's Bible Study meets once a month in the summer.

Prayer Share Care will meet twice a month on Sept. 4 and 18 and in October on the 9th and 23rd. Each session will meet in the Leadership Room at 1:00 and we will be doing a book study by Joan Chittister, "The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully". We hope you can join us.

If you have any questions please contact Pastor Nanette at nanette@locic.org



By What Authority: Rethinking Early Christian History

New Adult Study Starting Wednesday, September 3, 6-7PM in the Fellowship Hall

Who are we?

Who is in and who is out?

Can we participate in civic life?

Who is Jesus?

How do we know if our lives are in line with what Jesus taught?

How much diversity can we tolerate?

Who leads us? In worship? In community life? In teaching? (As any kindergartner will ask: "Why do you get to be the boss of me?")

How do we fund our community?

Does it matter how we live? How do we relate to the world around us—people and creation?

What do we do with the holy writings of the Jewish community?

Do we need to have scriptures of our own?

What do we do with people who leave the church in fear or anger, and then want to come back?

Isn't it amazing how familiar these questions sound! These were the questions that needed to be answered in the first centuries of the church. Since Jesus didn't return as quickly as believers assumed, they had to figure out how to live as believers in their world. That the church is still alive after all these years is a testament to God's faithfulness and patience and gives us courage to wrestle with these and similar questions today. We invite you to enter this series to see how the drama of the early church's formation has direct connections to your life of faith today.



Thank You for your Generosity and Trust in God's Provision

Jesus recently taught us a life rich toward God will surpass the stockpiling as much as we can in bigger barns only to die without living the life God intended us to live. Jesus offered his wisdom on making purses that will never wear out, and trust in the treasure we have in heaven, where no thief or moth can destroy. Jesus reminded us of what we treasure the most is where we will find our hearts. On August 15, Pastor Steve completed eight years of service at Love of Christ.

During those eight years, which have contained significant deaths in and movements of people from the congregation, flooding of our pastoral offices and Sanctuary, a once in century global pandemic, major campus improvements, and a retirement of a \$1.8 million debt, God has consistently been faithful through the demonstrated generosity of those who care about Christ's mission through Love of Christ. We belief in a God of abundance and God who calls us to trust and be willing to share regularly and even sacrificially out of the financial resources God has placed in our stewardship. Thank you to all who live this out allowing our congregation to continue to increase our focus and loving our neighbor, caring for those in need, rather than worrying about how we can pay the church's bills.



A Child's Invitation from Jesus



There is Sunday Hangout on the 24th after the 9AM service until noon and the Youth Group
on Wednesdays from 6-7:30pm.

High School Chick-fil-A night after youth group this Wednesday until 8:30. We will go to the
Power and McKellips location!

Confirmation will begin on Wednesday, September 3rd!



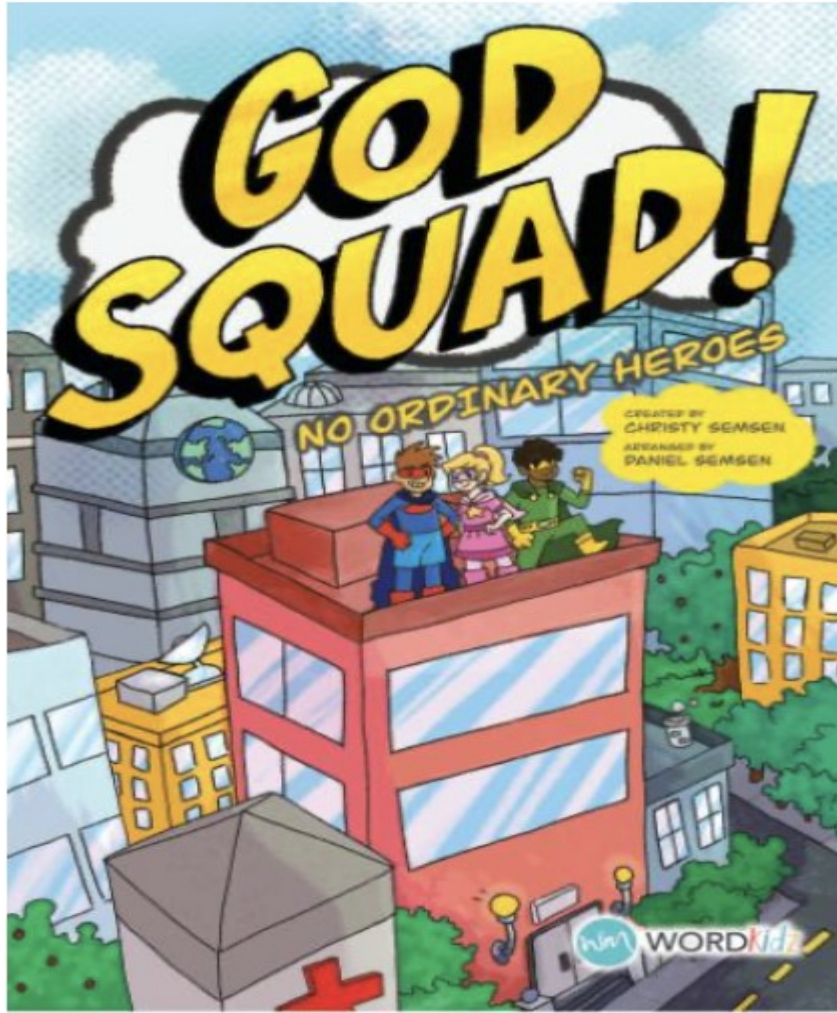
Sunday School has begun!

Our Sunday School Ministry is for ages Pre K thru 3rd 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 4-6 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.

WOW Children's Musical Begins August 20th at 6:00 pm. For ages 4-Seventh Grade. Please contact Jung at Jungmusic@locic.org for more information.

Food, Fun, and Faith for grades 4,5,and 6! Will resume on Sunday September 28 at 4:30 pm.





Hello WoW Families!

We're so excited to kick off a brand new season of WoW (Word on Wednesdays) starting Wednesday, August 20 from 6:00–7:00 PM in the main Center of Compassion building!

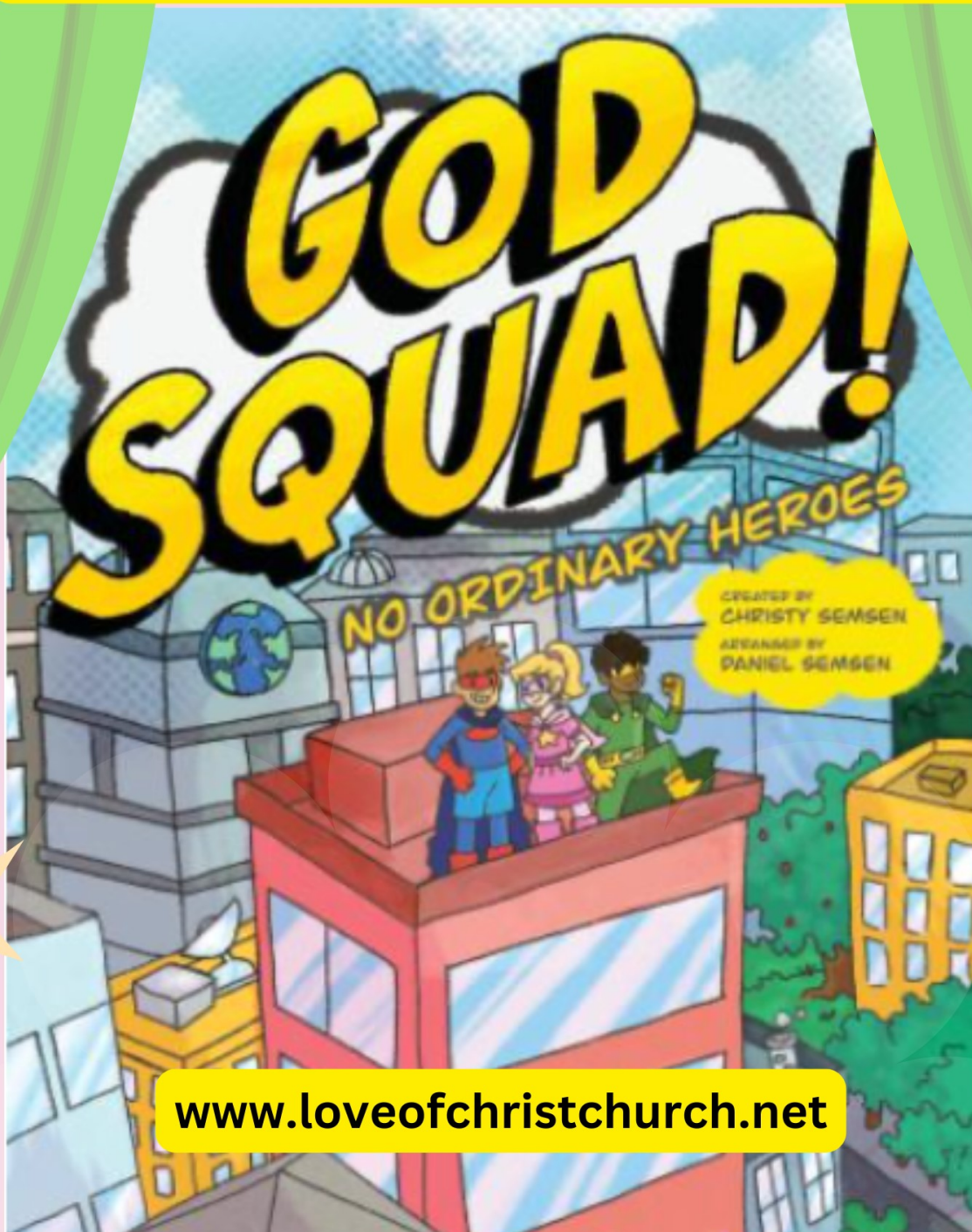
Dinner will be served from 5:30–6:00 PM, so come early and enjoy a meal together before we begin!

This fall, our kids will be working on a fun and meaningful musical called “God’s Squad”—a powerful story with music, laughter, and faith-filled lessons. The final performance will be held on Sunday, November 23 at 9:00 AM, and you won’t want to miss it!

Rehearsal Starts Wednesday, Aug. 20 2025

6:00 to 7:00PM in Room 50

Performance: Sunday, Nov. 23 @ 9:00AM



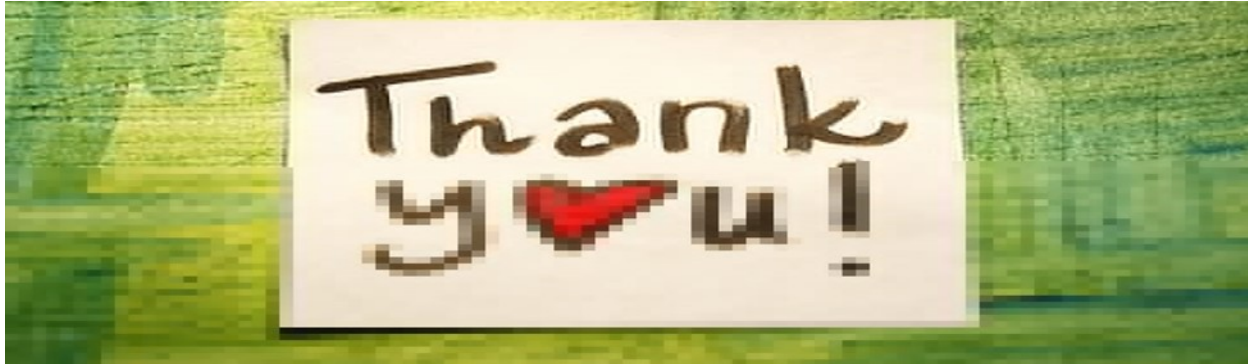
www.loveofchristchurch.net



Mark your Calendars!

September 7th God's Work Our Hands Sunday! We have a goal to pack 500 lunches for Resurrection Street Ministry. These sack lunches will be packed by you! After all three services we will have an area ready for packing lunches. Below is a list of items we are collecting for these lunches.

For the September packing event we are in need of SOFT chewy granola bars and fruit cups or applesauce. Please place items in our church sanctuary narthex or our CoC narthex.



Love of Christ Faith Community! Thank You! For all of your summer donations! It has been a busy summer! Through your generosity of donating time, money, and bringing donations we have been able to:

- Feed the hungry though hot meals, food pantry donations, and sack lunches.
- Partner with LSS-SW and provided 96 clothing outfits for children.
- Coordinate with local schools and New Lear Family Shelter to distribute backpacks to children who needed them.
- Deliver beds for children who need them, and make Bed Bundles for the recipients of the beds.
- And we continue to help a refugee family learn English.

Thank you again for your generosity that makes a difference in the lives of people. Paul tells us in Galatians 6:2 "We are to bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Refugee Family Co-Sponsor's with Lutheran Social Services:

Our Co-Sponsorship Team has started to help with a refugee family from Syria. The help that is needed is 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

Building Bridges with the Mesa community and beyond....



The Faith in Action team serves as a bridge between our church community and the wider world, discerning how best to support the ELCA and Christ-centered ministries through financial gifts, donations, and volunteer efforts. These guidelines ensure that the team's efforts align with our faith, values, and mission.

The following guidelines will be used when determining support for a ministry:

1. **The Impact on the Recipients:** Who will be receiving the donation and how will it be used to address critical needs such as food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, education, and spiritual growth. Will this gift provide dignity, empowerment, and long-term benefits for recipients.
2. **Impact on Our Church Community and our neighbors.** (World, National, State, and Local)
The project/ministry should reflect and enhance our congregation's commitment to living out the gospel of Jesus Christ and fit within the mission of the ELCA. Regular updates, testimonies, or success stories from the project are encouraged to inspire the congregation and how their support is making a difference.
3. **How Can We support this ministry (meaning money, donations in kind, time, talent)** will it provide opportunities for hands-on involvement where possible, enabling members of our church community to serve directly. Are clear communications about the roles, time commitment, and training required for volunteers provided.
4. **Does the organization have a belief of "love your neighbor"?** Meaning, does the ministry reflect the teachings and mission of Jesus Christ. And does the ministry demonstrate God's love and grace through acts of compassion, justice and service.
5. **Follow -Up-** We are asking that the volunteer provide a video or enews follow-upThe Faith In Action Team will use these guidelines to reflect our commitment to be Christ's hands and feet in the world, demonstrating faith through action while strengthening our own faith community. It is our hope and prayer that we can best serve as God's instruments of love and transformation .

Faith In Action Team: Elizabeth Danielson, Vic and Amy Olmedo, Melissa Riner, Hugh Kirchner, Patti Delaney, Jack and JoAnn Grant, Jake and Rebecca Solomon, Charles Martiny, and Pastor Nanette

Sleep in Heavenly Peace News

SHP will soon be delivering the 10,000th bed in the valley since 2018! See a video about this effort at:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/4223464367922796>

Members and friends of LOC have provided bedding bundles (sheet set, blanket, stuffed toy and a book) for 160 beds deliveries so far this year, through our delivery hub in Mesa.

Come join the delivery team and experience the joy of seeing a kid climb in his or her very own bed for the first time! We generally deliver on the 3rd Saturday of the month, Contact Jack or JoAnn Grant for more information.

Of course, along with our effort to deliver more beds to more kids, is the need for bedding, and we are in desperate need of new twin sheet sets in different colors to go with our bedding bundles as well as books and stuffed toys (especially for pre-teens and teens).

🌸 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 Lutheran Church

When: Starting September 3rd, every 1st Wednesday of the month | 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM in Godly Play room located in Center of Compassion

📞 Contact: Kacey Weir or Pastor Nanette Christofferson

🌐 Online Options:

- www.themom.co/join (Use Code: M1WH)

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



If you were in church a couple of Sundays ago, you heard a synopsis of the book at the beginning of Pastor Nanette's sermon. So we decided to pick this book to read for our Sept. 14th meeting. The name of the book is **Love and Other Consolation Prizes** by Jamie Fox. Below is a short synopsis of the book:

For 12 year old Ernest Young, a charity student at a boarding school, the chance to go to the World's Fair feels like a gift. But only once he's there, amid the exotic exhibits, fireworks, and Ferris Wheels, does he discover that he is the one who is actually the prize. The half-Chinese orphan is astounded to learn he will be raffled off—a healthy boy “to a good home”.

The winning ticket belongs to the flamboyant madam of a high-class brothel, famous for educating girls. There, Ernest becomes the new houseboy and befriends Maise, the madam's precocious daughter, and a bold scullery maid named Fahn. Their friendship and affection form the first real family Ernest has ever know-and desired. But as the grande dame succumbs to an occupational hazard and their world of finery begins to crumble, all three must grapple with hope, ambition, and first love.

Fifty years later, in the shadow of Seattle's second World's Fair, Ernest struggles while trying to help his ailing wife reconcile who she once was with who she wanted to be, while trying to keep family secrets hidden from their grown-up daughters. Against a rich backdrop of post-Victorian vie, suffrage, and celebration, *Love and Other Consolations* is an enchanting tale about innocence and devotion in a world where everything, and everyone is for sale.

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Isaiah 58:9b-14
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(13 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/h9TEL-9C9Zk>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LOCLC/videos/800298762442024/>

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

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Luke 13:10-17
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(11 min)



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

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LOCLC/videos/2139608849854231/>

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

Pentecost 11, Sunday, August 24, 2025, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on  &



Pastor Steve Crittenden: “Missing the Point”

Isaiah 58:9b-14

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 genera-
tions;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the Lord honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests or pursuing your own
affairs;
then you shall take delight in the Lord,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the
earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Hebrews 12:18-29

You have not come to something^[a] that can be
touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a
tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice
whose words made the hearers beg that not another
word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure
the order that was given, “If even an animal touches
the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” Indeed, so
terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with
fear.”) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the
city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to
innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the as-
sembly^[b] of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,

and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the
righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a
new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a
better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for
if they did not escape when they refused the one who
warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if
we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that
time his voice shook the earth, but now he has prom-
ised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but
also the heaven.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indi-
cates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created
things—so that what cannot be shaken may re-
main. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that
cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we
may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence
and awe, for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

Luke 13:10-17

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the
Sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with
a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She
was bent over and was quite unable to stand up
straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and
said, “Woman, you are set free from your ail-
ment.” When he laid his hands on her, immediately
she stood up straight and began praising God. But the
leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had
cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There
are six days on which work ought to be done; come on
those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath
day.” But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypo-
crites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his
ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to wa-
ter? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abra-
ham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set
free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” When he
said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the
entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things
being done by him.