

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

January 2025

Gods Peace to all! We have recently crossed into a new year -2025. May God be with each of us as we look to the future with plans and excitement, of things to do, people we may meet, goals to accomplish, places we may want to see, and items to purchase, people to help, projects to build, all sort of human activities. I, speaking for myself, often get wrapped up in the hustle and bustle of raising a family, working a job, and running a business. It's difficult to make the time to sit and meditate on God's Word, to thank Him for providing the health and ability to work and play.

As we learn from our Catechism, it is our Heavenly Father who gives each day our daily bread, "all that belongs to the wants and support of the body, such as meat, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, cattle, money, goods ,a pious spouse, pious children, pious servants, pious and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace , health, order, honor, true friends, good neighbors, and the like. "

As we look to the coming year, please remember to pray often, to thank The Lord for each moment we are given, for life itself , and most importantly for reconciling us to Himself, that through His Son Jesus the Christ, we may look forward to the Eternal new year! One that will never come to an end, where sickness and death are no longer!

Revelation 21:4

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

That is the hope we have in Christ- may we keep the eternal perspective in mind as we continue our Christian journey. The scripture tells us in

Luke 19:13

"And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come
This "Occupy till I come", I believe, is a encouragement to continue to live out our lives, with that eternal perspective- to be a good servant, which is a result of God's grace working in our hearts, not something we manufacture out of our human frailty, but a byproduct of the gift of faith. To live, work, love, serve, enjoy, and be who and what God intended us to! To live forgiven, trusting and hopeful! The Joy of knowing He is in control, He who loves us and cares for us! The one who decides who rules this world even! Whether good or bad in our eyes.

Daniel 4:32

"And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling *shall be* with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will."

May God's blessing hand be upon each of us this year, and may we each grow in grace and in the knowledge of His Son Jesus Christ.

God's Peace,
Tyson Mattila