

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 11 - November, 2020 928-535-9575 2750 Mogollon Drive, Overgaard, AZ 85933

www.faithlutheranovergaard.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES — 9:30 am

EVERYTHING IS BROKEN



This coming week, the voting will be complete, and the ballots will be counted. We will probably soon have a declared "winner", and depending on who that is, you will likely be either very happy or very unhappy. What will you do now ... especially if your candidate lost? Will you hate the winner? Will you hate those who voted for the winner? Will it be the end of the world as we know it. Will there be no hope for the future? Will doom and destruction of this world now be written in stone? Well, in a way, yes.

If you want to know what *God* has to say about it, the end of the world IS written in His Word to us, which is even more sure than if it were written in stone. God the Holy Spirit inspired St. Peter to write,

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

(2nd Peter 3:10-13)

So, two questions must be asked. 1) WHY must the world come to an end?, and 2) What are we, if anything,

to do about it? The first question I am sure many, even you, have very definite opinions about, and the second question Peter addresses above. To the second question, Peter exhorts Christians to be the kind of people who rise above ... even the end of the world; people who live in holiness actually WAITING for that end to come with eager anticipation ... as it will mean the ushering in of something much, MUCH better!

For something much, MUCH better to be ushered in, that must mean that things are REALLY "bad" right now ... maybe even hopeless. While I am sure, many of you DO consider things really, REALLY "bad" right now, I have a suspicion not many of you consider things to be totally hopeless. It is some indomitable part of the human spirit to hope, to believe that things *can* always get better. The question then becomes, WHAT do you "hope" for, and in what or WHOM do you place that "hope"? An idea? A principle? A political system? A certain man or woman? ... or something, someone much, MUCH different?

The real problem with where we tend to WANT to place our hope, is also fundamental to who and what we are. We are part of the world; part of the world that is and MUST be brought to an end ... because it is broken. It is very VERY "badly" broken (as are we) and cannot, MUST not endure as such (as we too). The evidence of this brokenness is all around us. To quote Bob Dylan from his 1989 song, "**Everything is Broken**",

*Ain't no use jiving,
Ain't no use joking,
Everything is broken
Broken bottles, broken plates,
Broken switches, broken gates,
Broken dishes, broken parts,
Streets are filled with broken hearts.
Broken words never meant to be spoken,
Everything is broken*

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MONTHLY MEETINGS & EVENTS



Nov 03 – Church Cleaning 9:00am

Nov 11 – Pastor in Phoenix

Nov 16 – Elders Meeting 9:00am
- Women's Ministry 1:00pm

Nov 24 – Council Meeting



Choir Meets Mondays at 4:00pm

*First Midweek Advent Soup Supper
December 2 at 5pm. Midweek
Advent Service to follow at 6pm.*



Women's Ministry

**Open to ALL women who attend
Faith Lutheran Church!**

- Voted to send 4 Christmas gift cards to Concordia Seminary Fort Wayne
- Voted to send a gift card to Bethany at the advent of Baby Michael
- Will need volunteer staff for VBS 2021
- Christmas Decorations go up Nov 24 after Council meeting

Pastor's Office Hours

Mondays - 10am - 4pm In the Office

Tuesdays - 10am - 12pm In the Office

Wednesdays - Visitation Day

Thursdays - 10am - 12 pm In the Office

**Call for appointment -
928-535-9575 or 323-717-4390
revnwirtz@yahoo.com,
or just drop in, or call anytime**



CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

- Met October 27
- While attendance is down due to COVID, finances are still in the black thanks to faithful stewardship and support of our members
- Outside irrigation will be winterized
- Elders report no concerns and continue to keep each of the members in prayer
- Next meeting: Tue, November 24

EVERYTHING IS BROKEN (Continued from page 1)

Of course, it goes much deeper. Broken lives and relationships are the very source of all that is broken and wrong with this world. We hurt ourselves and each other purely from this fount of all that is broken in us. We are selfish, mean, intolerant, aggressive, greedy, abusive, hateful, treacherous, and murderous at heart ... ALL of us. Oh, we *may* have *moments* where kindness, compassion, sharing, caring, and even some form of faithfulness and "love" shines through ... but those moments are always overshadowed by the darkness of our brokenness that is cast over us from the very core of who we are and what holds us captive to itself and death. It is, in fact, the very reason we all die. It is sin; rebellion against God, the author of life and source of love and all that is truly good, right, holy. We ARE broken; and so this world is also broken ... so broken, it is, ultimately, beyond repair.

So, now what? What if this world is still broken? What if it has no eternal hope beyond final destruction of all that is too broken to be restored? YOU and I are NOT without hope ... because God has done the impossible with us; He has done everything necessary to completely restore us ... give us a new birth into perfectly forgiven perfection. If we are NOT without hope; hope for the future, AND hope for the here and now ... what can we now do? What kind of people ought we be? We can and ought to be people who make the best we can with what we have.

It's like my beloved old truck. It keeps getting older. Things keep wearing out on it. I keep replacing parts, and even motors and transmissions. Sometimes I even fabricate parts I can't find. But someday, I won't be able to fix it anymore. Someday it will stop running altogether. That doesn't mean that I have to give up on it now. That doesn't mean that I can't be thankful for the gift it has been to me now. That doesn't mean that I can't use it for good while it still can be a blessing to me now. That doesn't mean that I stop caring about it ... or caring FOR it while I still can.

This world is broken. All of us in it are broken. But God hasn't given up on us. God hasn't stopped caring about us, or caring for us. God hasn't stopped loving us. He continues to bless us through this world; broken as it is. He continues to love us through this world; broken as it is. For that, we can be thankful people; caring people, loving people. If God has blessed us through even this broken world, we surely can be people to carry those

blessings forward to others in this broken world. We can surely be people to use even broken things to useful and loving purpose as long as they can be used.

And most of all, we can continue to hope. Not hope so much in things, ideas, politics, or even people and leaders, but hope in the God who has sealed His promise to finally bring us out of brokenness to eternal perfection with His own Life, Love, and Word. It cost Him EVERYTHING to do it, but you mean that much to Him. He spared no expense, not even the life of His Only Begotten Son to purchase you back and restore you from your brokenness and death.

So, whatever our immediate future holds, our eternal future, when it is in Christ Jesus, is sure. Whatever leader our immediate future holds, God will ultimately conform it to His will for our good. Because our leaders, like the rest of us, are broken, they WILL make mistakes. They WILL be selfish, adulterous, hateful, treacherous, even murderous (just like us!), but God is still in control. HIS final solution will still be the same. HE will still bring all of their (and our) brokenness around to HIS good purpose for us.

So, we Christians, who place our ultimate hope in God and His Christ, can be people who work for the good and pray for the good will of God ... in our lives AND the lives of our leaders ... WHOEVER they are! And God will hear us and bless us ... and THEM ... both our leaders, and "those" who voted for them. God loves them all, and would have them all, US all, restored to His Love and Life. How could WE want any less?

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

(2nd Peter 2:7-11)