

Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601
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January 2021

*Then He who sat on the throne said,
"Behold, I make all things new."
Revelation 21:5*

As we turn the calendar to the New Year, many people are happy to say goodbye to 2020. The past year has brought stress, unrest, and sorrow to many, with all the sickness, violence, and death. Many welcome the New Year, with wishes that it may bring good health, peace, and prosperity.

In the Scripture passage above, God directs our focus beyond the turning of the calendar in another year of human history. He lifts our eyes above the ever changing circumstances and challenges of life in this world. He lifts our hopes above the constant efforts of fallen mankind to create a new and better life.

God lifts our eyes to His heavenly throne, where He rules in eternal majesty and power, and infinite wisdom and love over all things. And He reminds us: *"Behold, I make all things new."*

God speaks as the Savior who came to make all things new for us by redeeming us for eternal life. Through the seasons of the Church Year, God's Word leads us to see how He has made all things new for us by the saving work of His Son.

In the season of Advent and Christmas, we just celebrated God fulfilling His promise and coming to be born among us as our Savior. Even from childhood Jesus would fulfill God's Law for us, so that by His perfect life we are counted righteous.

As we enter the season of Epiphany in January, we see the glory of God revealed in Jesus, as He comes forth to bring salvation for all people. As we hear Him preaching the Good news of His Kingdom, we see Him demonstrating His power to make all things new by His miracles, healing the sick, casting out demons, raising the dead.

After the Epiphany season, in February we will enter the season of Lent. We will see again how, by Jesus' perfect obedience even unto death on a cross, He has made all things new for us by winning our forgiveness and reconciling us to God in peace.

Then as the Easter season begins in April, will we celebrate the new life our Savior has given us. Now that He has lived, died, risen, and ascended for us, He lives to rule for our good and give us everlasting life in His Kingdom.

After that, in the festivals of Pentecost and Trinity in May, and in the Sundays of the Church Year beyond, we continue to rejoice that God the Father and the Son has brought this new life to us through the Holy Spirit, and the faith He works in our heart; and we see how He continues to strengthen us in growing faith to the end.

So as we turn the calendar to the New Year by the world's counting, let us remember God's promise:

"Behold, I make all things new."

We live in God's New Year. Every day, we live in His grace and favor in Christ (2 Corinthians 6:2). We can say: *"Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness"* (Lamentations 3:22-23).

And at last, in His great faithfulness and love, He will bring us to the new heaven and new earth He is preparing, where He will make all things new for us in everlasting perfect health, peace, and joy: *"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."* Then He who sat on the throne said, *"Behold, I make all things new"* (Revelation 21:1-5).

A blessed New Year, in His grace!
Pastor Smith

“I will forgive their wickedness and remember their sins no more.” (Jeremiah 31:34)

(From our Evangelical Lutheran Synod's Board for Home Outreach)

Cleaning stains can be a frustrating task because they can be very difficult to remove. One way to deal with a stain is to cover it up. You can paint over it, but it so often bleeds through again. If it's on the carpet, you can steam clean it, but after it dries it can come right back up. Frustrating!!!!

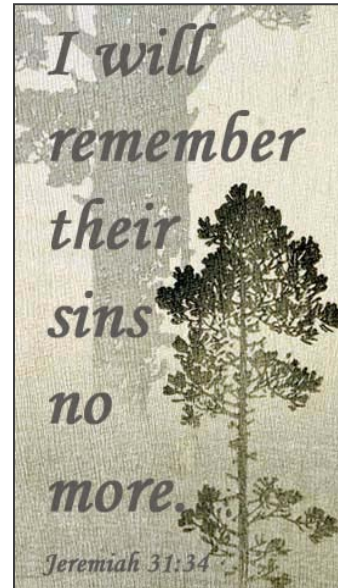
Sometimes we act as if God deals the same way with our many sins. As if Jesus covers them only to have them come through again for us to be frustrated by their memory. Our mistakes from the distant past of our youth, our missteps from last year, our trespasses from the morning, these can all come back to the surface and affect us with guilt and shame.

But God assures us that he does more than superficially cover our sins. He does something far greater. He forgives them so completely that He forgets them! They are gone. It is as if they never existed. All because Jesus Christ took them away on the cross.

We have just entered a new year. Last year's sins are gone because of our Savior, Jesus

Christ. How about the sins in this New Year? Oh they've happened already, and they will continue to happen. Old sins will tempt us. New sins will be lurking at home, work, on-line, etc. What are we going to do? We will lay them at the foot of the cross with a repentant heart remembering that God has forgiven us and remembers our sins no more.

Happy New Year!



A Collect for New Year

(Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary, p. 149)

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom comes down every good and perfect gift: We give You thanks for all Your benefits, temporal and spiritual, bestowed upon us in the year past, and we beseech You of Your goodness, grant us a favorable and joyful year, defend us from all dangers and adversities, and send upon us the fullness of Your blessing; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 <i>Christmas 2</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM	4	5	6 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i>	7 Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2
10 <i>Epiphany 1 / Baptism of Our Lord</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM <i>Happy Birthday Diane Bliss</i>	11	12	13	14 Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	15	16
17 <i>Epiphany 2</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM	18 <i>Martin Luther King Day</i>	19	20	21 Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	22	23
24 <i>Epiphany 3</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) (No Church) <i>National Sanctity of Human Life Sunday</i>	25	26	27	28 Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	29	30
31 <i>Epiphany 4</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM	<p><i>Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Revelation 21:5</i></p>					

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