

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE



"The End Is Near!"

By Rick Rostek, Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church

The end is near! Just about everyone has heard someone proclaim this message. People have been proclaiming "the end" for many years. Events in the past year have only increased the feelings among many that "the end" must be mere moments away. Consider the drought throughout the country or Hurricane Sandy on the east coast. Consider also the unrest and fighting in Syria, Libya, Greece, and other places. Moreover, many false teachers have arisen in the Church who seek to minimize the authority of God's Holy Word and diminish the all-sufficient work of Jesus Christ on the cross. These are all evidence of the coming of the end of the world.

So is the end near? It might be. We do not know the extent to which all of these signs have been fulfilled. Certainly, the end is closer today than it was yesterday. Ironi-

cally, these signs of the end times can be of great benefit. They remind us that God is ultimately in control and one day He will declare an

end to the world as we know it. At that time, Jesus will return to judge the world. Therefore, Jesus tells us, "Keep watch, because you

do not know the day or the hour."

One might ask, "How do we keep watch?" The best way is to focus on what Jesus Christ has done for the people of the world. The bad things that happen in this world are a result of the fall of mankind into sin. Jesus Christ came to reverse this curse by sacrificing His life on the cross for the sin of the world. By remembering Jesus' great sacrifice and placing our complete faith in Him, we need not worry about the coming of the end of the age. Those who believe will receive an inheritance reserved for the faithful-eternal communion with God in paradise.

The end certainly gets nearer with each passing day. Now is the day of salvation. Put your trust in Jesus Christ and that day will be met with unspeakable joy as Christ receives believers into His eternal kingdom.

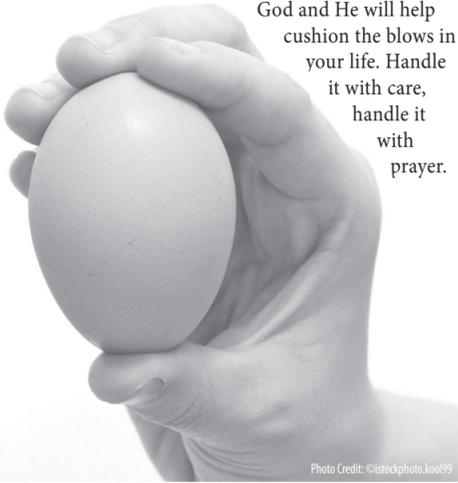
Weekly Scripture Reading

- * Esther 9:20-32
- Job 42:1-17
- Zephaniah 1:1-18
- Zephaniah 2:1-15
- Zephaniah 3:1-20
- Haggai 1:1-15
- Haggai 2:1-23
- *

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

Handle with Care

Each of our lives is precious and fragile. The question is...how can we protect our spirits from breaking when we encounter life's hard knocks and bumps? The Psalmist David had a life that was strewn with trouble, much of it his own doing. When his spirit was nearly broken, he turned to the Lord. In Psalm 18:2 David joyfully proclaimed..."my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield..." Talk to God and He will help cushion the blows in your life. Handle it with care, handle it with prayer.



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