

**What we need to know is that God knows - and that we do know**

2020 has come upon us; and it is but a technical detail hardly anybody will care about, that technically speaking, the new decade will not have begun until 2020 has run out. It seems natural to define decades by their second-last digits. We also know that in reality, the characteristics with which we identify any given decade are not likely to follow our calendar all that strictly; just as the beginning of a new year does not really bring about much change in our lives, or in the life of the world. Usually, not too many events of significance take place between December 31 and January 1; at least not naturally so, not unless somebody has deliberately planned them. Even the big Y2K disaster that was expected to bring about the end of the world as we knew it turned out to be a mere kink.

Nevertheless, the end of a year and the beginning of another cannot but make us to think about the mysteries of time and change, how we get older, how things change in our lives, how one day we will die - although, of course, Christians know that we shall not really die; what we call death is for us but death away from death, from sin and suffering and sorrow, and into eternal life with God - and even that death we might never experience, if the Lord comes in glory before we get to it.

Still, the New Year makes us to think of the past and the future. Most of us cannot help but ponder what lies ahead. And most of us cannot help but taking our clue as to what will be from what has been. But we really do not know; we are not God, and we should know that. Of the future we know but little; we can, at best, make calculations and qualified guesses. And even when it comes to our past, there is much that we do not understand, and much that is left to interpretation; not to mention that there is much that we might have forgot.

What we do know is that nothing is unknown to God. That is part of what it means that He is God. The future is in His hands. Even the past is in His hand, subject to His mighty power to change all things by His merciful forgiveness. He has the power to make good even the evils of the past, in ways we cannot even begin to imagine. And we know that what God has in mind for us all is what is good. Otherwise, He who is God Himself would not have suffered for us sinners as He did, for love of us, for our salvation.

*Pastor Jais H. Tinglund*

*Grace Lutheran Church, Greybull/Zion Lutheran Church, Emblem*