

Behold, I Make All Things New

By Pastor Nancy Larson

Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop

Here it is — a new year. Last year is over and the slate is wiped clean. We can start fresh without the old baggage dragging us down. We are freed from the burdens of the past and look to the new year with a whole new perspective. It is just this kind of thinking that leads us to make resolutions and establish new goals and strategies for our lives. While this thought pattern may make us feel better or more positive, in reality it isn't the new year or a new week or even a new day that opens the door to a fresh start.

In Revelation 21:5 we read, "And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.'" It is "the one who was seated on the throne" that is making all things new. It is the God of creation and salvation that is making all things new. As we have moved through the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we have focused on the arrival of God's kingdom into our midst. It is God's own son, Jesus Christ, which embodies God's entrance. Jesus, Immanuel, is God with us, and in him is our light and life. Sin, death and evil no longer have the

final word. Revelation 7:10 reminds us, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

This is a wonderful time of year to celebrate all that's new; however, the real "new" is not of our doing—it is God's gift of love and grace, given freely. This is what we receive in Holy Baptism—forgiveness of sin, life and salvation. We are invited to daily repentance so that "day after day a new self should arise..." We are made new by God's loving and gracious hand. As we are made new in God's grace, our hearts can be renewed in responding to God's goodness and grace.

Happy New Year and Happy New You every day!

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NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD

Bishop Rev. Dr. Steven L. Ullestad - ullestads@neiasynod.org

Assistants to the Bishop

Rev. Mark A. Anderson - andersonm@neiasynod.org

Rev. Darrel W. Gerrietts - gerriettsd@neiasynod.org

Linda J. Hudgins - hudginsl@neiasynod.org

Rev. Nancy J. Larson - nancy_larson@elca.org

STAR Editors

Marcia Hahn - hahnm@neiasynod.org

Julie Drewes - jdrewes@mchsi.com

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