Devotions: Dec 1-Dec 6, 2025

St. John's Lutheran Church & Pomaria Lutheran Church

Monday, December 1, 2025

Scripture: Matthew 24:42 – "So stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."

Reflection:
Jesus reminds us to stay awake—not in fear, but in love and attention. Life is fragile. None of us knows the day or hour. Our call isn't to live perfectly or in constant worry. It's to live faithfully in the ordinary moments: loving our families, caring for friends, and noticing God's presence in the everyday. Just like Uncle Chuck showed up unexpectedly with pizza, God comes into our lives in unexpected ways, asking only that we open our hearts.

Prayer:
Holy God, help me to stay awake to your presence today. Teach me to notice your work in ordinary moments, to love fully, and to trust that you are always with me. Amen.

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Scripture: Romans 5:8 – "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Reflection:
We don't have to wait until we're perfect to experience God's love. Jesus loves us exactly as we are, with all our faults, failures, and messes. Like Uncle Chuck visiting without expectations, God comes into our lives not to inspect, but to embrace us. We are called to reflect that love by being gentle with ourselves and others, showing patience, forgiveness, and kindness, especially when life is messy or unpredictable.

Prayer:
Gracious God, remind me today that your love does not depend on perfection. Help me to love myself and others as you love us: fully, freely, and without condition. Amen.

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Scripture: Matthew 24:13 – "But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

Reflection:
Endurance doesn't mean perfection—it means staying faithful, staying present, staying loving. Life will bring surprises, challenges, and uncertainties, but God calls us to be faithful in the ordinary. Loving a friend, helping a neighbor, or sharing a smile—all small acts are ways of staying awake to God's kingdom. Living faithfully today is how we prepare for Christ's return, and how we experience God's presence now.

Prayer:
Loving God, grant me the grace to endure each day in faith, to see your kingdom in small acts of love, and to trust in your timing and your care. Amen.

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Thursday, December 4, 2025

Scripture: John 15:12 – "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

Reflection:
Love doesn't wait for the perfect moment or the perfect person. Jesus' love is active, present, and unconditional. Our call is to show the same love: to our families, friends, and neighbors. Just as Chuck came to visit for no reason other than love, we can be channels of God's love in ordinary life. Loving others, even when it's messy or inconvenient, is how we stay faithful and awake.

Prayer:
Jesus, teach me to love freely and fully today. Help me to act with kindness, patience, and grace, reflecting your love in every interaction. Amen.

Friday, December 5, 2025

Scripture: Psalm 46:1 – "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Reflection:
Life is unpredictable. We may face storms—natural, emotional, or relational—but God is always near. We don't have to live in anxiety or fear. God is our safe place, our calm in the chaos. When we feel overwhelmed, we can remember that God comes to us in unexpected ways, offering comfort, presence, and peace. Staying awake to God means trusting that, whatever happens, God is with us.

Prayer:
God of peace, help me to rest in your presence today. Remind me that you are always near, guiding, protecting, and loving me, even in the unexpected moments. Amen.

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Scripture: 1 John 4:19 – "We love because he first loved us."

Reflection:
God's love is not earned—it is freely given. Our response is simple: to love others and ourselves. Life is too short to wait for perfection, and love too important to hold back. Like Uncle Chuck showing up just to be with family, God's love invites us into connection, joy, and presence. Today, we can choose to live in love, to embrace the messy, the ordinary, and the beautiful.

Prayer:
Holy God, thank you for loving me first. Help me to love boldly, freely, and without expectation, sharing your grace with everyone I meet. Amen.