

put sinners to death. Stones are also gathered for building – *to construct a place to live!*

- h. **A time to embrace, and a time to shun embracing** – We embrace in times of love, joy, sadness, and friendship; *but the Bible says this to Christians about hypocrites: “...you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.”* (1Corinthians 5:11 NIV) *So neither should we embrace!*
- i. **⁶ A time to search, and a time to give up as lost** – The Bible says: “...be careful how you walk... making the most of your time, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:15-16 NAS)
- j. **A time to keep, and a time to throw away** – Let’s ✦ keep what we NEED, ✦ get rid of the *junk*, and ✦ share the *good stuff* with others!
- k. **⁷ ...A time to be silent, and a time to speak** – Sometimes silence is more powerful than words, *but others times things NEED to be said!*
- l. **⁸ ...A time for war, and a time for peace** – War is terrible, but sometimes for ✦ freedom, ✦ truth, and ✦ the common good, *war is necessary to obtain peace!*

Conclusion: We don’t know what 2010 holds, *but we know the ONE who holds the future!* Let us pray like Moses, as recorded in Psalm 90: “**Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**” (v. 12 NIV) **Amen!**

This and other sermons are available on Bethlehem’s website: www.blc7500.com
Please share them with your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers!
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Rd., Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230

“There is an Appointed Time for Everything!”

Based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 NAS



Eve of the Name of Jesus / New Year’s Eve – 2009
Thursday, December 31 → 6:00

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, *as the clock moves toward midnight and 2010*, we turn our attention to the subject of TIME!

- God existed *before* time – *from eternity*.
- God *created the time* in which we live.
- God sent His Son *in the fullness of time*.
- Jesus *lived, died, and rose* – at the appointed times.
- When Jesus returns all people will step from time to eternity – *happily with God or separated forever!*

Right now we live in time, *which is a gift from God!* **Each year** we are given → 12 months/ 52 weeks/ 365 days (366 each leap year)/ 8,760 hours/ 525,600 minutes/ 31,536,000 seconds.

In tonight's sermon may God ✦ heighten our awareness of His control over time and ✦ move us to live out our time according to His Word!

1. **God is in Control of Time:**

- a. God established time: "God said, 'Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years...'" (Genesis 1:14 NAS)
- b. God knows all that will happen in time: "I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come." (Isaiah 46:10 NIV)
 - i. Regarding Divine Foreknowledge – God knows everything before it happens!
 - ii. Regarding Predestination – God causes some things to happen → to ensure that they do happen – like our salvation!
- c. God will bring time to an end: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14 NIV) Today, with communication methods expanding rapidly, the good news of Christ may soon be proclaimed in the whole world!

2. **God has Appointed Certain Times:** King Solomon wrote: ¹ "There is an APPOINTED time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven..." Therefore, let us ✦ be aware of and ✦ cooperate with the appointments made by God in our lives.

- a. ² **A time to give birth, and a time to die** – With birth and death, dates are estimated, but GOD has appointed each one! Birth → the joy of life outside the womb; death in Christ → the joy of being with God in paradise!
- b. **A time to plant, and a time to uproot what is planted** – Farmers tend to be more in tune with God than others; God has taught them ✦ when to plant, ✦ to wait patiently, ✦ to trust in Him – for everything, and ✦ to harvest with joy and thanksgiving!
- c. ³ **A time to kill, and a time to heal** – In war every effort is made to kill the enemy; but in a hospital every effort is made to heal the sick!
- d. **A time to tear down, and a time to build up** – About 45 years ago, our old church building (corner of State and Pleasant Valley) was torn down; then this building was built up (time in between was at Green Valley Elem.)!
- e. ⁴ **A time to weep, and a time to laugh** – Sad realities can cause us to weep; we should also weep with those who weep (9-11-01). But God has also blessed us with times to laugh; let us know and follow His will in every circumstance!
- f. **A time to mourn, and a time to dance** – It's normal and natural to mourn when God takes our loved ones home to heaven, but we can still dance with joy – knowing ✦ we are forgiven in Christ, ✦ God will provide our needs, and, when the time is right, ✦ Jesus will take us to His Father's house!
- g. ⁵ **A time to throw stones, and a time to gather stones** – In the OT, stones were gathered and used to