

Prepare the Way of the Lord!

Family, often one of the most important duties of the present is getting ready for the future. For example, when you plan for a trip your mind automatically turns to “packing.” What do I need and what will I need? Then, again, I’ll “pack” it for those “just in case” moments. You also might plan the route and make sure your vehicle is in good shape. Even though graduation (officially) is six months away, some teenagers are already having serious discussions with their families and guidance counselors about their futures and how to get ready for good jobs that will support them. What kind of training or study does one need to enter the workforce? Then there’s the big one: getting ready for a wedding. A lot of planning goes into that, doesn’t it? In some cases, couples are looking at venues, caterers, and even entertainment before they even set a date. Of course, people close to retirement are thinking, “Am I ready to retire? Do I have the means to retire? What would I like to do in my retirement?” And finally, on a larger scale, nations think about how they can be ready for the challenges of the future. They assess risks and opportunities and want to be ready for different kinds of scenarios. Would we be ready if we came under attack? Are we ready for the next pandemic? Are we ready for artificial intelligence?

It’s important to be ready. But if we prepare only for these, we’re not realistic. There’s something far more important for which to prepare: the coming of the reign of God. Or in other words: Are you prepared to see Jesus? And that’s John’s message: *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at*

hand.” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.” (Mt 3)

The point here is that even our Lord had a plan for our salvation, and at His appointed time, He precisely used John to “prepare the way,” that is to point people to the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world; the One who was mightier than John and whose sandals he was not worthy to carry.

Therefore, family, as we embark upon this new church year with the start of our Advent journey, let’s take this precious time to prepare ourselves for Christmas and ultimately for His return.

In Christ,
Pastor Seehafer