



Epistle



S T . J O H N L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

The Top Three Silliest Things About the Harold Camping Predictions and “What Do We Do?” (With guest comments from Rev. Curmudgeon who has been overheard muttering lately.)

For anyone who has not heard there was another prediction of the end of the world. Harold Camping (radio commentator) predicted that the world would end Saturday, May 21st at 6:00 pm eastern time. Mr. Camping refused to comment Sunday May 22nd.

((Rev. Curmudgeon: **“Refused to comment? Hiding is what he was doing! What he should do is ask me where he went wrong. I have an Adult Instruction Class he needs to take. We’d straighten him out!”**))

These kind of predictions stir things up. But there are also a number of oddities about this one. So we present our list of the top 3 silliest things.

But first, an Honorable Mention:

Mr. Camping says he figured wrong twice (now and in 1994) but it’s really going to happen in October.

When pressed on this point he started saying things like “invisible judgment day” which really is extremely silly. But what are you going to do when you have prophesied wrongly several times.

((Rev. Curmudgeon: **“Why doesn’t he talk about what the Old Testament says to do with false prophets?”**))

Now that’s not nice. He may have lost his connection with the simple teaching of the Gospel in the New Testament, but we should not. Paul says to preach the Gospel in season and out of season. Always persevere “in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58) Sometimes that means that we simply, patiently keep on sharing the Gospel when there is a mass of confusion and all kinds of distractions. When you put your hand to the plow you have to keep looking ahead, not get distracted by all kinds of other stuff.

And now, the top three silliest things:

3: That it is based on the supposed 7 thousand year anniversary of Noah’s flood.

Wow! All the other attempts to date Noah’s flood don’t even come close to that date! Bishop Usher dated Genesis 1 as 4004 BC. The Jewish calendar dates this year as being Year 5771. How does he even get 7000 years in his scheme of figuring? Besides all that there is nowhere . . .

((Rev. Curmudgeon: **“ . . . anniversary of Noah’s flood? May 21st? What???! . . . mutter, mutter . . . not in my Bible; not anywhere in my Bible. Is he just making this stuff up? . . . mutter, mutter . . . ”**))

Yep. What he said.

2: That he is openly defying the words of Jesus in Acts 1:7, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority.”

It is not smart or safe to openly defy Jesus’ words. Instead why not listen to His words, Acts 1:8 “you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Or if we want to think about the end of the world maybe look at Matthew 24:14 “And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” It is not predictions of dates and times

((Rev. Curmudgeon: **“6:00 Eastern time? Really?”**))

As I was saying, it’s not predictions of dates and times. It is the one sweet message of our sins forgiven because of Jesus’ suffering, blood, death and resurrection. We are called and sent to tell the world about how “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life.”

1 Silliest thing about the Harold Camping predictions:

That we are all supposed to quit church because nobody has gotten saved through the church since 1994 ‘cause that was the end of the “church age.”

Where do we begin? (First) We are saved through the Gospel; we are saved through what Jesus has done; we are saved through the Word of God; we are saved “by grace through faith” (Ephesians 2:8).

((Rev. Curmudgeon: **“I guess Mr. Camping hasn’t been listening, has he?”**))

(Second) What is the Church? Martin Luther said, “Sheep that know the voice of their Shepherd.” Harold Camping says we should leave that? Leave the company of those who gather to hear the Word of God?

((Rev. Curmudgeon: **“Nope. Listening was not what he was doing, was it? Did he graduate from the school of not listening? . . . mutter, mutter . . . ”**))

(Third) This is the problem with “dispensationalism.” It teaches that people are saved in different ways, depending on which time in world history they are living. To even talk about the end of the Church age and say that you no longer can be saved in that way is just flat out wrong. Salvation has always been by grace through faith.

((Rev. Curmudgeon: *“Didn’t he ever hear about Abraham? He ‘believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness’. Same with David! Same with Paul! Sounds to me like Mr. Camping has a little argument with God. I think I’ll stay with God. . . .”*))

(Fourth) Another problem happens when you say, “that’s the last day” or “that’s the seven last years.” The Apostle John said he was a “fellow partaker in the tribulation”. (Revelation 1:9) We are to be ready all the time; and there will always be troubles in this world. Pointing to “another day” or “another year” makes us less prepared for today.

(Fifth) But there is something even more serious here. Harold Camping has set himself up as an alternative to the church, and called on people to leave the church and follow him instead.

((Rev. Curmudgeon: *“That reminds me of John 10 verses 1 and 10: “He who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. . . . The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they might have life and have it abundantly.”*))

And that is where this whole business can become dangerous. False teaching endangers souls in several ways:

1. Some may follow the false teaching and then when it falls apart they give up on knowing the truth and abandon the Word of God.

2. Others, including many outside the Christian faith, look at the confusion caused by false teachers and lump every Christian all together. After a very public false teacher falls apart they may be tempted to heap scorn on anyone who talks about their faith in Jesus Christ.

((Rev. Curmudgeon: *“And what was it Jesus said about ‘whoever causes one these little ones who believe in Me to sin’? . . . mutter, mutter . . . depth of the sea . . . mutter, mutter . . . bye.”*))

WHAT DO WE DO?

First: **Remind ourselves of the promises we have.** Yes, “scoffers will come in the last days” (2 Peter 3:3). “They will say, ‘Where is the promise of His coming?’” (3:4) “But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years” (3:8) And even more “The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” (3:9)

Second: **Remember that Jesus will come.** We do not and cannot know the day or hour. It “will come like a thief” (3:10) so make wise use of the time you have.

Third: You are a Christian in a world where many are turning away from God. **Always be “prepared to give an answer** to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; but do it with gentleness and respect”. (1 Peter 3:15-16) Pray for wisdom to give the good answer when the time comes and know that as you are regular in hearing the Word of God there is a promise that God will give you the words.

Fourth: **Pray, pray and pray** for those who have been led into strange teachings. James tells us, “if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.” (James 5:19-20)

Pastor Mark

C O N C O R D I A S E M I N A R Y H O S T S C A R I L L O N R E C I T A L S E R I E S

ST. LOUIS—Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is pleased to announce its 2011 summer carillon recital series. Guests are invited to bring lawn chairs, blankets, and picnics to enjoy in the main quad or on the Seminary grounds near Luther Statue. There will be an opportunity to meet the carillonneur after the concert.

Concerts will be presented every Tuesday evening in June from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. : **June 7, June 14, June 21, and June 28.**

Concordia Seminary is located at 801 Seminary Place in Clayton. For more information about the carillon recital series, contact the communications department at 314-505-7362; communications@csl.edu.

NOTE: There is no official rain policy for the carillon concerts. The player is in the tower under protection. People can gather under the archways and tower. We will usually go ahead with the carillon concerts unless the performer feels that it is not safe.

RUMMAGE SALE AND BAKE SALE

Rummage Sale items can be brought to the Parish Hall beginning **Monday, May 30** at 7:00 a.m., Baked goods may be brought to the Parish Hall on Friday Morning, June 3. Volunteers are welcome to come anytime during the week to help set up and price. The Rummage Sale and Bake Sale will be held on **Saturday, June 4** from 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



GRADUATES FROM ST. JOHN'S

St. John 8th Grade Graduates

Megan Brockmeyer
Brett Bunselmeyer
Liam Canady
Lindsay Hammel
Deanna Hohgreffe
Teddy Knop
Tyler Knop
Madison Kueker
Nicholas Leffler
Sarah Liefer
Kara Mehrer
Daniel Moeller
Nicholas Rinehart
Stephen Sheffer
Mallory Westerman



Chester High School Graduates

John Baughman
Jamie Bierman
Jaelee Fortner
Ariel Gales
Zachary Golding
Logan Handel
Brittany Hormann
Ashley Horn
Hanna Knop
Zachary Lochhead
William McLean
Kristy Pulliam
Rachel Sheely
Ceirra Watkins

St. Genevieve 8th Grade Graduates

Josh Bierman

College Graduations

Matthew Kahre, University of Evansville, Indiana

Chester Grade School Graduates

Dustin Lilley
Matthew Myers
Chloe Wallace

NEW FACILITY FUND

We are all proud of the Christian education we provide to the students at our day school. If you want to see future children in Chester learn in a new, safer building, consider a donation to the New Facility Fund. Since the beginning of the Fund four years ago, the current balance has grown to \$373,099.51. This is a nice beginning, but a long way off from putting a shovel in the ground. Help make this plan a reality. Consider making this your "charity" for the summer. Maybe your children can get enthused by doing little jobs around the house, for grandma, or a neighbor and designate a percentage to this fund. Since there isn't Sunday School this summer, encourage your child to put what would be his Sunday School offering into the New Facility Fund. If you are thinking that your children will be out of grade school by the time any new construction would occur, consider a thank offering for the wonderful years you are blessed with now.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School met for the last time on **Sunday, May 29** before it takes a summer vacation. The Board of Education is looking for someone to step in as Superintendent next year as well as teachers. Contact Bryan Wagner or any School Board member if interested.

**O U R 2 0 1 1 Y E A R - T O - D A T E F I N A N C I A L S T A T U S A S O F
5 / 2 4 / 1 1**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$ 439,734.06	\$406,491.77	(\$33,242.29)
Expense	\$ 439,734.06	\$446,821.51	\$7,087.45
2011 (Income - Expense)		(\$40,329.74)	
2010 (Income - Expense)		<u>(\$20,146.34)</u>	
2010/2011 Total (Income - Expense)		(\$60,476.08)	
Debt	\$99,846.50	Mortgage	\$46,737.91

Average 2011 Attendance per Week: 303

Your church needs your help. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help this situation.

S T A T E T R A C K M E E T / S I D M E E T

At the SIJHAA Regional meet held May 2nd. Several team members qualified to compete in the Class "S" State Meet. Liam Canady, Nick Rinehart, Brett Bunselmeyer, Jordan Berner, Sarah Liefer and Sydney Levan. Due to circumstances, only Brett and Sydney competed in the State Meet held May 14th. Brett in 100M hurdles, Sydney in both 100M Hurdles and 7th grade 100M Dash. Even though neither placed, we are very proud of them! Also on May 14th the team competed in the Southern IL Dist along with 16 other teams. Even without our 8th grade members, the team brought home a 3rd place trophy!

B O O K S O F T H E B I B L E P U Z Z L E

Here is a challenge for all you Bible and word search experts. The solution is available upon request.

There are thirty books of the Bible in the paragraphs below. Can you find them?

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket., on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours.

He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo.

Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving his puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact.

Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst.

Research has shown that something in our gene is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen.

As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, the books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight. Those able to find all of them will hear lamentations from those have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal.

A chipper attitude will help you complete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is on need for mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the bile lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

L U T H E R A N S T A T E T R A C K M E E T

The weekend of May 20, 21, and 22 six students from St. John attend the Lutheran State Track meet at Concordia University River Forest. Over 55 Lutheran Schools from around the state were represented. Brett Bunselmeyer placed in top 12 of 51 competitors in 110M Hurdles, Sarah Liefer placed in top 12 of 52 in 200M dash. Girls 4x100 relay team of Sarah Liefer, Lindsay Hammel, Madison Kueker and Sarah Hecht placed 22 of 27 teams. Jordan Berner, jumping over 15 ft placed 15 of 22. These students did a great job of representing St. John not only in competition but also in their behavior!



A C O L Y T E S



Thursday June 2 6:30 p.m. Derek Mott & Calvin Clendenin
 Sat June 4 6:30 p.m. Nicholas Rinehart & Megan Brockmeyer
 Sun June 5 7:45 a.m. Mallory Westerman & Mason Westerman
 10:00 a.m. Ellen Blechle & Clayton Richelman
 Sat June 11 6:30 p.m. Sydney Levan & Sarah Hecht
 Sun June 12 7:45 a.m. Lindsay Hammel & Christian Gray
 10:00 a.m. Deanna Hohgreffe & Madison Kueker
 Sat June 18 6:30 p.m. Josh Bierman & Sydney Korando
 Sun June 19 7:45 a.m. Teddy Knop & Alyssa Hoops
 10:00 a.m. Matthew Smith & Jaclyn Colvis
 Sat June 25 6:30 p.m. Autumn Rowold & Katelyn Rader
 Sun June 26 7:45 a.m. Clayton Richelman & Tyler Redeker
 10:00 a.m. Ashley Wagner & Tyler Knop

G R E E T E R S

Sat June 4 6:30 p.m. Marlene Seymour
 Sun June 5 7:45 a.m. Edna Neislein
 10:00 a.m. May Sprengel
 Sat June 11 6:30 p.m. Karen Surman
 Sun June 12 7:45 a.m. Darlene Gentsch
 10:00 a.m. Anne Ebers
 Sat June 18 6:30 p.m. Ruby Schirmer
 Sun June 19 7:45 a.m. Marcella Kontz
 10:00 a.m. Bev Baker
 Sat June 25 6:30 p.m. Jane Kipp
 Sun June 26 7:45 a.m. Dorothy Grah
 10:00 a.m. Deb Caraway

U S H E R S T E A M S

Sat June 4 6:30 p.m. Volunteer
 Sun June 5 7:45 a.m. Ron Rathert
 10:00 a.m. Randy Campbell
 Sat June 11 6:30 p.m. Volunteer
 Sun June 12 7:45 a.m. Gary Duensing
 10:00 a.m. Don Stallman
 Sat June 18 6:30 a.m. Volunteer
 Sun June 19 7:45 a.m. Roger Kattenbraker
 10:00 a.m. Gary Eggemeyer
 Sat June 25 6:30 p.m. Volunteer
 Sun June 26 7:45 a.m. Don Gentsch
 10:00 a.m. Rick Casten

A L T A R G U I L D

Wanda Dethrow
 Ruby Schirmer
 Jim & Rosemary Oetting
 Lynette Colvis
 Melvin & Edna Neislein
 Pam Sheely
 Larry & Imogene McDonough
 Gary & Pam Knop

W E E K E N D J A N I T O R S

June 2 Randy Campbell
 June 4/5 Randy Campbell / Ron Rathert
 June 11/12 Dennis Mott
 June 18/19 Chris Urquhart
 June 25/26 Duke Snider

A L U M I N U M C A N S

May 30 - June 4 Gary Knop
 June 6 - June 11 Fred Fricke
 June 13 - 18 Ron Sheely
 June 20 - 25 Larry McDonough
 June 27 - July 2 Steve Egge



R A D I O A N N O U N C E R / T E C H N I C I A N S

June 5 Chris Colvis / Charlie Bargman
 June 12 Amanda Middendorf / Lynn Rickenberg
 June 19 Chris Urquhart / Bob Platt
 June 26 Richard Janssen / Tony Young



W O R S H I P S E R V I C E S

Saturday 6:30 p.m., Sunday 7:45 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday School and Bible Class at 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday Worship Broadcast on KBDZ 93.1 FM and KSGM 980 AM

C O N T A C T I N F O R M A T I O N

Church Office, 302 W. Holmes, Chester, IL 62233
 Phone 618-826-3545 Phone Meditation 618-826-2135
 Internet Address www.stjohnchester.com

C H U R C H E - M A I L

Pastor Willig— pastorwillig@stjohnchester.com
 Pastor III— pastorill@stjohnchester.com
 Kelly Walls— secretary@stjohnchester.com





B I B L E T R E A S U R E H U N T :

Unscramble the letters in each word to discover the passage.

Answer will be in next months Epistle.

TLE YTRROLHEB VOLE UTONNIEC. EB TON UTROLGFFE OT TTRNNIEEA TSSRRNGEA: ROF YTRHEEB EMOS VHEA TTRNNIEEEDA SNLGEA WUSRNEAA.

A N S W E R T O L A S T M O N T H S B I B L E T R E A S U R E H U N T :

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

C A P P E R S

CAPPERS (Christian Adults Playing Pinochle Eating Refreshments on Sunday) will meet on Sunday, June 12 at 2:00 p.m. to play cards and have a light meal in the Parish Hall.



T H E C H U R C H L I B R A R Y I S N ' T J U S T F O R L I T T L E K I D S

Parents, if you're looking for summer reading and wholesome movies to occupy your kids this summer, check out the church library. Since the Sunday School won't be meeting for a few months, you can have Sunday School at home by watching a Bible cartoon or other video from the church library. Watch it together and discuss it with your kids. Many of the movies are 30-45 minutes long. While you are browsing through the 500 or so selections, you might find something for you. When you choose an item, sign your name on the signature card and write in the date. There really isn't a due date, but try to return it in a couple of weeks. When you return it, simply place it in the basket. If you come across something that doesn't have a card or the card is full, there are blank cards in the box.

If you have a machine that can copy VHS videos to DVD format and could donate a couple of hours for the library, please call Jill Arbeiter at 826-2578 or the church office.

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
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Chester, Illinois 62233

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JESUS LOVES:



June