

**12/5/18**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

Today, Jesus invites us to think of budding trees. When blossoms burst forth, the message is clear: Summer will soon be here!

I know. It's December. In many places this time of year, the trees are bare and the temperature is cold. But did you know there are trees "blooming" this time of year? It's Christmas tree! The message is clear: Christmas is drawing near!

*[Jesus] told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. "Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." Luke 21:29-33*

So when Jesus talks about fig trees blooming, he's really talking about having our souls ready for the advent of his kingdom, when he comes again. The Christmas tree and its decorations can help get us ready for the same: The evergreen tree reminds us that Jesus is the ever-living and eternal Son of God. But he was also born into our world in human flesh so that he could die for our sins. Jesus was even nailed to a wood tree—the cross.

The Christmas colors of green and red represent life (green) and death (red). We have life because Jesus gave his life and shed his red blood for us.

The star on top of the Christmas tree reminds us of the star that led the Wise Men to find the baby Jesus.

All the lights on the Christmas tree remind us that Jesus is the Light in a sin-darkened world. He illuminates our hearts and minds to see God's truth: that he really is our promised Savior!

So when you see a Christmas tree, remember its "full-bloom" message: God's kingdom is coming! Jesus is coming! What hope the message of Christmas gives us! Jesus will return to deliver you to his eternal kingdom! That's a message that not only gets us excited, but also ready to celebrate Christmas, but especially to meet Jesus!

***Prayer:*** *Lord Jesus, during this blessed and busy Christmas season, use the sight of the Christmas tree and its decorations to point our attention to you. Help us keep our focus on you so we will be prepared to meet you when you come again! Amen.*

*(From the WELS)*

...See you in worship.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

Pastor Alan W. Gumm

Phone: [630-947-4317](tel:630-947-4317) - [revagumm@hotmail.com](mailto:revagumm@hotmail.com)