

# CHRISTMAS 2021

This is our second pandemic Christmas. We thought this would be over so long ago. And still, we wear masks; we're physically distant; we can't be with friends and family as we used to do. And also, there's so much that's broken in this world, so much that tells us, "Why have hope? Just give up."

But we have a hope that's stronger than any of this, stronger even than death. The hope of God comes in the form of a tiny baby, a helpless child; nevertheless, who grew to a man and in his fragile strength was willing to die on the cross and was raised again.

I don't know what next Christmas will bring. I don't know what New Year's will bring. But I do know we have hope.

St. Paul put it this way: "May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may **ABOUND IN hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Merry Christmas, dear church.

*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.