



## *Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast*

*New Year 2025*

*“See, I am doing a new thing”*

“If I could just have had five more minutes...” I am reminded - again - that the Christmas season is not a happy one for everybody. After celebrating Christmas and leaving 2024, many of us enter 2025 with grief in our hearts. We grieve for the loved ones and friends who have passed away, for important people in our lives who have moved away, for the dreams we couldn't fulfill, for lost health, and many other reasons.

The thought, “If I could just have had five more minutes,” may haunt us. Those five minutes might have allowed us to express our love, mend a relationship, or create one more cherished memory.

How often have we said something similar to this...

- If only I had visited more often.
- If only I had said “I love you.” The last words I said were ...
- If only I had spent more time.

In our grief, we often ask God, “Why?” Fortunately for us, Scripture invites us to look forward rather than back. In Isaiah 43:18-19, God declares, “[Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!](#)” This verse reminds us that even in our sorrow, God is at work, creating new opportunities and new beginnings. This year when I hear these words in Isaiah, they sound harsh at first, knowing that some of my friends have lost family members recently. Yet, God tells us, “See, I am doing a new thing.” 2025 is a new thing, a life with Emmanuel.

We remember the story in John 11, when Martha grieved the loss of her brother Lazarus, and she told Jesus her brother would not have died if Jesus had arrived earlier. But Jesus assured her, “Your brother will rise again...I am the resurrection and the life.” This promise offers hope beyond the momentary loss—pointing us toward eternal life and God's redemptive plan. A powerful reminder: there is hope beyond our moments of loss.

Our longing for “five more minutes” is natural... but we don't have five more minutes, do we? Through faith, we can trust in God's greater purpose. Philippians 3:13-14 encourages us to “press on toward the goal.” God calls us to let go of the past – but honor it - and embrace His future—a future filled with hope, healing, and the promise of new life.

So, as we enter a new year, perhaps in grief, let us find comfort in God's promises. While we can't relive the past, we can embrace each new day as a gift, trusting that God will bring beauty – and “something new” - from our sorrow.

**May you have a blessed New Year!**

**Prayer box:** let us pray for all those who grieve, that they may find “something new!”

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.