

**KNOW YOUR FAITH XIX**  
**Christ Will Come Again – Eschatology**

As we head into the end of the church year, the last few Sundays of the liturgical cycle and the First Sunday in Advent usually refer to *end times*. The technical term for this emphasis is *eschatology* from the Greek word *eschatos* meaning *last or end times*. In the communion liturgy of Roman Catholics, Episcopalians and Lutherans (and some others) there is the phrase: *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again*. A few denominations such as Seventh Day Adventists (not an historical denomination, but of American origin) organize their theology around this emphasis of Christ coming again.

Some take the matter a step further and focus on the book of Revelation to address this matter. It seems that the matter of *end times* attracts all sorts of speculation and sometimes personality disorders. Fear, disasters, war, famine, and other gloomy and dark occurrences lead people to both dream and hope of a different time and also to believe that the end of history and possibly the planet has arrived. Pseudo-prophets in the middle ages as well as some TV religious personalities today like to point to the arrival of end times based on current happenings. The Lutheran position on this matter comes from an apocryphal statement by Martin Luther when asked about the end of time coming the next day. He supposedly said, “I will plant my apple tree today.” In other words, one lives with trust in God while waiting.