

Sign Post

Nov. - Dec. 2015

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Sign Post is online at
www.iowaeastdeaf.org.
It is the newsletter for:

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Christians and the Environment

God blessed them and said, “Be fertile, increase in number, fill the earth, and be its master. Rule the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that crawl on the earth.” Genesis 1:28 (God’s Word)

If you watch the news, you have probably seen stories about global warming and climate change. There is a lot of talk and arguing about burning fuels and if that is bad for the environment, cutting down trees, pollution, and other issues like that. Many of these issues become political arguments. One side says it is a terrible problem and the other side says it isn’t.

We aren’t interested in the political arguments here. We want to know what God says about us and the earth. Should we care what happens to the earth? Or don’t worry about it? What should a Christian think about all this?

There is a word that will help us: stewardship. Stewardship means to take care of something that belongs to another person. God made the earth; He owns it. But He gave it to us for us to take care of. We manage and care for the earth, honoring Him as the owner.

This is not the same as a gift. If a friend gives you a Christmas sweater, the sweater belongs to you. You can decide to wear it, put it in a box and never look at it, or give it to someone else. But we can’t do that with the earth. The earth is on loan to us; God is still the owner. We must take care of it the way God wants.

For many years, some (not all) Christians abused the environment. For the last 150 years, we have been slowly learning how our actions affect the environment and how to take better care of the world. We need to keep learning. This is not a political or business issue. This is a Christian issue because God made the world and He made us responsible to care for it.

This Thanksgiving you will take some time to thank God for all of His gifts to you. Also take some time to think about what you can do to reduce the amount of trash you make, use fewer chemicals in your house and yard, ways you can save gas and electricity, plant some trees, use less water, etc. Until Jesus comes again, this place is our home, and we should do our best to take care of it.

Pastor Eckert

Dive Into God's Word

Advent is the time in the church year from the first Sunday after Thanksgiving until Christmas Eve. Traditionally this is the time for us to prepare for Jesus to come. We remember Him coming at Christmas, born as a baby so He could grow up to save us. And we look forward to Jesus coming again at the end of the world. For November and December, we will read 1 and 2 Thessalonians. These two books teach us some about Christ coming again, and also encourage us to live as God's people while we wait for Jesus to come.

Nov. 1-7, 1 Thessalonians 1-2

1. How were the Christians in Thessalonica an example for other believers? In verse 6, find 3 ways they were an example. (1:1-7)
2. Many other Christians were talking about the church in Thessalonica. What were they saying? (1:8-10)
3. Some people preach for selfish reasons. Other people preach for God. How did Paul show He was serving God and not himself? (2:1-8)
4. What did Paul do to help these new Christians follow God? (2:9-12)

Nov. 8-14, 1 Thessalonians 3

1. Go back to Acts 17:1-2. About how long were Paul and Silas in Thessalonica?
2. What was Paul worried about? (2:17-3:5)
3. Paul prayed for the new church, but he also sent someone to help them. Who? (3:1-5)
4. Timothy came back with news about the church. How were they? (3:6-10)
5. Paul wanted what two blessings for the church before Jesus comes again? (3:11-13)

Nov. 15-21, 1 Thessalonians 4

1. Paul gave more instructions again. How did Paul say the believers should live? (4:1-12)
2. The believers were confused about what happens to Christians who die. Paul explained, believers who have died (or "fallen asleep") will rise alive. Why? (4:13-14)
3. When Christ comes again, some Christians will still be alive. They go to heaven first? (4:15)
4. When Jesus comes again, what happens first? (4:16)
5. Who goes to be with Jesus first? Anyone left behind? (4:17-18)

Nov. 22-28, 1 Thessalonians 5

1. Jesus' coming will be like a thief in the night. What does that mean? (5:1-2, also Luke 12:35-40)
2. What will people in the world be saying and thinking? (5:3)
3. When Jesus comes, will He surprise us? Why or why not? (5:4-8)
4. What else should we do to make sure we are all ready for Jesus to come? (5:11)
5. In the end, Paul gives another long list of how believers should live. Who will make us ready for Jesus when He comes again? (5:12-24)

Nov. 29 - Dec. 5, 2 Thessalonians 1

1. Who were the three missionaries who wrote this letter? (1:1)
2. We should not boast about ourselves. Why did Paul boast about the believers in Thessalonica? (1:1-4)
3. What did Paul say will happen to the people persecuting the church? (1:5-10)
4. What did Paul pray for the church? (1:11-12)

Dec. 6-12, 2 Thessalonians 2

1. The believers were confused about Jesus coming. They thought He already came and they missed Him. What did Paul say will happen first, before Jesus comes? (2:1-4)

2. What will this man do in God's church? (2:4)
3. What power will that man have? (2:9-12)
4. When Jesus comes, what will He do to that man? (2:5-8)
5. These things about the end can scare us. Why do we not fear? What does God tell us to do? (2:13-17)

Dec. 13-19, 2 Thessalonians 3

1. Paul warned that they should stay away from who? (3:6)
2. Paul and other teachers in Thessalonica didn't have to work, but they did work. Why? (3:7-9)
3. What command did Paul give the church? (3:10-12)
4. Suppose someone doesn't obey that command. What does God say to do about that person? (3:13-15)

Dec. 20-26, Matthew 1

1. Matthew wrote his gospel for the Jews to see that Jesus is the Savior. Jesus is descended from (in the family of) which two important Jewish men? (1:1)
2. Why do you think Matthew lists all those people in Jesus' family? (1:2-16)
3. Who made Mary become pregnant with Jesus? (1:18)
4. Joseph found out Mary was pregnant and he decided to divorce her. Why did he change his mind? (1:19-21)
5. "Immanuel" and "Jesus" each have special meanings. What do they mean? (1:21-23)

Dec. 27-Jan. 2, Matthew 2

1. Who came to worship Jesus? (2:1-2)
2. Where did they go first to find Jesus? (2:1-2)
3. King Herod was very upset. He didn't want another king. He called the chief priests and law teachers and asked where the Savior would be born. What did they answer? (2:3-6)
4. Herod told the wise men to find the child, then come back and tell him. Why did Herod say he wanted to see the new King? (2:7-8)
5. What gifts did the wise men give Jesus? (2:9-11)
6. The wise men didn't go back to tell Herod where Jesus was. So what did Herod do? (2:12-18)
7. God warned Joseph so the family could escape. Where did they go to live? (2:13-15)
8. After Herod died, where did they go to live? Where did Jesus grow up? (2:19-23)

November

- 1 Agnes Mundhank
- 4 David Legg
- 5 Kathy Anderson
- 8 Lilly Anderson
- 12 Wanda McAllister
- 14 Chris Wrage
- 15 Doris Ciha
- 19 Vicki Morris
- Pastor Tim Eckert
- Mike Check
- 20 Melody Schulte
- 21 Don Anderson
- 22 Jack Barnett
- 23 Shirley Hampton
- 25 Arlene Ritze
- 28 Paula Slavin
- 30 Rhonda Wegenether



December

- 1 Jennifer Legg
- 11 Sheri Pohlman
- 25 Jesus Christ

Prayers

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ Mollie Schmitz, Vicki Morris, Evelyn Powell's mother, Lorri Green, Shirley Green, Bill and Barbara Zimmerman, Mae Hanson, Joan Mass, Rosie Glime, Kathy Anderson, Kathy's friend Donna, Darlene Twachtmann, Curtis Ketelsen, Neita Dommer, Harold Kinkade, Jeanette Kern, Henry Daggett, and Ricky Moore with their ongoing physical difficulties.
- ✦ Pray for Christians around the world who are suffering for their faith.
- ✦ Pray for more pastors to serve the deaf. In 2016, there will be two new DIT students, one to become a pastor and one to become a deaconess. We need more than just a couple! 20? 30? Pray that God will lead more students to join DIT, especially men to become pastors.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.
- ✦ People in the Western U.S. who are suffering from long years of drought and wildfires.
- ✦ We thank God for all His blessings and gifts. At Thanksgiving, we often thank God for family, home, food, and other physical blessings. But we first and most than k Him for Jesus our Savior. We ask Him now to help us always be thankful and always take care of these gifts, and never waste them or think nothing of them.
- ✦ Thank God that He loves us enough that He sent His Son to become human and be born on Christmas as Jesus our Savior.



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11-23-2000

NICE WORK FELLAS ... IT'S BEEN A LONG
WHILE NOW AND THEY ARE STILL
REMEMBERING TO THANK ME

Bible Word Search: Live to Benefit Others

R	G	R	E	C	E	I	V	E	S	K	N	A	H	T	Accept, Believe, Brother, Care,
E	E	E	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	G	H	N	O	Character, Commit, Concern,
T	V	H	N	L	U	F	I	C	R	E	M	S	W	M	Consistent, Disciple, Encourage,
H	R	T	T	U	A	D	E	R	U	O	P	I	O	E	Ethical, Everyone, Forgive,
I	E	E	N	O	I	T	A	D	N	U	O	F	D	A	Foundation, Genuine, Grace, Honest,
C	S	G	V	S	R	N	I	U	N	D	H	L	D	S	Jesus, Joy, Log, Love, Measure,
A	A	O	E	I	U	B	E	O	I	O	L	E	E	U	Merciful, Need, Poured, Pressed
L	C	T	N	E	T	S	I	S	N	O	C	S	S	R	down, Receive, Relationship,
T	R	N	C	R	P	I	E	E	G	S	R	N	S	E	Reward, Running over, Sacrifice,
I	I	E	O	E	E	N	S	J	O	G	H	U	E	V	Sensitive, Serve, Shaken together,
M	F	K	U	W	C	T	E	N	V	N	R	I	R	E	Thanks, Unselfish
M	I	A	R	A	C	O	N	C	E	R	N	A	P	I	-----
O	C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R	S	L	L	C	L	
C	E	S	G	D	R	E	D	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	
Y	O	J	E	V	E	R	Y	O	N	E	V	O	L	B	

In heaven do they call it Christmas? Or Jesus' birthday? Or both?



November 2015

1 * See below for worship and Bible study times. Turn clocks back one hour	2	3	4 7:00 WL – Worship	5	6 10:30 QC – Bible study	7
8 * See below for worship and Bible study times. CR -Potluck	9	10	11 10:00 CR-Senior Citizens	12	13 10:30 QC – Bible study	14 10:00 DU – Bible Study
15 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	16	17	18 7:00 WL – Study	19	20 10:30 QC – Bible study 1:00 MU-Worship	21
22 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	23	24	25 3:00 QC-Thanksgiving Worship	26 Happy Thanksgiving	27 10:30 QC – Bible study	28
29 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	30					

BR – Burlington. Concordia Lutheran Church, 2901 Cliff Rd., Burlington. 4th Sunday worship at 4:00 p.m.
 CR – Cedar Rapids. Word of God Lutheran Church Deaf, 1515 29th St. NE, Cedar Rapids. Every Sunday, Bible Study at 9:00 a.m., Worship at 10:00 a.m.
 QC – Quad Cities. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1122 W. Central Park Ave., Davenport. Every Sunday, Worship at 1:00 p.m.
 WL – Waterloo. Christ Lutheran Church, 234 S Hackett Rd., Waterloo.
 DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque.
 MC – Mason City. Meeting in Charles City. Talk to Pastor Northwick for details
 MU – Muscatine. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2611 Lucas St., Muscatine.

December 2015

		1	2 7:00 WL – Worship	3	4 10:30 QC – Bible study	5 10:00 DU – Bible Study
6 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	7	8	9 10:00 CR-Senior Citizens	10	11 10:30 QC – Bible study	12
13 * See below for worship and Bible study times. CR-Potluck	14	15	16 7:00 WL – Study	17	18 10:30 QC – Bible study 1:00 MU – Worship/Study	19
20 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	21	22	23	24 3:00 QC-Christmas Eve Worship	25 Happy Birthday Jesus Christmas Day	26
27 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	28	29	30	31 New Year’s Eve		

BR – Burlington. Concordia Lutheran Church, 2901 Cliff Rd., Burlington. 2nd Sunday worship at 4:00 p.m.
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