

Sign Post

**November –
December 2017**

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Smile

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

Word of God Lutheran
Church for the Deaf
1515 29th St. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Rev. Tim Eckert
DeafLutheran@q.com
Home: 563-424-7141 VP
or 563-359-7105 V/TTY

Jesus Will Come Again

Once again, we are quickly coming to Thanksgiving and Christmas. How does that happen, that every year goes by so fast? Summer is over, Fall is suddenly here, Winter is coming. If you like holiday food, gifts, Christmas trees, and family get-togethers, that is a good thing. If you don’t like cold, ice and snow, sorry, you have to wait for Spring.

In the church, the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas is called Advent. During this time, we prepare for Christmas, when Jesus came the first time. We also prepare for Jesus coming again at the end of the world. He will come again and God tells us to be ready.

We know to be ready. God baptized us, washed away our sins, and gave us faith in Jesus our Savior. God gives us work to do now – live as God’s people, love other people and invite and encourage them to also trust Jesus and follow Him. Will we help other people be ready?

The wildfires in California were a big news story in October. When the fires came, people’s lives were in danger and they had to get out as quickly as possible. Policemen drove through neighborhoods and honked and shouted through loudspeakers to tell people to leave immediately. Neighbors woke up each other in the middle of the night to warn everyone to get out. They didn’t worry that people might not like getting up in the middle of the night. They had to save their neighbors! Many lives were saved, but some were still lost.

In a tragedy, people will eagerly help each other to try to save lives. Are we doing the same to prepare people for Jesus to come? Or are we worried about what people will think about us? People might think we are a crazy Christian. Or they might tell us our faith is foolish and they are fine.

Don’t let that stop you. Don’t worry what people will think. The Bible tells us that today is the day for salvation. The loving thing to do is invite them to see and believe in Jesus, our coming Savior.

Pastor Eckert

Dive Into God's Word

As we get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving, we remember that we thank God every day for His love and care for us. The last Psalms in the book of Psalms are all songs of praise to God. We will look at Psalm 145 to remind us of why and how we thank God.

Scripture doesn't always use the word "thank." The Bible also uses words like "praise" and "bless" to thank God. Watch for these and other words in Psalm 145 that talk about how good God is. *Answers are on page 4.*

Read Psalm 145:1-3. Praise the Lord!

1. Who is praising God in these verses?
2. How often can we bless God? How long can we praise Him?

Read Psalm 145:4-7. Announce God is great!

3. God's goodness is not a secret. We tell people! Who do we tell? (verse 4)
4. Verse 6 says we tell about God's amazing work. What is God's most amazing work?
5. Based on verses 4-7, what does it mean to praise the Lord?

Read Psalm 145:8-9. The Lord is full of mercy!

6. These verses describe who God is, and they describe His attitude toward us. What is the Lord like?
7. Does God show mercy only to believers, or to everyone?

Read Psalm 145:10-13. God's kingdom is glorious and continues forever!

8. Now who is thanking and blessing God? (verse 10)
9. These verses thank and praise God for His k_____.
10. How did you and all God's saints (holy people) join His kingdom?

Read Psalm 145:14-20. God takes care of all in need!

11. What does the Lord do for weak and hurting people?
12. All living things look where for food?
13. The Lord is near people to help and save people. Who? (verses 18-19)

Read Psalm 145:21. Praise the Lord!

14. Our God is a great God! For who He is and everything He does, what do we do?

Help for Hurricane Harvey Victims

As everyone knows, the recent hurricanes caused a lot of destruction in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and other places. Holy 3-in-1 Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Houston didn't suffer any major damage, but they have some members who lost everything. The church set up a fund to help these deaf members. Word of God, Cedar Rapids, voted to send a donation to them. If you want to send an individual donation, make out the check to Holy 3-in-1 Lutheran Church for the Deaf. Write "Hurricane Harvey Fund" on the memo line. Send the check to:

Holy 3-in-1 Lutheran Church for the Deaf
c/o Saint Mark Lutheran Church
1515 Hillendahl Blvd.
Houston, TX 77055-3411

There is another opportunity to help deaf families in the Houston area. Hands of Zion is an LCMS ministry in Tomball, Texas. They want to help deaf families in need at Christmas time. They want to match people or congregations who want to give clothing and gifts to these families. Hands of Zion will tell you what is needed. You buy the items, send them to Hands of Zion, and they will deliver them for Christmas. Or you can send a check and they will buy the items. If you are interested, contact Chris Hamilton at 832-537-9211 or Christina.hamilton_asl@yahoo.com.

Prayers

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ Thank God for sending Jesus as our Savior. Christmas means the Son of God became human so He could die to save us. Thank God for that gift and ask Him to help us truly live as His thankful people.
- ✦ Mollie Schmitz, Lorri Green, Shirley Green, Mikalah Anderson, Pat Monroe's father, Jackie Spencer, Barbara Zimmerman, Janet Weber, Mae and Jerry Hanson, Joan Mass, Arlene Ritze, Gerald Mitchell, Wanda McAllister, Sharon Pope, Jeanette Kern, Bonnie Lou Huffman, Janet Weber, Vicki Hoover's daughter Cleta, Terry Ann Check, and Paula Slavin with their physical difficulties.
- ✦ Pray for all the people who have suffered loss in recent disasters – the hurricanes, wildfires, and shooting in Las Vegas. The Bible says these things will happen as a warning for people (Luke 13:1-5). Life is full of trouble because of sin. We pray that God will comfort people who are suffering, but we especially pray that they will see the trouble in this world and trust in God for His gift of salvation.
- ✦ Pray for all deaf missions around the world so more Deaf people will know and believe in Jesus.
- ✦ Continue to pray for Andy Petajan as he studies to become a pastor.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.



Answers to Dive Into God's Word, p. 2.

1. The psalm writer (David) said he is praising God. We can read or say this psalm and join in praising God. Every believer should praise and thank God.
2. The psalm says we bless God every day and we praise Him forever.
3. Each generation tells the next generation. We tell our children, they tell their children, and so on. We continue to hand God's word and great works to people after us.
4. God's most amazing work is Jesus dying and rising alive to forgive our sins, give us new life and a right relationship with Him.
5. Praising the Lord can mean telling other people about God's goodness and works. When we tell people how good God is, that is also praising Him.
6. God gives us His grace (good gifts). He shows mercy (doesn't punish us for sin). He is patient and doesn't become angry quickly. He is full of love. He is good to all people and shows mercy for all people.
7. He loves and shows mercy for all people, not just believers.
8. All of God's works, all of creation thanks God. All His holy people bless His name.
9. These verses thank and praise God for His kingdom.
10. When we were baptized, God adopted us as His children and brought us into His kingdom.
11. Verse 14 says God supports them and lifts them up. When we are tired, weak, and hurting, God is our protection and strength. (He's our protection and strength when we are not hurting, too.)
12. We don't look to Hy-Vee or Wal-Mart. All living things look to God for food and everything we need in life.
13. The Lord is near to people who call on Him and fear Him. That means people who trust Him, He is near them to save them.
14. We praise and bless His name forever!

November

- 1 Agnes Mundhank
- 4 David Legg
- 5 Kathy Anderson
- 6 Tracey Shepard
- 8 Lilly Anderson
- 12 Wanda McAllister
- 14 Chris Wrage
- 15 Doris Ciha
- 16 Gary Lewis
- 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
- 30 Terry Ann Check

November 2017

			1 7:00 WL – Worship	2	3	4 10:00 QC – Worship
5 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	6	7	8 10:00 CR – Senior Citizens	9	10	11 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Bible Study
12 * See below for worship and Bible study times. CR Potluck	13	14	15 7:00 WL – Study	16	17 1:00 MU-Worship	18 10:00 QC – Worship
19 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25 10:00 QC – Worship
26 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	27	28	29	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 10:00 a.m., Worship at 11:00 a.m.
 QC – Quad Cities. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1122 W. Central Park Ave., Davenport. Every Saturday, Worship at 10:00 a.m.
 WL – Waterloo/Cedar Falls. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4820 Oster Parkway, Cedar Falls. 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
 DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. 2nd Saturday at 1:00 p.m.
 MC – Mason City. On hold for now. Watch for news later about meetings.
 MU – Muscatine. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2611 Lucas St., Muscatine. Talk to Pastor Eckert to confirm meeting location.

December 2017

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

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The Birth of Jesus

From www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch

When we think of the Christmas story, most people think of Luke 2. That is the longer story with the manger, shepherds, and angels. Matthew 1:18-25 is another shorter story of Jesus' birth. Matthew tells us more about Joseph. Joseph was sad because he found out Mary was pregnant. He thought she was pregnant from another man, so he decided to divorce her. Then an angel came to Joseph and told him about Jesus. Find the underlined words from Matthew 1:20-23.

A S A S D E S E V V H E A V L
B W O I S T E E E S T P T I H
O A D E D E F H T Y I S I R P
A S M U M I O S R M A R R G M
T S R A W T V Y M F P A I I V
F S L L E G N A R O P V P N Y
D A R O D T N A D N E C S E D
S M M J R U I H N B A P Y K G
A N I M E D E V I G R W L O C
E R L L A M A R H O E Y O P H
A E I B M R T D P G D R H S D
I E M F G H Y H E P L O P P L
G M V A M N E A S P E I C G E
A Y N A A T N L O E E L E J A
R J G E S U S E J O B D I I G

Joseph had this in mind when an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said to him, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She is pregnant by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus [He Saves], because he will save his people from their sins." All this happened so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true: "The virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel," which means "God is with us."



Is that a good thing or a bad thing?

For Christians, that is a very good thing!