

Sign Post

**January –
February, 2025**

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

Word of God Lutheran
Church for the Deaf
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Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

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I saw a new heaven and a new earth, because the first heaven and earth had disappeared, and the sea was gone. Revelation 21:1

Last year, these articles looked at the six days of creation and what they mean for us. This year, we are going to see that God makes us new and gives us new life and what that means for how we live here.

The first thing we need to see is that God is making and will make everything new! God made this world perfect, but it didn’t stay that way. Adam and Eve disobeyed God. They didn’t trust His word. They listened to the devil’s words and ate the fruit that God said not to eat.

When they sinned, everything fell apart. Before sin, there was no death. But after sin, we die. And not only us, but every living thing dies – plants, animals, everything. Because of Adam’s sin! Because of his sin, we suffer from sickness, tornadoes, hurricanes, fires, shootings, etc.

What should God do with this rotten creation? He made it good. He made it perfect! But sin ruined it. We can’t do anything to fix it. We can’t stop sinning. We can’t stop death or all the other problems that happen because of sin. Only God can do something about it. But what will He do?

Suppose you make something and it gets ruined. What choices do you have? You can shrug your shoulders and accept it. If you make a cake and decorate it, but the decorating looks awful, you can still eat the cake. God won’t do that. That would mean God would let sin and death continue to reign here and we would all be lost. God loves us too much to do that.

Sometimes you can try to fix things that break. If you make some clay art and a part breaks off, maybe you can use superglue and put it back together and no one will notice. But how can God patch up a sinful world? There is no easy fix. The world is too messed up. Our sin is too deep and we are spiritually dead and separated from God. We need more than a Band-Aid fix.

There is another solution. It is much more serious. It means destroying the first creation and starting over. This fall, there was a part of my yard that weeds were taking over. Weed killer didn’t hurt these weeds at all.

Continued on p. 2

Day 6 – God Is Making Everything New (continued from p. 1)

My solution – spray everything with Roundup, kill it all and start over. I planted all new grass seed, fertilized and watered it. Now I have nice grass and no weeds (for now).

2 Peter 3 teaches us that God will destroy everything with fire. The end of Revelation 20 tells us about God judging and punishing all people who live in sin and everyone who opposes God. But Revelation 21 shows us the wonderful promise of God making everything new. He will make a new heavens and a new earth, a place where His people will live with Him in a new way without sin.

That is what we can look forward to. You see, when God destroys this world, He won't destroy us with it. He saves us from that destruction. He saves us from this old fallen sinful world and He brings us into His new world, His new creation. You belong there because Jesus is there. You belong to Jesus, so where He lives, you will live (see John 14:2-3).

As you begin this new year of 2025, think about the new life that God has waiting for you. That perfect life and peace and joy is much greater than any new year on earth. Use this new year to learn and memorize His promises, so you are always trusting Jesus and looking forward to that new world to come.

Pastor Eckert

Prayers

Please remember these in your prayers:

- ✦ Thank God that He will make everything new. No more sin, sickness, death, fighting, wars, and all terrible things. Thank Him that He promises you will live in that perfect world with Jesus.
- ✦ While we are still in this world, we pray for people who suffer from weather, wars, shootings, etc. Ask God to protect people and save them from evil.
- ✦ Pray for Christians who suffer persecution. Ask God to strengthen them and continue to trust in His grace. Ask God to keep them faithful to Him.
- ✦ Pray for our leaders, that they will do good for our country and follow God's ways.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with health: Susan Green, Barbara Zimmerman, Norma Jean Mangrich, Kent Kischer, Lisa Oelberg, Janet Weber, James Weber, Curtis Bethurum, Kathy Anderson, JoAnn Mitchell, Arlene Ritze, Ricky Moore, Paula Slavin, Nancy Griffin, and many family members and friends.
- ✦ Pray for the family of Gerald Mitchell. Gerald passed away in November. Thank God for His promise of resurrection and eternal life.
- ✦ Pray for safe travel for Pastor Eckert as he goes to Kenya to work with the Lutheran church there and help them with deaf ministry.
- ✦ Pray for men studying to become pastors and women studying to become deaconesses for the deaf.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.

Dive Into God's Word

The Eighth Day

God made the world in 6 days (Sunday to Friday). He rested on the 7th day (Saturday). Genesis chapter 1 teaches that. What about the 8th day? Is there anything special about that day? Can we see any connection between the 8th day and God making everything new?

The Bible doesn't specifically tell us that the 8th day means God is making everything new. But we can see some interesting comparisons. Let's see what the Bible says about a few things that happened on an 8th day.

Circumcision

1. Read Genesis 17:10-14. God said all baby boys born in Abraham's family must be circumcised on what day?

Sacrifice and Worship

2. Read Exodus 22:29-30. God gave many specific commands for worship and sacrifice. What did God tell the Israelites to do with an ox or sheep on the 8th day after it was born?
3. Read Leviticus 9:1-7. In chapter 8, Moses prepared Aaron to become the high priest for God's people. What did Aaron do in Leviticus 9:1-7?
4. On what day did Aaron do those things (verse 1)?
5. Read Leviticus 23:33-36. The Feast of Booths (also named the Feast of Tabernacles) was a time the Jews remembered how they traveled in the wilderness for 40 years and God was with them the whole time. God told them to have a holy assembly (meeting) on two days. Which days?

Creation and New Creation

6. Read Genesis 1:31-2:3. What was the last day God worked and made everything? Which day of the week is that (Sunday, Monday, etc.)?
7. On which day did God rest?
8. Read John 19:30 and Luke 23:50-24:7. On which day did Jesus finish His work? On which day did Jesus rest? On which day of the week did Jesus rise alive?

There are more "8" verses than these. All of these Bible readings show several things.

- The 8th day was a time for new life in God's family (circumcision).
- The 8th day was a day for becoming clean, holy, able to serve God and worship Him (sacrifice and worship).
- The 8th day was Sunday, the day Jesus rose alive from the dead and promises we will also rise alive. Jesus' rising from the dead is the beginning of God making us and all things new!

Answers to Dive Into God's Word, p. 3.

Circumcision

1. The eighth day. God commanded this again in Leviticus 12:3, that all the Israelite boys should be circumcised on the eighth day after they are born.

Sacrifice and Worship

2. God said that the firstborn animals belonged to Him, so they must sacrifice those animals to Him. For example, if you have a sheep, the first lamb that is born is sacrificed to God. All the lambs born after that belong to you. But God said you must sacrifice that animal at the right time, on the eighth day. Not before that and not later.
3. In Leviticus 9:1-7, we see that Aaron began to do his work of sacrificing for the people of Israel.
4. In Leviticus 8, Aaron and his sons had to wait for God to make them holy. That time was done on day 7. On day 8, Aaron was holy and ready to begin His new work.
5. God told the people to have a holy assembly on day 1 and day 8.

Creation and New Creation

6. The last day God made anything was the sixth day. On that day, He made all the land animals and He made people (Adam and Eve). That sixth day was sixth day of the week, Friday.
7. God rested on the seventh day, Saturday.
8. Jesus finished His work on Good Friday. Notice that is the same day of the week that God finished His work of creation. Jesus rested in the tomb on the Sabbath, which is Saturday. That is the same day God rested from His work of creation. Jesus rose alive on Sunday morning. Sunday is the same day that God began creating everything.

This reminds us that Jesus is the one who makes us new. When He rose alive from the dead, He was the first one to defeat death. So His death and resurrection tell us that this sinful world will end and He will give us new life with Him and He will make all things new. We will learn more about that in the other newsletters later this year!

January

- 3 Dalton Anderson
- 14 Janelle Legg
Susan Sacco
- 15 Diane Yotter
- 30 Rosie Glime



February

- 3 Neita Dommer
- 5 Evelyn Powell
- 8 Brady Olsen
- 12 Curtis Bethurum
- 14 Roselyn Schultz
- 19 Lorne Schultz
Sarah Eckert
- 29 Melody Eiben

January 2025

			1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4 10:00 QC – Worship
5 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	6	7	8 7:00 WL – Worship	9 6:00 Bible study at Cedar Rapids downtown library	10	11 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Bible Study
12 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	13	14	15 7:00 WL – Study	16	17	18 10:00 QC – Worship
19 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	20	21	22	23	24	25 No QC worship service today
26 No worship service today	27	28	29	30	31	

BR – Burlington. Concordia Lutheran Church, 2901 Cliff Rd., Burlington. 3rd Sunday worship at 3:00 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. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1705 E. Locust St., Davenport. Every Saturday, Worship at 10:00 a.m.
 WL – Waterloo/Cedar Falls. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4820 Oster Parkway, Cedar Falls. 2nd Wednesday worship at 7:00 p.m., 3rd Wednesday study at 7:00 p.m.
 DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. 2nd Saturday Study at 1:00 p.m.

February 2025

						1 10:00 QC – Worship
2 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	3	4	5 7:00 WL – Worship	6	7	8 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Bible Study
9 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	10	11	12	13 6:00 CR – Bible Study (library)	14	15 10:00 QC – Worship
16 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	17	18	19 7:00 WL – Study	20	21	22 10:00 QC – Worship
23 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	24	25	26	27	28	

BR – Burlington. Concordia Lutheran Church, 2901 Cliff Rd., Burlington. 4th Sunday worship at 3:00 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. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1705 E. Locust St., Davenport. Every Saturday, Worship at 10:00 a.m.
 WL – Waterloo/Cedar Falls. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4820 Oster Parkway, Cedar Falls. 1st Wednesday worship at 7:00 p.m., 3rd Wednesday study at 7:00 p.m.
 DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. 2nd Saturday Study at 1:00 p.m..

God's True Love

Created on <https://armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch/>

February 14, Valentine's Day, is coming up. Everyone will be talking about love, but much of what the world calls "love" isn't really love. Christians know that to see true love, we look at God and how He loves. The famous "love" chapter in the Bible is 1 Corinthians 13. Some other great chapters to read about how God loves us are 1 John 3-4. The words for the puzzle are from 1 Corinthians 13:4-13. Find the underlined words.

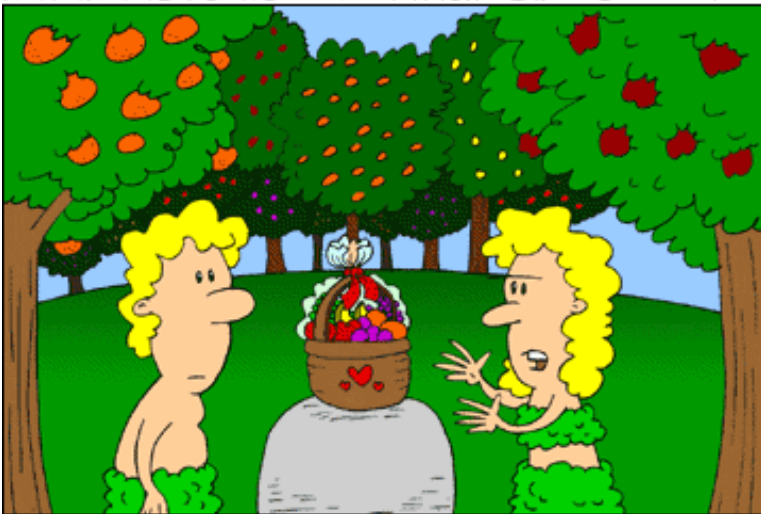
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C S E N E N N I I E A R I E E
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P R E L T A G A A T E K S N D

Love is patient. Love is kind. Love isn't jealous. It doesn't sing its own praises. It isn't arrogant. It isn't rude. It doesn't think about itself. It isn't irritable. It doesn't keep track of wrongs. It isn't happy when injustice is done, but it is happy with the truth. Love never stops being patient, never stops believing, never stops hoping, never gives up.

Love never comes to an end. There is the gift of speaking what God has revealed, but it will no longer be used. There is the gift of speaking in other languages, but it will stop by itself. There is the gift of knowledge, but it will no longer be used. Our knowledge is incomplete and our ability to speak what God has revealed is incomplete. But when what is complete comes, then what is incomplete will no longer be used. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, thought like a child, and reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I no longer used childish ways. Now we see a blurred image in a mirror. Then we will see very clearly. Now my knowledge is incomplete. Then I will have complete knowledge as God has complete knowledge of me.

So these three things remain: faith, hope, and love. But the best one of these is love.

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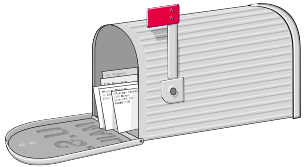
Thanks to Benoit Paquette

02-14-2002

REALLY ADAM ... A VALENTINE'S DAY
FRUIT BASKET ... IN THE GARDEN OF
EDEN!?!?

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Postal Carrier: Have a great day!

