

Sign Post

**March – April,
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
1515 29th St. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

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I passed on to you what I received, which is of the greatest importance: that Christ died for our sins, as written in the Scriptures; that he was buried and that he was raised to life three days later, as written in the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Spring is coming! After the bitter cold a couple weeks ago, many people are happy for the warmer temperatures now and are looking forward to spring. With spring, the days get longer, the ground warms, the grass begins growing, the trees bud, and the early flowers begin blooming. After a cold and dark winter, we see new life springing up again.

The new life we see in spring is good, but the new life that God gives us is even better. Every year in March and April, we get to remember that new life when we remember Jesus dying on the cross and rising alive again.

In our calendar, Good Friday and Easter are only two days. Some people treat them as only two normal days. For Christians, these are the most important days of the year. Paul tells us that in 1 Cor. 15:3, “I passed on to you what I received, which is of the greatest importance.” What was so important? That Christ died for our sins, that He was buried and raised to life three days later.

That changed all of history. That changed you and me. Because Jesus died, God forgives your sins. God punished Jesus for your sins. That means God won’t punish you. You are free! Because Jesus rose alive, God promises you will rise alive. That is the great promise in 1 Corinthians 15.

Some people don’t believe we will rise alive. Some of us have been talking recently about death and funerals and burials. More and more people today are getting cremated after they die. Some people do that because of cost. Funerals are very expensive and cremation is a cheaper option. Some people get cremated because they don’t believe God will raise them. They think they die, they go back to the earth, and that is all.

Paul answered that. He wrote (1 Cor. 15:12-14), “Now, since our message is that Christ has been raised from death, how can some of you say that the dead will not be raised to life? If that is true, it means that Christ was not raised; and if Christ has not been raised from death, then we have nothing to preach and you have nothing to believe.”

Continued on p. 2

Jesus Gives Us New Life (continued from p. 1)

Paul went on to explain – if there is no rising alive from death, then Jesus didn't rise alive. And if Jesus didn't rise alive, then you won't rise alive. You are still stuck in sin. Your faith is worthless. You have no hope in this world.

Thank God that Jesus died and rose alive! He is your promise that you will rise alive on the last day. Jesus is your promise of new life. Because of Jesus, we don't need to fear death. Here is what Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 15:51-52, 54.

Listen to this secret truth: we shall not all die, but when the last trumpet sounds, we shall all be changed in an instant, as quickly as the blinking of an eye. For when the trumpet sounds, the dead will be raised, never to die again, and we shall all be changed. So when this takes place, and the mortal has been changed into the immortal, then the scripture will come true: "Death is destroyed; victory is complete!"

All of that is true because of Good Friday and Easter. This year, when you go to church on Good Friday and think about Jesus' suffering and death, and you go to church on Easter and celebrate His resurrection, remember that this is how God makes everything new. This is how He defeated death and gives you new life. Now we can look forward to Jesus coming again and all His people rising alive to live with Him forever. That will be a spring of new life worth celebrating forever!

Pastor Eckert

Prayers

Please remember these in your prayers:

- ✦ Important more than everything, thank God for Jesus, His death and resurrection for us. Thank God that because of Jesus, He forgives us and gives us the promise of new life with Him.
- ✦ Lent is a time to repent. We think about our sin and how we need a Savior, Jesus. We confess our sin, ask God to forgive us, turn away from our sin and live in His forgiveness. Repentance is not popular in this world. People don't like to admit they are wrong. Ask God to lead us and all people to confess our sin and trust Jesus for forgiveness.
- ✦ Pray for Christians who suffer persecution. There are many Christians in other countries who suffer much and we never hear about them. Ask God to protect them, but especially to make them strong in faith and not be afraid of their enemies.
- ✦ 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, Delbert Neely, Curtis Bethurum, Kathy Anderson, JoAnn Mitchell, Dawn Bailey, Ricky Moore, Paula Slavin, Nancy Griffin, and many family members and friends.
- ✦ Pray for the family of Arlene Ritze. Arlene passed away in January. Thank God for His promise of resurrection and eternal life.
- ✦ Thank God that Pastor Eckert was able to go to Kenya to work with the Lutheran church there. Pray for them as they work with the deaf there.
- ✦ 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

Good Friday: The Lamb of God Dies for Our Sins

On Good Friday, the great exchange happened. Jesus was perfect, but He suffered death and hell. We are sinners, but we go free, not punished. Good Friday and Easter are when God's Plan of Salvation became His work in action.

Jesus in Front of Pontius Pilate

1. Read Matthew 27:11-14 (1251). Pontius Pilate asked Jesus a simple question: "Are you the king of the Jews?" What did Jesus answer?
2. The Jewish leaders told Pilate many lies about Jesus, but Jesus answered nothing. Why would Jesus answer Pilate's question, but He says nothing to correct the Jews? Read Isaiah 53:7 (928).
3. Read Matthew 27:15-26 (1251). Pilate gave the people a choice: free Barabbas, or free Jesus. What did the Jews say to do with Barabbas? With Jesus?
4. Jesus is the Son of God the Father. The name "Barabbas" means "Son of the father." Which son deserved to die? Which son deserved to go free? How does that show God's plan of salvation, the great exchange?
5. Did the crowd of people have a good reason to crucify Jesus? Why did they shout so much to crucify Jesus?
6. Pilate said Jesus' death was the responsibility of the crowd there. The people answered, "Let Jesus' blood be on us and on our children!" Read 1 Peter 1:18-19 (1525) and 1 John 1:7 (1534). What does Jesus' blood mean for us?

Jesus Is Crucified

7. Read Matthew 27:27-31 (1252). Think about everything the Jewish leaders, Pilate, the crowd, and the soldiers did to Jesus. Did Jesus still love them, or not? What does that say about God's love for us?
8. Read Matthew 27:32-44. When the Romans crucified someone, they often put a small sign on the cross that says why that person is getting crucified. How does the sign on Jesus' cross show the Great Exchange?
9. The Jewish leaders mocked Jesus. They said Jesus saved others, but could not save Himself. Is that true? Could Jesus come down if He wanted? (Read Matthew 26:53 if you want help.)

Jesus Death and Burial

10. Read Matthew 27:45-46 (1252). While Jesus traveled and preached, He said one time, "No one takes away My life. I Myself give up My life." How did Jesus die? Did Jesus give up His life, or did people take-away Jesus' life?
11. Read Matthew 27:50-56. In the temple, there was a large curtain between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place (Exodus 26:31-33). Only the High Priest could go around that curtain to the mercy seat of God, and only once a year. When Jesus died, what happened to that curtain? What does that mean for us? Read Hebrews 4:14-16 (1508).

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

Jesus in Front of Pontius Pilate

1. Jesus said, "You have said so." That means yes, what you say is true.
2. Isaiah 53:7 said that Jesus would be quiet and not answer. Jesus answered questions about who He was. But when the Jews accused Him and said He deserved to die, Jesus said nothing. He accepted that because it was God's plan for Him to die.
3. The Jews wanted to free Barabbas. They shouted to crucify Jesus.
4. Barabbas was a criminal. He was a sinner. He deserved to die. Jesus deserved to go free. But God planned for Barabbas to go free and for Jesus to die. This was the great exchange. Barabbas got Jesus' freedom, and Jesus got Barabbas' sins. The same, Jesus took our sins and He gives us forgiveness and freedom.
5. The people didn't have any good reason to crucify Jesus. They shouted to free Barabbas and crucify Jesus because the chief priests and elders told them to shout that.
6. Jesus' blood saves us. His blood washes away all our sin. When the people shouted, "Let Jesus' blood be on us and on our children," that meant they accept responsibility for killing Jesus. But God's plan is for Jesus' blood to save us, not judge us.

Jesus Is Crucified

7. The Jewish leaders, Pilate, the crowd and the soldiers did terrible things to hate Jesus and make Him suffer. But Jesus still loved them. That is amazing. When we sin, we sin against God Himself. We offend Him. But He still loves us.
8. The sign on Jesus' cross said, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." Jesus truly was the King of the Jews, but He didn't sit on a throne to reign over Israel. He humbled Himself to take our sin and die on the cross so we can live and reign with Him.
9. In Matthew 26:53, Jesus said He could call 12 legions of angels (72,000 angels) to come and save Him. There were other times earlier in Jesus' ministry that people wanted to kill Jesus. He just walked away and they couldn't hurt Him. If Jesus didn't want to die on the cross, He could have stopped them from arresting Him, or He could have stopped the trial and walked away. Or He could have come down on the cross. But He didn't do that.

Jesus Death and Burial

10. Jesus gave up His life. No one forced Jesus to die. As we saw in #9, Jesus could have stopped His crucifixion, but He didn't. Jesus knew that the Father planned for Jesus to die to save us. So Jesus was in control the whole time and He gave up His life for us.
11. When Jesus died, that curtain tore in two, from top to bottom. It tore in two, meaning the way was open now for us to go to God. Jesus is the High Priest and He opened that way. We come to God through Jesus. It tore from top to bottom showing God is the one who tore it. People didn't tear it. God did that to show what Jesus' death means for us. He forgives our sins, so now we can come to God as His people.

March

- 3 Zakary Anderson
- 21 Theresa Legg
Mikalah Anderson
- 23 Susan Eckert
Vicki Hoover
- 24 Conor Huffman
- 26 Jeanette Kern
- 31 Seth Anderson



April

- 2 JoAnn Mitchell
- 4 Kim Brenneman
- 10 Joseph Anderson
- 12 David Kern
- 16 Norma Jean Mangrich
- 28 Rachel Eckert

March 2025

2 * See below for worship and Bible study times.			5 Ash Wednesday 12:00 CR – Worship 7:00 WL – Worship			1/8 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Bible Study
9 * See below for worship and Bible study times.			12 6:00 CR – Bible Study (library)			15 10:00 QC – Worship
16 * See below for worship and Bible study times.			19 7:00 WL – Study			22 10:00 QC – Worship
23 * See below for worship and Bible study times.						29 10:00 QC – Worship
30 * See below for worship and Bible study times.						

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.

April 2025

		1	2 7:00 WL – Study	3	4	5 10:00 QC – Worship
6 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	7	8	9 6:00 CR – Bible Study (library)	10	11	12 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Bible Study
13 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	14	15	16 7:00 WL – Worship	17 Holy Thursday 3:00 CR – Worship	18 Good Friday 10:30 QC–Worship 3:00 CR – Worship	19 10:00 QC – Worship
20 * See below for worship and Bible study times. Happy Easter! Christ is risen!	21	22	23	24	25	26 10:00 QC – Worship
27 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	28	29	30			

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Easter Morning

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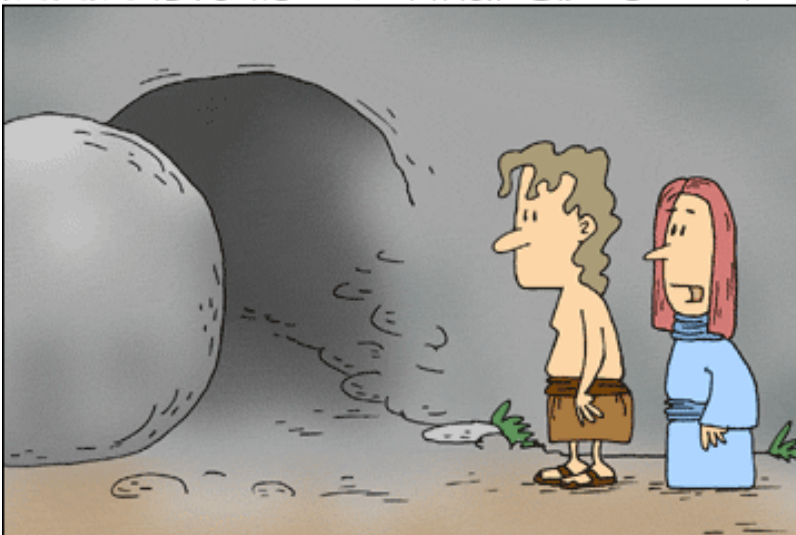
Easter isn't about bunnies and chocolate eggs. It's about Jesus rising from the dead. He defeated death and the grave to promise that we will rise alive and live with Him forever. The words for the puzzle are from Luke 24:1-10. Find the underlined words.

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

Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb. They were carrying the spices that they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb. When they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzled about this, two men in clothes that were as bright as lightning suddenly stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed to the ground.

The men asked the women, "Why are you looking among the dead for the living one? He's not here. He has been brought back to life! Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee. He said, 'The Son of Man must be handed over to sinful people, be crucified, and come back to life on the third day.'" Then the women remembered what Jesus had told them.

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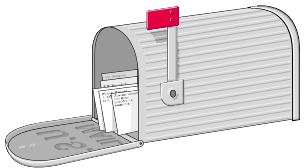
Thanks to Pam Winn (See John 20:1-18) 04-12-2004

NOTHING IS CERTAIN EXCEPT WHAT AND TAXES?!?

The women left the tomb and went back to the city. They told everything to the eleven apostles and all the others. The women were Mary from Magdala, Joanna, and Mary (the mother of James). There were also other women with them. They told the apostles everything.

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Postal Carrier: Have a great day!

