

Sign Post

**May – June,
2024**

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

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Church for the Deaf
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And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it happened. God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let the land produce plants: plants that grow seeds and trees on the land that grow fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it happened. The land produced plants: plants growing seed according to their kinds and trees growing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the third day. Genesis 1:9-13

We continue our journey through the six days of creation. In January, we looked at how God created light, then in March we saw God separating the waters above and the waters below. We saw that God is a God of order. Everything has a place and a purpose, because God put it there. Also, the sky above announces how good and great God is.

Now we move on to the third day of creation. God did many things on this day! He put all the waters together and He put the dry ground together. He made the oceans, lakes, rivers and streams, and also dry land. God also made all plants.

In ancient history, in Bible times, most people believed in many different gods. They thought each god ruled a specific area. For example, these are some Roman gods and what people thought they ruled. You might recognize some of these names.

Apollo – god of the sun.	Cupid – god of love.
Jupiter – king of the gods and god of the sky.	Mars – god of war.
Saturn – god of harvest and farming.	Neptune – god of the sea.

In 1 Kings 20:23, you can see that people believed in different gods that ruled different places. Israel and Aram were at war and God gave the Israelite army victory over Aram. Aram thought they lost a battle because they fought in the hills and the Israelite God ruled the hills. The people of Aram thought God could not rule on the plains, so if Aram could fight Israel on the plains, then Aram’s gods will give them victory. Not true! The God of Israel rules all of the earth. He gave the army of Israel victory over Aram in the hills and also on the plains.

You can also see this in Jonah 1:9-10. When Jonah ran away from God, Jonah told the people on the ship that he worshiped “the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land.” In other words, God made everything in the universe and there was no way Jonah could run from Him!

Continued on p. 2

Day 2 – Sea, Land and Plants (continued from p. 1)

There are still some people today who believe that there are different spirits or different gods in the forests, oceans, mountains, etc. When my family went to Hawaii several years ago, we went to see the Kilauea volcano and we saw people worshiping the goddess of the volcano (not a real goddess, of course). But most people in the U.S. don't believe there are different gods.

Sometimes, though, people think that God is not God over everything. They think God's power is limited. Many people think that God is not powerful enough to create the world. They think God can't take care of my health. He can't help me find a job. They think God is weak and people who trust in Him and depend on Him are weak.

Instead of trusting in God, people trust in science. Science can solve all of our problems. They trust their doctor. If anyone can help them get better, the doctor can help them. Praying to God won't do anything. If they want money, they trust the lottery. If they win, that money will take care of them. So you see, people do have different gods in different parts of their lives. They may not name them "gods," but they trust those other people or things instead of trusting God.

This third day of creation can remind us that our God, the God of the Bible, the God who died and rose alive again to give us life, He is the true God. There is no other God. He reigns over everything. And even though He is great and all-powerful, He still cares about you. Because He loves you and saves you through Jesus, you can trust Him in every part of your life.

Pastor Eckert

Prayers

Please remember these in your prayers:

- ✦ Thank God for His creation. When we see the mountains, forests, oceans and rivers, those can remind us of Him and that He is Lord over all things. Thank Him that we can go to Him in prayer and that He loves us and takes care of all our needs.
- ✦ Thank God that He sent the Holy Spirit for the church at Pentecost, and thank Him that He gave us the Holy Spirit when we were baptized. The Holy Spirit continues to work in us through God's Word. Ask Him to help us regularly read and study His Word and to see Jesus our Savior.
- ✦ As we approach the elections in November, ask God to give us good and wise leaders who will work agreeing with God's ways.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with health: Doris Harris, Shirley Green, Susan Green, Barbara Zimmerman, Norma Jean Mangrich, Kent Kischer, Lisa Oelberg, Janet Weber, James Weber, Curtis Bethurum, Kathy Anderson, Gerald Mitchell, Joanne Mitchell, Arlene Ritze, Ricky Moore, Paula Slavin, Nancy Griffin, Jeanette Kern, and many family members and friends.
- ✦ Pray for people who are studying to serve God and His church: Vince Mroz, Dan Wallis, new student John Szupica, and Pastor Luvisha in Kenya (as pastors), Nola Gray, and Peggy Gott (as deaconesses).
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.

Dive Into God's Word

Pentecost is a Jewish holiday that celebrated the first part of the Spring harvest. God told the Jews to count 50 days after Passover (Deuteronomy 16:9-10). They offered the first fruits of their harvest in thanks to God (Numbers 28:26-31). This was called the Feast of Weeks, or Harvest Feast, or Feast of First-Fruits. Later, Jews named this festival “Pentecost.” Pentecost was special because it thanked God for bringing in the first part of the harvest.

We also celebrate Pentecost. Our reason is like the Jews’ reason, but a little different. The Jews harvested some grain and thanked God for that. The early Christians saw God “harvest” some people for Jesus and they thanked God for that. God sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost so people can believe in Jesus and have life in Him. These questions are all about the Holy Spirit coming to the church. Read the following verses and answer the questions. *Answers are on p. 4.*

Read Acts 2:1-4.

1. The Holy Spirit came down from heaven to the disciples. Three things happened that showed the Holy Spirit was there.
 - A noise like...
 - Little “tongues” (flames) of...
 - The disciples began speaking...

Read Acts 2:5-13.

1. The sound of wind was very loud and many Jews came to see what was happening. Where were all those Jews from?
2. What did the Jews hear the disciples saying?

Read Acts 2:14-36.

1. Who stood up to preach?
2. The sermon was about Jesus. We will focus on verses 23 and 36. What did Peter say the Jews did to Jesus?
3. What does it mean for us that Jesus is both Lord and Christ (verse 36)?

Read Acts 2:37-41.

1. After the sermon, the people felt very guilty and asked Peter what they should do. What did Peter tell them to do?
2. What do verses 38-39 teach us about baptism?
3. How many people got baptized and joined the church that day?

Read Acts 2:42-47.

1. This is a wonderful description of the early church. The people were faithful doing what things?
2. How did the believers take care of each other (verses 44-45)?
3. How did they worship and live together as God’s people (verses 46-47)?
4. Do verse 42-47 describe the church today? Why or why not?

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

Acts 2:1-4.

1. The Holy Spirit came down from heaven to the disciples. Three things happened that showed the Holy Spirit was there.
 - A noise like... a strong wind, or a mighty wind.
 - Little "tongues" (flames) of... fire. The Holy Spirit looked like small fires on all the disciples.
 - The disciples began speaking... in different languages. The disciples never before learned these languages, but the Holy Spirit made them able to speak these languages.

Acts 2:5-13.

1. The Jews were from many different countries and cities. The Bible lists the places they were from: Parthia, Media, Elam, Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya, Rome, Crete and Arabia.
2. The Jews heard the disciples talking about God's wonderful works.

Read Acts 2:14-36.

1. Peter stood up to preach.
2. In verse 23, Peter said, "Long ago God planned that Jesus would be handed over to you. With the help of evil people, you put Jesus to death. You nailed Him to the cross." Peter said they were responsible for killing Jesus.
3. "Jesus is Lord" means Jesus is the ruler over everything. Jesus is the true Son of God, so He is Lord and King over all. "Jesus is the Christ" means Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior that God promised to send. Jesus is the one we should trust to save us from sin and give us eternal life.

Read Acts 2:37-41.

1. Peter told them to repent (turn away from their sins) and get baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
2. These verses teach us much about baptism! Peter told the people to repent and get baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. The blessings that come with baptism are the forgiveness for sins and the Holy Spirit. Who is this for? Both the adults and their children, and people far away. God gives those blessings to every person who gets baptized.
3. About 3,000 people got baptized and joined the church that day.

Read Acts 2:42-47.

1. They learned from the apostles' teaching, they shared everything, they ate together and prayed together. They gave to people who were poor. They worshiped together.
2. They sold property and used the money to help poor people. They shared everything together.
3. They met together in the temple every day to worship. They ate together could mean they had the Lord's Supper often. They gladly worshiped and praised God.
4. What do you think? There isn't a right or wrong answer to this question. You can probably see some ways we are the same as the early church and some ways we are different. The way the first Christians loved each other is a good example for us to learn from!

May

- 9 Janet Weber
- 13 Norman Wilson
- Curtis Sparks
- 24 Barbara Saeugling
- 26 Becky Eiben



June

- 8 Matthew Brown
- 8 Linda Jackson
- 12 Beverly Brown
- 13 Tom Eaton, Sr.
- 29 Jonah Legg
- 30 Robert Gruhn

May 2024

			1 7:00 WL – Worship	2	3	4 10:00 QC – Worship
5 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	6	7	8	9	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 10:00 QC – Worship
26 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	27	28	29	30	31	

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.

June 2024

						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	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
23/30 * See below for worship and Bible study times.						

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The Lord is the Great God

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

People believe in many different gods, whether they are gods in other religions or earthly things like money. There is one true God who is greater than all of those false gods. There are many psalms that praise God for who He is as the one true God, the God who made us and saves us. Psalm 95 is a good example of this. The words for the puzzle are from Psalm 95:1-7. Find the underlined words.

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

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

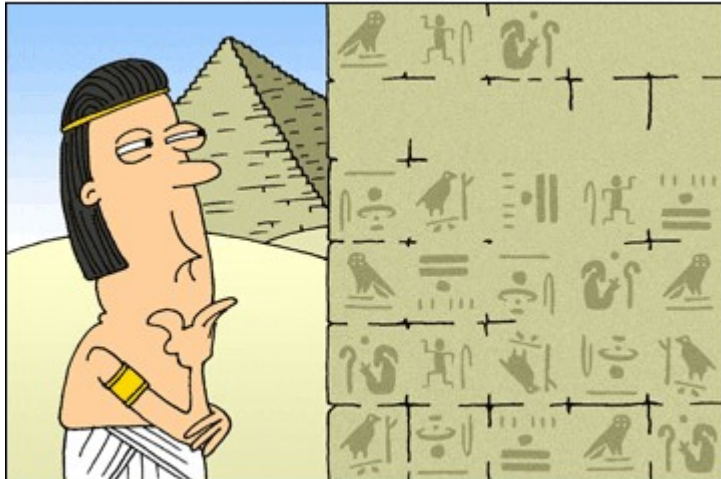
Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

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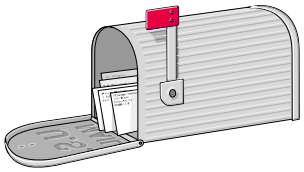
Thanks to Mikel Rice

08-06-2003

ANCIENT WORD SEARCHES

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