

Sign Post

**January –
February 2018**

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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
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The Same Old Thing, or The Same New Thing?

Is it really 2018? We are welcoming in another new year. I remember when I was in elementary school and thinking about the year 2000. It seemed like such a long way off. As I thought about it, it seemed my life would be so different. I would be an adult, have a job instead of going to school, and may be married and have children of my own. Everything would be new and different.

And now here we are in 2018. So much has changed, so many things are different! But at the same time, things haven’t changed much. Ecclesiastes 1:9 says, “What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.” We have a saying, “The more things change, the more they stay the same.”

Every year, people celebrate the new year. Many people put their hope in the new year, that the new year will be better than the old year. But as Ecclesiastes says, the new year really won’t be much different. Some people will still love you, some will still hate you. Your car will probably still have problems when it’s -20 outside. You’ll still enjoy watching your favorite football team, and they still won’t win as many games as you want.

The worst is that we will continue to sin against God, against other people, and against ourselves. That is the same old thing that will bother us and cause pain in our lives, no matter how much we want to change.

But God promises an old thing for us that is also new and wonderful. Lamentations 3:22-23 says, “The LORD’s love never ends; His mercies never stop. They are new every morning; LORD, Your loyalty is great.”

God’s love for you is older than His promise to Adam and Eve that He would send a Savior. His forgiveness for you is as new as the sunrise this morning. The life He gives you is new every day and will be brand new on the day Jesus comes again and we rise alive to be with Him forever. Let that “same new thing” give you hope and encouragement this year!

Pastor Eckert

Dive Into God's Word

For 2018, we are going to study some people in the Bible, how God used them and how they grew in faith. When we think of people in the Bible, we often think about the big important leaders, kings, prophets, etc. We need to remember that God used very ordinary, regular people to do His will. This year, we will learn about some of these regular people.

Feb. 14 is, of course, Valentine's Day, so our first study will include a love story. This is about the woman named Ruth. Her story is in the Old Testament book named Ruth. *Answers are on page 4.*

1. Elimelech and his family were Israelites. They moved from Bethlehem to the country of Moab because there wasn't enough food in Israel. In Moab, Elimelech's two sons married two women from Moab. Who? Ruth 1:1-4.
2. What happened to Elimelech and his two sons? Ruth 1:3-5.
3. Naomi (Elimelech's wife, now a widow) decided to move back to Bethlehem. What did she tell Ruth to do? Ruth 1:8-14
4. It's important to understand that Ruth grew up worshiping idols. She learned from Naomi's family to trust and worship the true God. If Ruth went back home to her family in Moab, that meant going back to idol worship. If she went to Israel with Naomi, that meant leaving her family in Moab. What did Ruth do? What does that show about her faith? Ruth 1:15-17
5. In Israel, how did Ruth show she loved Naomi? Ruth 2:1-7
6. Did anyone notice how Ruth helped Naomi? Ruth 2:5-12
7. The 10 Commandments are a guide that show us how to love God and love other people. In the story about Ruth, which commandments do you clearly see her following?
8. Ruth married Boaz and became the great-grandmother of what famous king? Ruth 4:13-17.
9. Ruth was a very ordinary woman from another country. At first, she didn't even believe in God. How did God give her faith? How did God use her life to serve Him?
10. Think about Ruth's example. How can God work through you to serve Him, the same way He used Ruth?

Burlington Time Change

Worship in Burlington will now be at a new time – 3:00 p.m. We will continue to meet on the 4th Sunday every month. 3:00 p.m. is a trial run for right now, so watch here to see if the time stays the same or changes by a little bit.

Prayers

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ Thank God for all the new beginnings He gives us. Baptism makes us His children, and His forgiveness gives us a new opportunity every day to live as His people.
- ✦ Neita Dommer, Mollie Schmitz, Lorri Green, Shirley Green, Pat Monroe's father, Jackie Spencer, Barbara Zimmerman, Janet Weber, Mae and Jerry Hanson, Joan Mass, Arlene Ritze, Gerald Mitchell, Sharon Pope, Jeanette Kern, Bonnie Lou Huffman, Janet Weber, Vicki Hoover's daughter Cleta, Terry Ann Check, and Paula Slavin with their physical difficulties, plus all the people who are sick with the flu now.
- ✦ Pray for all deaf missions around the world so more Deaf people will know and believe in Jesus. Pray for the church in Kenya as they continue to teach sign language and Bible stories to deaf people and their families, and as they work to grow their small deaf ministry.
- ✦ The church in the U.S. needs a clear understanding of what it means to be a Christian. Many people are confused about what Christianity is or means. Ask God to make the church stronger, more wise, believing the whole truth of God's word, and following His truth. Protect us from thinking we should try to get the world to like us.
- ✦ Continue to pray for Andy Petajan as he studies to become a pastor.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.



January

- 3 Dalton Anderson
- 14 Janelle Legg
Susan Sacco
- 15 Diane Yotter
- 16 Joanne Postel
- 24 Larry Plumb
- 30 Rosie Glime



February

- 3 Neita Dommer
Gerald Mitchell
- 5 Rebecca Daggett
Evelyn Powell
- 8 Brady Olsen
- 12 Curtis Bethurum
- 14 Roselyn Schultz
- 15 Ruth Mettler
- 19 Lorne Schultz
Sarah Eckert
- 29 Melody Eiben

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

1. The sons married Orpah and Ruth. Orpah and Ruth were not Israelites (Jews).
2. Elimelech and his two sons died. Now Naomi (mother), Orpah and Ruth are all widows.
3. Naomi told Orpah and Ruth to go back home to their families and their gods. That meant going back to worshipping idols.
4. Ruth refused to go back to her family. She promised to go with Naomi. She will live with Naomi, name the Israelites her own people, and worship the true God the same as Naomi. That showed that she was giving up the Moabite idols and following the true God.
5. Ruth volunteered to go gather food for them. She worked hard to take care of Naomi and herself.
6. The man in charge of the reapers saw Ruth working hard to take care of Naomi. The man told Boaz about Ruth and what she was doing.
7. 1st – “You shall have no other gods.” Ruth didn’t go home and worship idols again. She moved to another country to worship the true God.
4th – “Honor your father and mother.” Ruth honored her mother-in-law by giving up what she may have wanted and instead serving Naomi.
5th – “You shall not murder.” Of course Ruth didn’t kill anyone. But this commandment also tells us that we should help people with their physical needs (food, clothes, etc.). Ruth did that.
6th – “You shall not do adultery.” Ruth was careful to come to Boaz for marriage without doing adultery.
7th – “You shall not steal.” Ruth wasn’t lazy and didn’t steal. Instead, she worked hard for food and worked hard to take care of Naomi.
You may find ways she obeyed the other commandments, too, but these are the more obvious ones.
8. Ruth was the great-grandmother of King David. She was the mother of Obed. Obed was the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of David. About 1000 years later, Jesus came from David’s family. That means Jesus was descended from Ruth.
9. God used Elimelech and Naomi’s family to witness to Ruth and show her who God is. Through their witness, God gave Ruth faith. Then Ruth served Naomi and helped her. God used Ruth to help her mother-in-law and then also made her an ancestor of Jesus.
10. We can serve the same as Ruth when we pay attention to the people around us (family, friends, others), see what their needs are, and then help them. Bring food to a sick neighbor, help someone rake leaves or shovel snow, spend an afternoon with a lonely person, etc. God works through you in those ways to show His love and life to other people.

January 2018

	1 Happy New Year!	2	3 7:00 WL – Worship	4	5	6 10:00 QC – Worship
7 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	8	9	10 10:00 CR – Senior Citizens	11	12	13
14 * See below for worship and Bible study times. CR Potluck	15	16	17 7:00 WL – Study	18	19 1:00 MU-Worship	20 10:00 QC – Worship
21 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	22	23	24	25	26	27 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Bible Study
28 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	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. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1122 W. Central Park Ave., Davenport. Every Saturday (but not the 13th), 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. 4th 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.

February 2018

				1	2	3 10:00 QC – Worship
4 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	5	6	7 7:00 WL – Worship	8	9	10 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Bible Study
11 * See below for worship and Bible study times. CR Potluck	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday 10:00 CR – Senior Citizens	15	16 1:00 MU – Worship/Study	17 10:00 QC – Worship
18 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	19	20	21 7:00 WL – Study	22	23	24 10:00 QC – Worship
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Confession and Forgiveness

From www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch

Christmas and New Year's just happened, so it's hard to believe that Lent is almost here. Lent starts on Feb. 14 this year. Lent is a time to remember our sin and how much we need a Savior, and to remember everything Jesus did to save us. Psalm 51 is a Psalm used on Ash Wednesday or any time we think about our sin and God's rich mercy. Find the underlined words from Psalm 51:1-5, 10-12.

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

Have pity on me, O God, in keeping with your mercy. In keeping with your unlimited compassion, wipe out my rebellious acts. Wash me thoroughly from my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin. I admit that I am rebellious. My sin is always in front of me. I have sinned against you, especially you. I have done what you consider evil. So you hand down justice when you speak, and you are blameless when you judge. Indeed, I was born guilty. I was a sinner when my mother conceived me. Create a clean heart in me, O God, and renew a faithful spirit within me. Do not force me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore the joy of your salvation to me, and provide me with a spirit of willing obedience.

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Thanks to Doug Ross (See Exodus 7-12) 02-14-2003

AND ONCE AGAIN, THE PHARAOH'S CANDY HEARTS WERE HARDENED

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Postal Carrier: Have a great day!

