

Sign Post

**January –
February 2019**

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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
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If a widow has children or grandchildren, they should first learn to respect their own family and repay their parents, because this pleases God. 1 Timothy 5:4

Suppose you went out to eat with a friend and they paid for your meal. What would you do? You say thank you. Maybe the next time you go out, you might buy a meal for them.

What if someone gave you thousands of meals, cleaned up after you, washed your clothes, kissed and bandaged your cuts and scrapes, worked to earn money to give you a place to live and take care of you, taught you, and loved you as only a parent could do? Just saying “thank you” isn’t enough. What would you do to thank them? Sadly, many people do nothing to thank them.

I didn’t count specifically, but this past month I think I heard from or saw about ten different older adults who had needs, but their adult children ignored their needs or even took advantage of them. How can that happen? God’s Word teaches that children have a responsibility to take care of their parents. The parents spent years taking care of the children. Now the children should take care of their parents. The Bible even says that if anyone doesn’t take care of his relatives, especially the close members of his family, then he has denied his faith and is worse than an unbeliever (1 Tim. 5:8).

As a church, we need to teach the 4th Commandment – Honor your father and mother. Our society doesn’t show respect the same as people did in the past. It is our job to teach and remind people that God wants us to respect our parents and other authorities. One way we show that respect and honor is to care for our parents when they need help.

As individuals, we should remember that God calls us to love each other. Love is not selfish. Love does what is best for the other person. God loves us and does what is good for us – He sent Jesus to die and rise for us to give us life. The same, we love our parents and do what is best for them, not what is best for us. Let us show love for our parents (and others) in what we do for them. In that way, people will also see God’s love working through us.

Pastor Eckert

Dive Into God's Word

Have you heard of the 12 Days of Christmas? Do you know where that comes from? In church, the Christmas season is 12 days long, from Dec. 25 to Jan. 5. For those 12 days, we celebrate Jesus' birth, the fact that God's Son became fully human to live with us and save us. January 6 is the beginning of a new part of the church year, Epiphany. This study is about what we celebrate on January 6. *Answers are on page 4.*

1. After Jesus was born, who came looking for Him? Matthew 2:1-2
2. Who were these wise men?
 - a. Were they from Judah, or were they from another place?
 - b. Does that mean they were Jews or non-Jews? Matthew 2:1
3. What were the wise men saying about Jesus? (Note: They didn't know His name was Jesus. They just talked about the one who had been born.) Matthew 2:2
4. The wise men said they came to find Jesus to do what? Matthew 2:2
5. King Herod was a very jealous man. He was king and he didn't want anyone else to be king. So he called the chief priests and law teachers together and asked them where the Christ would be born. What was their answer? The Bible said the Savior would be born where? Matthew 2:3-6
6. Herod wanted the wise men to tell him where they found the new King.
 - a. What did Herod tell the wise men he wanted to do? Matthew 2:7-8
 - b. What was Herod's real reason he wanted to know where Jesus was? Matthew 2:16
7. What led the wise men to Jesus? Matthew 2:9-10
8. What did the wise men do when they saw Jesus? What gifts did they give Him? Matthew 2:11
9. Did the wise men go back to tell Herod where Jesus was? Matthew 2:12
10. God sent an angel to Joseph to give him what message? What did Joseph do? Matthew 2:13-14
11. How long did they stay in Egypt? Matthew 2:15
12. When the wise men didn't come back to Herod, what did he do? Matthew 2:16-18
13. What lessons do we learn from the story of the wise men?

God Makes You New

From www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch

Welcome to 2019! This is the new year, time for a fresh start, right? That's what the world says. But Jan. 1 is really just another day the same as Dec. 31 and every other day. If you want a new start, only God can make you truly new. He forgives all your sins and makes you a new person in Jesus. 2 Cor. 5 talks about how God makes us new. Find these words from 2 Corinthians 5:16-19.

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

We are careful not to judge people by what they seem to be, though we once judged Christ in that way. Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new. God has done it all! He sent Christ to make peace between Himself and us, and He has given us the work of making peace between Himself and others. What we mean is that God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world. And He has given us the work of sharing His message about peace.

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 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. Wise men came looking for Jesus.
2. Who were the wise men? The Greek word for them is "magi." Probably that meant they were men who studied the stars and used the stars and other knowledge to advise kings and rulers. They were important leaders because they were trusted advisers.
 - a. They came from the East. They were not from Judah. The "East" could mean that they came from Babylon or Persia (modern day Iraq and Iran).
 - b. They were not Jews. But they still knew that God was sending a Savior who would be born a Jew! They probably knew about the Savior because the Jews lived as captives in Babylon and Persia for a while in the Old Testament.
3. The wise men were looking for the one who was "born King of the Jews." They didn't know His name was Jesus. But they knew the star meant that a new King was born for the Jews. It is interesting that the Jewish people didn't know about Jesus' birth, but these men from another country knew!
4. The wise men came to worship Jesus.
5. The chief priests and law teachers read from the prophet Micah. Micah 5:2 says a ruler for the Jews will be born in Bethlehem. They understood that this meant the Savior will be born there.
6. After the wise men found Jesus, Herod wanted them to tell him where Jesus was.
 - a. Herod said he wanted to go and worship this new king. That was not true.
 - b. Herod wanted to kill Jesus. Again, Herod was very jealous. We know from history that Herod even killed his own sons when he thought they wanted to be king.
7. The star led them to the house where Jesus lived.
8. When they saw Jesus, they bowed down and worshiped Him. They gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold was a gift that is right for a king. Frankincense was an incense that people were supposed to only burn for God. Giving this to Jesus was honoring Him as God. Myrrh is a very strong perfume that people used on dead bodies when they were buried. That is a strange gift to give a toddler. But it is a right gift, because it showed that Jesus came to die for us.
9. No, the wise men didn't see Herod again. God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they went back home a different way and they didn't go back to Jerusalem.
10. King Herod wanted to kill Jesus. God knew that and sent an angel to warn Joseph to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Herod didn't rule Egypt, and there were other Jews who lived in Egypt. Joseph, Mary and Jesus would be safe there. So Joseph quickly got Mary and Jesus, that same night, and they ran away to Egypt.
11. They stayed in Egypt until King Herod died, which was probably only about a year or so later.
12. King Herod was angry that the wise men didn't come back to him. So he sent soldiers to kill every baby boy in Bethlehem and the surrounding area. He said to kill all the boys up to 2 years old. The wise men told him when they first saw the star, so Herod used that to figure out about how old Jesus was. This was a very sad time because of Herod's hatred and wicked murder.
13. There are several lessons we can learn from this story.
 - a. First, Jesus came to save all people, both Jews and non-Jews. Jesus was named "King of the Jews." But the wise men were not Jews and they still came to worship Him. The same, Jesus is also our King and Savior, even if we are not Jews.
 - b. Everything about Jesus' birth and life was what the Old Testament said would happen. He was born in Bethlehem, the same as the prophet Micah said would happen. Isaiah said the nations will come, just as the wise men came. (See Isaiah 60:3-6, 62:1-2.) Hosea 11:1 said that God would call His Son out of Egypt.
 - c. Even if other people hate Jesus, we can still be brave to worship and honor Him, the same as the wise men did.

January 2019

		1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4	5 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
6 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	7	8	9 10:00 CR – Senior Citizens 7:00 WL – Worship	10	11	12 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Study
13 * See below for worship and Bible study times. CR – Voters’ Meeting/Potluck	14	15	16	17	18 1:00 MU – Worship/Study	19 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
20 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	21	22	23 7:00 WL – Study	24	25	26 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
27 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	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. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1122 W. Central Park Ave., Davenport. Every Saturday, Worship at 10:00 a.m., Study at 11:15 a.m.
 WL – Waterloo/Cedar Falls. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4820 Oster Parkway, Cedar Falls. 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
 DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. 3rd Saturday at 1:00 p.m.
 MU – Muscatine. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2611 Lucas St., Muscatine. Talk to Pastor Eckert to confirm meeting location.

February 2019

					1	2 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
3 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	4	5	6 7:00 WL – Worship	7	8	9 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Study
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	16 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
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Prayers

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ Pray that God will lead all people to love and honor their parents and other authorities. Pray that young people will respect and obey their parents in what they say and do, and that people will honor their elderly parents by lovingly caring for their needs.
- ✦ Pray for all Christians around the world who face persecution. Christians in several large countries are suffering more now because they are faithful to Jesus. Ask God to make them stay strong in faith.
- ✦ Pray for our newly-elected leaders and all people in government. Ask God to give all our leaders a desire to serve Him and do what is right. Also pray that people will learn to listen to each other and work together, especially to do what God wants.
- ✦ Pray for the family of Mae Hanson, who passed away in November. Thank God for His gift of life and salvation for her through Jesus.
- ✦ For all who ask God to give them health: Mollie Schmitz, Lorri Green, Shirley Green, Pat Monroe's father, Barbara Zimmerman, Janet Weber, Jerry Hanson, Joan Mass, Chris Wrage, Sharon Pope, Jeanette Kern, Bonnie Lou Huffman, Terry Ann Check, and Paula Slavin.
- ✦ Pray for all deaf missions around the world so more Deaf people will know and believe in Jesus. Pray for the deaf ministry in Kenya, that they can continue teaching the deaf and teaching pastors how to serve the deaf.
- ✦ Continue to pray for Andy Petajan as he studies to become a pastor.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.



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Thanks to Wilma Melendez (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-25-2009

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LEAVE ANY KNIVES OR WALKING STICKS
WITH THE HORSE, IF YOU SMOKE WE ASK
THAT YOU PLEASE DO SO OUTSIDE, FLASH
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