

Sign Post

**January –
February, 2021**

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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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DeafLutheran@q.com
Home: 563-424-7141 VP
or 563-359-7105 V/TTY

*This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24*

I’m going to say something that’s going to look very strange. It’s going to be different from what most people have said. Are you ready? Here it comes...

2020 wasn’t that bad of a year.

Right now, some of you are laughing, some of you are mad, some are confused, and the rest of you are thinking Pastor Eckert just lost his mind.

First, I want to recognize that for some people, 2020 was a very hard year. Loved ones died. People got sick and suffered. Other people lost jobs. School and work went crazy for a while. Politics and government went crazy for a while. People rioted. There were hurricanes and wildfires and a derecho. Yes, there were problems and life was very hard for some people. We sympathize with them. We pray for them, and we do what we can to help them.

Now let me explain what I mean when I say 2020 wasn’t that bad. Bad things happen every year. That’s why on New Year’s Eve, people always look forward to the new year and hope it will be better than the old year. But every year there will be bad news. There is always tragedy somewhere in the world. There will always be something happening that makes people afraid or worried.

God’s mercy and grace also come every day of every year. Psalm 118:24 is a beautiful verse that reminds us – God and His blessings are with us today. He made this day! He made you! And He saved you through Jesus’ death and resurrection! That makes today a good day. Read Psalm 23:6 and Lamentations 3:22-23 for other good verses about God’s mercy every day.

There are good things that came out of 2020. Many people had to slow down and had more free time. They remembered their families and other blessings God gives, and they learned to appreciate them again. Other people realized they were chasing things in life that aren’t very important. They had an opportunity to change their priorities to things that are more important and more pleasing to God.

In 2021, it would be good to spend less time watching the news and all the bad things happening in the world. Spend more time looking at the good things God is doing in your life and how He is blessing you and using you to bless other people.
Pastor Eckert

Dive Into God's Word

These things have become examples for us so that we won't desire what is evil, as they did. So don't worship false gods as some of them did, as Scripture says, "The people sat down to a feast which turned into an orgy." We shouldn't sin sexually as some of them did. Twenty-three thousand of them died on one day. We shouldn't put the Lord[a] to the test as some of them did. They were killed by snakes. Don't complain as some of them did. The angel of death destroyed them. These things happened to make them an example for others. These things were written down as a warning for us who are living in the closing days of history. So, people who think they are standing firmly should be careful that they don't fall. There isn't any temptation that you have experienced which is unusual for humans. God, who faithfully keeps his promises, will not allow you to be tempted beyond your power to resist. But when you are tempted, he will also give you the ability to endure the temptation as your way of escape. 1 Cor. 10:6-13

There is much in the Bible that teaches us. The Law in the Bible teaches us and shows us that we are sinners. We break His Law and we deserve punishment. The Gospel in the Bible shows us that Jesus took that punishment on Himself. He gives us His perfection and forgiveness and life. That is the most important message in the Bible.

The Bible teaches Law and Gospel in many different ways. Over thousands of years, God worked out His plan to save His people. There are many, many stories that show His patient and loving work. There are also many stories that show the Law; how people rebelled against God and how God disciplined or punished those unfaithful people.

The church in the Greek city of Corinth had a lot of problems. Paul wrote to them and warned them about their sin. In 1 Corinthians 10, Paul said that the Bible stories we have are examples for us. We can see how people ignored God's way and did what they wanted, and we see it wasn't good for them. Paul told the church to pay attention to those examples and don't follow their sinful ways.

This year, 2021, we will look at stories from the Old Testament to learn from them. How did some people stay faithful to God? We want to follow their example. How did some people rebel? We don't want to copy their actions.

We'll start with two short examples about an attitude of complaining or being patient or accepting. *Answers on page 7.*

Example: Don't Complain, Numbers 21:4-9

1. The Israelites were on their way to the promised land, but it was taking a long time. They weren't patient. Who did they complain about? (Num. 21:4-5)
2. Why were they upset? What did they complain about? (Num. 21:4-5)
3. What would you think or feel if you were in their situation?

4. What did God do to the people? (Num. 21:6)
5. The people did one thing right. They confessed their sin and asked Moses to pray for them. What did God tell Moses to do? (Num. 21:7-9)

Example: Be Patient, 1 Samuel 1:1-18

1. A man named Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Penninah. What two things made Hannah very sad? (1 Sam. 1:5-7)
2. Hannah could have complained, but she didn't. What right thing did she do? (1 Sam. 1:9-11, 15-16)
3. How did the high priest Eli encourage her? (1 Sam. 1:17)
4. How can you see that Hannah now trusted God to take care of her? (1 Sam. 1:18)

Lessons for us

- God loves you and He promises He will do what is best for you. Don't complain about what He is doing.
- It's normal to be sad when things in your life are hard.
- Pray to God and trust that He will take care of you. God knows the future and He knows what is best for us. Trust Him to do that.

Prayers

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ Thank God that every day is a new day of His mercy and love. Ask Him to help us live trusting His care and not complaining about everything we think is wrong in our life or in the world.
- ✦ All the people who have COVID-19, medical staff who have to work with sick people, and anyone like teachers and students who have to be around a lot of other people. Pray the vaccines work and stop the pandemic.
- ✦ More and more people in the U.S. don't believe in Jesus. That is creating trouble in our country. Ask God to lead people to trust in Him and to make us strong and brave witnesses to everyone we know.
- ✦ Joan Mass passed away Nov. 2 and Lorri Green passed away Nov. 15. It can be harder when people die and we don't expect it, but we still have peace knowing God will raise us and bring all His people together again.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with trust and health: Mollie Schmitz, Doris Harris, Shirley Green, Barbara Zimmerman, James Weber, Jay Oelberg, Jerry Hanson, Kathy Anderson, Rosie Glime, Gary Lewis, Kris Baltzer, Sharon Pope, Paula Slavin, Jeanette Kern, Bonnie Lou Huffman, Terry Ann Check, and many family members and friends.
- ✦ Pray for Andy Petajan as he studies to become a pastor and for Becky Jungklaus as she studies to become a deaconess.
- ✦ Pray for our partner churches in Kenya and India.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.



Gifts for a King

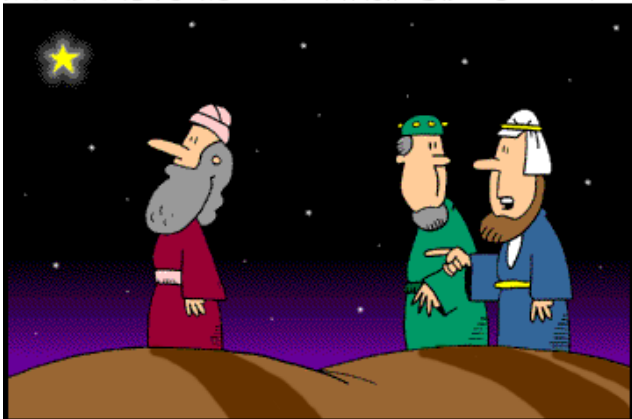
From www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch

Many people think that after Jesus was born, the shepherds and wise men came to visit Him in the manger. Not true! The shepherds came to visit the same night Jesus was born. The wise men came later. The Bible says they saw Jesus in a house, so Joseph, Mary and Jesus didn't live in the stable any more. It was maybe up to 2 years after Jesus was born. We celebrate the visit of the wise men on Jan. 6. Why is their visit important? They were not Jews. Their visit showed that Jesus came for Jews and non-Jews, both. Jesus also came for us! The reading is the story of their visit in Matthew 2:1-12.

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

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea when Herod was king. After Jesus' birth wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the one who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star rising and have come to worship him." When King Herod and all Jerusalem heard about this, they became disturbed. He called together all the chief priests and the experts in the Scriptures and tried to find out from them where the Messiah was supposed to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem in Judea. The prophet wrote about this: Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah. A leader will come from you. He will shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called the wise men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. As he sent them to Bethlehem, he said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you have found him, report to me so that I may go and worship him too." After they had heard the king, they started out. The star they had seen rising led them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were overwhelmed with joy to see the star. When they entered the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary. So they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they left for their country by another road.

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Thanks to Mikel Rice (See Matthew 2:1) 12-16-1998

OH I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT GETTING LOST ... WISEMAN #1 TOLD ME THAT HE HAS SOME SORT OF GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM

January 2021

					1 Happy New Year!	2 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
3 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	4	5	6	7	8	9 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Study
10 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	11	12	13	14	15	16 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
17 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	18	19	20	21	22	23 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
24/31 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	25	26	27	28	29	30 10:00 QC – Worship/Study

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., Study at 11:15 a.m.
 WL – Waterloo/Cedar Falls. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4820 Oster Parkway, Cedar Falls. Not meeting this month.
 DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. 2nd Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

February 2021

	1	2	3	4	5	6 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
7 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	8	9	10	11	12	13 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Study
14 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	15	16	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
21 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	22	23	24	25	26	27 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
28 * See below for worship and Bible study times.						
<p>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., Study at 11:15 a.m. WL – Waterloo/Cedar Falls. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4820 Oster Parkway, Cedar Falls. Not meeting this month. DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. 2nd Saturday at 1:00 p.m.</p>						

Announcements and Worship Changes

ILDA is celebrating its 50th anniversary! The first convention was in Chicago and the anniversary celebration will also be in Chicago. Convention and registration info is at the end of the newsletter.

Congratulations to Josh and Marianna Hoover, married on Nov. 28 in Dubuque!

Waterloo will not meet for worship or Bible study in January and February. Pastor Eckert will still go to Waterloo to visit people. Hopefully we can begin meeting again in March.

Pastor Eckert will be in Muscatine on the fourth Sunday of the month after Burlington worship.

Remember! Our worship services and short Bible studies are online at www.youtube.com/deaflutheran. You can watch the videos any time. Please check it out!

January

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



February

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

Answers to Dive Into God's Word, p. 2-3.

Don't Complain, Numbers 21:4-9

1. The people complained about God and Moses.
2. They didn't like the desert. They complained about not having bread or water. There isn't much food or water in the desert, so God provided water when they needed it, and He gave them manna every day for food. Because they ate the same food every day, they got tired of it and complained about it.
3. Most people would probably complain, too. We like comfort and good food. The desert is not comfortable and we would get tired of the same food every day, too.
4. God punished the people because of their complaining. He sent poisonous snakes to bite and kill people. Many people did.
5. God told Moses to make a snake and put it on a pole. If a real snake bit a person, that person could look at the snake on a pole and he would live. Moses made a bronze snake and put it on a pole. The same as God said, anyone who got bit could look at the snake on a pole and live. This looked forward to Jesus dying on the cross for us. Anyone who looks to Jesus on the cross and trusts in Him will live with Him.

Be Patient, 1 Samuel 1:1-18

1. One, Hannah couldn't have children and she really wanted children. Two, Penninah had children, and she made fun of Hannah for not having children.
2. Hannah prayed to God. She asked God to give her a son.
3. At first, Eli thought Hannah was drunk. But when he realized she was very sad and praying, then he told her to go in peace, and he added his prayer that God would answer her prayer.
4. Before, Hannah couldn't eat because she was so sad. But now she ate and wasn't sad. She trusted God to answer her prayer.

FACT Sheet for the 2021 ILDA Convention

July 22-25, 2021

Registration

Please note there are two choices for registration: ILDA members and non-members. ILDA members must put their 2020-2022 membership number on the registration form. Non-members will have to pay increased costs. All convention registration forms received will follow the post-mark date on the envelope for the cost. If you wish to only attend the banquet, there is a separate line item for that. **No registrations accepted after June 15th due to food count total requirements by the hotel and possible post office delivery delays.**

The combo ticket includes a registration fee (\$20) and all meals (Thursday night reception to breakfast on Sunday).

There will be no money collected for ILDA membership dues on this 2021 convention registration form. You will need to fill out the separate ILDA membership form and send it with your payment to David Brown prior to the ILDA 2021 convention. The new ILDA membership year is 10/1/2020—9/30/2022.

Payment

You can pay your registration by personal check, bank cashier's check or money order. Send it to Carolyn Snyder-Mason's address on the bottom of the registration form.

Donations

Donations are accepted to help defray costs of the convention. Your donation will be acknowledged in the convention book unless you wish to remain anonymous. Send your donation to: John Mason, 6721 Deep Run Parkway, Elkridge, MD 21075. Please make your check payable to "2021 ILDA Convention." In the memo area write "Donation." **All checks received are mobile deposited into the checking account so any other name written on the check will be rejected and returned to you to write a new check with the correct payable name on it. Thanks!**

Room cost

\$92 plus 13% tax (total \$103.96)

1 - 4 persons in a 2 Queen bed room

\$92 plus 13% tax (total \$103.96)

1 - 2 persons in a 1 King bed room

Deadline to reserve your room is **June 25, 2021**.

Call the Holiday Inn Phone #: 847-437-6010

Use group reservation code: **ILD**

If you have problems making your reservation please contact Vikkie vlain@firsthospitality.com

You can also go to www.deafjesus.org/ilda and click on "ILDA Conventions." There will be a direct link to make your hotel reservations.

People with limited mobility issues are encouraged to bring their own wheelchair or scooter.

Childcare

If you plan to bring your child(ren) to the 2021 ILDA convention please contact Janet Gehlbach and let her know. VP (612) 424-4747 or email: JGehlbach@aol.com

Refund policy

No refunds after June 15, 2021 unless a doctor's note or copy of a death certificate is provided. On or prior to June 15 any cancellations will result in a \$50 cancellation fee that will be deducted from your registration cost. Please sign and date the registration form on the bottom section that you agree to this.

Tours

No tours are planned at this time. You can tour Chicago on your own before/after the convention.

Questions?

Contact Janet Gehlbach VP (612) 424-4747 or email: JGehlbach@aol.com

Volunteers needed

If you are interested in helping out during the convention please let Janet Gehlbach know. Her contact information is listed above. Thanks!



COME HOME TO HOLIDAY INN

Simplify your travel experience when you choose the Holiday Inn Chicago-Elk Grove Village, conveniently located off the I-90 and just a short drive from O'Hare International Airport. Experience all that Chicago has to offer while avoiding the congestion of the city or enjoy nearby attractions like Rivers Casino, the Entertainment District, Rainbow Falls Waterpark, and Woodfield Shopping Mall, hosting nearly 300 different stores and restaurants.

Accommodations

- 160 Newly Renovated Guest Rooms
- Complimentary High-Speed WiFi
- Microwaves, Mini-Refrigerators, and Keurig Coffee Makers in Each Room
- 37-inch Flat Screen Television

Amenities

- Local Shuttle Service within 5 mi.
- Indoor Swimming Pool
- On-site Fitness Center
- 24-hour Lobby Market
- 24-hour Business Center
- On-Site Restaurant & Bar, Shelby Campbell's Restaurant



Holiday Inn

Holiday Inn Chicago-Elk Grove Village
1000 Busse Rd, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
(847) 437-6010 // www.hielkgrove.com
(847)

Room rates:

\$92 + tax per night = \$103.96
1-4 persons in 2 Queen room
1-2 persons in King room
Group code is ILD



International Lutheran Deaf Association

26th Biennial Convention
 July 22-25, 2021
 Holiday Inn
 1000 Busse Rd.
 Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Remember - Celebrate - Proclaim



Psalm 89:15

"Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O Lord, in the light of Your face."

2021 ILDA Convention Schedule

(tentative schedule—subject to change)

Thursday, July 22

1 pm - 5 pm	Registration
5 pm - 6:30 pm	Dinner on your own
7 pm	Opening Ceremony
7:30 pm	Banner/Choir/Skit Competition
8:30 pm	Reception

Friday, July 23

7 am - 8 am	Breakfast Buffet
8:30 am	Devotion
9 am - 9:15 am	Business Meeting Training
9:15 am - 10:15 am	Business Meeting
10:15 am - 10:30 am	Break
10:30 am - 11:30 am	Business Meeting
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Lunch Buffet
1 pm - 2 pm	Business Meeting, if needed
2:15 pm - 2:30 pm	Break
3 pm - 4 pm	Session # 1
5 pm - 6 pm	Dinner Buffet
7 pm	Devotion
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Games
8:30 pm - 10 pm	Social time/snack

Saturday, July 24

7 am - 8 am	Breakfast buffet
8:30 am	Devotion
9 am - 10:15 am	Session # 2
10:15 am - 10:30 am	Break
10:30 am - 11:45 am	Session # 3
11:45 am - 12:45 pm	Lunch Buffet
1 pm - 2:15 pm	Session # 4
2:15 pm - 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 pm - 4 pm	Session # 5
5:45 pm	Doors open for Banquet
6:15 pm	Banquet Program begins
6:30 pm	Banquet food is served

Sunday, July 25

7 am - 8 am	Breakfast
8:30 am - 9:15 am	Bible Study/Sunday School
9:30 am - 11 am	Worship/Holy Communion
	Closing Ceremony
	2023 ILDA Banner hand-off

Have a safe trip home!

1:30 pm - 8 pm	Ephphatha Conference for Pastors and Church Workers
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Monday, July 26

9 am—12 Noon	Ephphatha conference
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Childcare is being planned, but at this time the schedule is yet to be determined. If you are bringing your child(ren) to ILDA next year please let Janet Gehlbach know. Thanks!
 JGehlbach@aol.com or VP (612) 424-4747

Interpreted Ministry Conference (IMC) will be held at the same time as the ILDA convention. IMC schedule will be announced later.



International Lutheran Deaf Association
 26th Biennial Convention
 July 22-25, 2021
 Holiday Inn—Elk Grove Village, IL



Registration—please print clearly ONE form per person:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Check one: VP Voice Text
 Email address: _____
 Congregation Name: _____
 Cong. City/State: _____

Check all that apply:
 Deaf Hearing
 Deaf/Blind
 need gluten free foods
 need dairy free foods
 other dietary restrictions
 need children's meals
 childcare:
 Age 0-2 _____
 Age 3-8 _____
 Age 9-12 _____
 traveling by car
 traveling by plane

ILDA Member

2020-2022 ILDA Member card # _____
Postmarked dates:
 November 1, 2020 — March 31, 2021 \$ 180
 April 1 — May 31, 2021 \$ 230
 June 1 — June 15, 2021 \$ 280
 (ALL meals included: Thursday night reception to Sunday breakfast)
 Banquet food choice Midwest Pork Chop
 (check ONE) Chicken Marsala
 Baked Tilapia

Banquet only (Includes reg. fee. Please check food choice above) \$ 55

TOTAL PAYMENT: _____

Non-Member

Postmarked dates:
 November 1, 2020 — March 31, 2021 \$ 200
 April 1— May 31, 2021 \$ 250
 June 1— June 15, 2021 \$ 300
 (ALL meals included: Thursday night reception to Sunday breakfast)
 Banquet food choice Midwest Pork Chop
 (check ONE) Chicken Marsala
 Baked Tilapia

Banquet only (Includes reg. fee. Please check food choice above) \$ 65

TOTAL PAYMENT: _____

Registration Deadline: June 15, 2021 (form postmarked on or before this date)

Payment: Personal check, bank cashier's check or money order make payable to: "2021 ILDA Convention" and in the memo line put "convention registration" and send to: Carolyn Snyder-Mason, 6721 Deep Run Parkway, Elkridge, MD 21075

Questions? Contact: Carolyn Snyder-Mason VP (443) 296-3222 or email cksmason@aol.com

CANCELLATION FEE of \$50 will be deducted if registration is cancelled on or before June 15 (exception: doctor's note or copy of death certificate).

Signature required: _____

Date: _____