

Sign Post

**January –
February, 2023**

In This Issue...

- 1 – Pastor’s Article
- 2 – Bible Study
- 3 – Prayers
Birthdays
- 4 – Bible Study answers
- 5 – January Calendar
- 6 – February Calendar
- 7 – Word Search

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

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

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.” Matthew 2:1-2

How do people know who God is? People have many different ideas. Some people think we can feel God in our hearts and that is where we find God. Others think we can find God in nature. If we go into the woods and mountains and streams, we can feel God there and be connected to Him.

Those seem like nice thoughts, but they are wrong. God does show some of His power and glory in creation, and He does write His law on our hearts. But that doesn’t tell us everything we need to know about God. It doesn’t show who He really is. We can’t figure out God or find Him ourselves. God must come to us and show us who He is.

So where does God come to us? The most important way God comes to us is in Jesus. At Christmas, we celebrated Jesus’ birth, when the Son of God became human and lived with us. In January and February, we celebrate the season of Epiphany. “Epiphany” means to reveal or show. That is when we remember how Jesus showed who He is, so that people may know that He is the Son of God and our Savior.

During the time of Epiphany, go to church and watch the Gospel lessons. They will be about the wise men coming to see Jesus (Jesus showed Himself as the Savior for these non-Jewish men), Jesus getting baptized, John the Baptizer pointing people to Jesus, and Jesus’ teaching to show people that He is the Savior that God promised.

Today, we learn about Jesus and see Him as our Savior in His word. The Bible is where God reveals (shows) Himself and who He is for us. God’s Word shows that Jesus is the one who died and rose alive again to save us. In Baptism, God tells us that He is our loving Father who adopts us as His children. In the Lord’s Supper, God tells us that He is a God who forgives us and strengthens us for a life that follows Him.

So many people look for God in the wrong places. You know the right place to find God, the way He comes to us in His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Come to church and invite someone to come with you, so you can see your true God and Savior and His gift of life for you.

Pastor Eckert

Dive Into God's Word

Epiphany – *More than just the wise men*

The day of Epiphany is Jan. 6. That is the day we remember the wise men coming to see Jesus. You can read about that in Matthew 2:1-12. The next two Sundays after Epiphany are about Jesus getting baptized and John the Baptizer talking about who Jesus is. In this study, we will look at those two lessons and what they say about Jesus. *Answers are on p. 4*

John Baptizes Jesus – Matthew 3:13-17

1. Matt. 3:13. Why did Jesus go to the Jordan River?
2. Matt. 3:14. John said Jesus should baptize him. Why did John need baptism?
3. Matt. 3:15. Jesus said John should baptize Him. Why?
4. The Old Testament said some important things about the Savior who will come. Read Isaiah 11:1-2, 42:1, 61:1-3. Who will be with the Savior?
5. Matt. 3:16. After Jesus was baptized, who/what came down on Jesus? What does that show?
6. Matt. 3:17. What did God the Father say about Jesus? What does that show about Jesus?

John Talks about Jesus – John 1:29-42

1. John 1:29. What did John say about Jesus? What did John call Him?
2. Exodus 12:21-28, Leviticus 23:12, Numbers 28:3-4. What did Jews in the Old Testament use lambs for?
3. What does it mean that Jesus is the Lamb of God?
4. John 1:32-33. How did John know that Jesus is the Savior? (Remember Matthew 3:16 and the verses from Isaiah!)
5. John 1:31,34. What did John say his job was?
6. John 1:35-37. Why did John tell his disciples that Jesus is the Lamb of God?
7. John 1:40-42. What did Andrew say about Jesus? Why?
8. What can you do to show people who Jesus is?



65 inch TV! Word of God, Cedar Rapids, has received a 65” TV! Thank you very much to the person who donated it! It has been installed downstairs. We will use it regularly in Sunday morning Bible study.



Archbishop Joseph Omolo visited Iowa at the beginning of November and met some of our members in Cedar Rapids and Davenport. He talked about the Deaf ministry in Kenya and about a church program to help orphans. We are glad to be partnering with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya to help their deaf members and to help the church learn how to serve the deaf.

Prayers

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ Jesus came and showed Himself as the Savior for all people. Sadly, not all people see that Jesus is the Savior. Ask God to open their eyes and their hearts to see and believe in Jesus.
- ✦ Ask God to bless our leaders who were elected in November. Pray that God will lead them to do right for all people and to do what God wants.
- ✦ Pray for the countries of Ukraine, Russia, and all other places in the world where there is fighting or the threat of war. Ask God to give people peace.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with trust and health: Mollie Schmitz, Doris Harris, Shirley Green, Susan Green, Barbara Zimmerman, Norma Jean Mangrich, James Weber, Jerry Hanson, Curtis Bethurum, Kathy Anderson, Gerald Mitchell, Arlene Ritze, Chris Wrage, Ricky Moore, Sharon Pope, Paula Slavin, Jeanette Kern, and many family members and friends.
- ✦ Pray for people who are studying to serve God and His church: Vince Mroz, Dan Wallis, and Pastor Luvisha in Kenya (as pastors), and Becky Jungklaus, Nola Gray, and Peggy Gott (as deaconesses).
- ✦ Pray for the church in Kenya, that God will protect and bless them.
- ✦ Pray for people this winter who don’t have enough shelter or warm clothes. Ask God to care for them and use us to help them. Also pray that the weather this winter will not be too severe.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.



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.

John Baptizes Jesus

1. Jesus went to the Jordan River to get baptized.
2. John said he baptized sinners for repentance (Matt. 3:11). John knew he was a sinner and he needed baptism, too. Because Jesus is the Savior, John wanted Jesus to baptize him.
3. Sinners need baptism. Jesus was not a sinner. So it seems that Jesus shouldn't need baptism. Jesus Himself is not a sinner, but He came for sinners. Because He came for sinners, He took our sin on Himself. Our baptism means God takes away our sin and He gives us Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus' baptism means God gave Him our sin so Jesus could die and rise alive and defeat sin.
4. In Isaiah, God said that He will put the Holy Spirit on Jesus. The one who has the Holy Spirit in a special way is the Savior.
5. The Holy Spirit (looking like a dove) came down on Jesus. That showed that Jesus is the Savior, the same one that Isaiah wrote about.
6. God the Father said that Jesus is His Son. He loves His Son and is pleased with Him. That shows that Jesus is the Son of God and our Savior.

John Talks about Jesus

1. John said that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
2. Jews sacrificed lambs. In the Passover in Egypt, each Israelite family killed a lamb and painted the blood on their doorposts. God saw the blood of the lamb and didn't kill the firstborn son. They also sacrificed lambs in worship, often to pay for their sins.
3. The Jews sacrificed lambs to pay for sins. Jesus is the Lamb of God because He pays for our sins. He is the one perfect Lamb that God sent. Jesus is the perfect sacrifice for our sins.
4. God told John that when he baptized people, the Holy Spirit will come down and stay on one person. That person will be the Savior, the Lamb of God. When John baptized Jesus, he saw the Holy Spirit come down on Jesus. That is how he knew for sure that Jesus was the Savior.
5. John's job was to prepare people for Jesus and to lead them to Jesus. He baptized people so they could see Jesus and believe in Him. John announced that Jesus is the Lamb of God and the Son of God.
6. John told his disciples that Jesus is the Lamb of God so they could follow Jesus.
7. Andrew told his brother that Jesus is the Messiah. Andrew wanted his brother to also believe that Jesus is the Messiah (Savior).
8. We can use our words to tell people that Jesus is the Savior who died for their sins. We can use our actions to show them what it means to us that He has forgiven our sins and gives us new life.

January 2023

1 * See below for worship and Bible study times.			7:00 WL – Worship			7 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
8 * See below for worship and Bible study times.						14 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Bible Study
15 * See below for worship and Bible study times.			7:00 WL – Study			21 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
22 * See below for worship and Bible study times.						28 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
29 * 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., Study at 11:15 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.

February 2023

			1 7:00 WL – Worship	2	3	4 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
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/Study
19 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	20	21	22	23	24	25 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
26 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	27	28				

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.
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Wise Men Visit Jesus

From www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch

Many people think the wise men came and saw Jesus when He was born. Not true! When they saw Jesus, He was not a baby in a manger. The Bible calls Him a child and says they visited Him in a house (Matt. 2:11). Jesus was maybe up to 2 years old. What is special about their visit is that the wise men were not Jews, but they still came to worship Jesus. This showed that Jesus is the King of the Jews and He is also the Savior of all people, not only the Jews. The words of the puzzle are from Matthew 2:1-12.

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

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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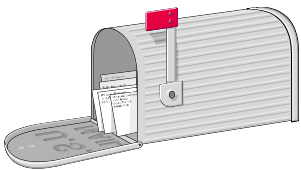
(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-23-2013

YOU KNOW GUYS, RUMOR HAS IT THE BABY SHIVERS IN THE COLD ... MAYBE INSTEAD OF GOLD AND PERFUME HE WOULD ENJOY A BLANKET?

Word of God Lutheran Church
for the Deaf
1515 29th St. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

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