

Sign Post

**January –
February, 2026**

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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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As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him; for He knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust. Psalm 103:13-14

God understands.

That is a wonderful thing to say, and a terrible thing to say.

It is wonderful and comforting that God understands us. At Christmas, we celebrated God coming to earth and becoming human. He lived and experienced everything that we experience and live through. He was born humble and poor. He grew up as a child and had to learn how to get along with difficult kids. He had to go to school and learn how to read and write and do math. He understands you, and that’s a good thing.

In Epiphany and Lent, we remember Jesus’ work of teaching, miracles, and His suffering. Jesus was tired, overworked, He didn’t get enough to eat, and was constantly under a lot of pressure. Huge crowds of people were always following Him. They constantly wanted Jesus to help them. Lots of Jewish leaders hated Him. They picked on Jesus and made fun of Him. When you feel tired and stressed and picked on, Jesus understands. He experienced that, too, and that’s a good thing.

Jesus never sinned, but He carried your sin. The Bible says He carried our sicknesses, our sadness, our sins (Isaiah 53:4-5). He suffered horribly on the cross, more than we will ever suffer. When our sin and guilt burdens us, when life overwhelms us, He understands. And that is a very good thing.

Hebrews 4:14-16 tells us that Jesus is our great High Priest who understands us. He knows our weaknesses and our sin. He experienced weakness and temptation, but He didn’t sin. He defeated sin and won forgiveness for us. So we can go to Him for mercy, and He will have mercy on us. He does forgive us. That is a very good thing.

Then what is so bad about saying God understands? Some people say “God understands,” but they mean it in a wrong way. They say it to excuse their sin. They know they are supposed to do the right thing, but they don’t want to. They make an poor excuse and say, “God understands.” *Continued on p. 2*

God Understands (continued from p. 1)

“I don’t get along with the people at church, so I don’t go to church. It’s okay. God understands.”

“Money’s tight, so I don’t give to church. God understands.”

“I can’t forgive that person because they hurt me so much. But God understands.”

And many more excuses like that.

Really? No. The Bible very clearly says that God does not accept that way of thinking. God gives us life in Jesus so that we can live in Him and follow Him. We were lost, self-centered sinners. He makes us new and changes us into His people who want to think and do the same as Him. God doesn’t agree with what we want. He changes us so we will agree with what He wants.

Psalm 103 says that God has compassion (mercy) on us because He remembers we are dust. We are sinners. We are weak. We are helpless. We’re going to sin. God knows that. God understands that. But that doesn’t mean our sin is okay. It means that God shows mercy and forgives us. He makes us new in Jesus so we can belong to Him and run away from sin.

In this new year, remember that God doesn’t accept your sin. He accepts you. He doesn’t excuse your sin. He forgives your sin. He gives you new life in Him. Go live and rejoice in that new life!

Pastor Eckert

Prayers

Please remember these in your prayers:

- ✦ Thank God for His mercy and how He loves us and forgives us freely because of Jesus.
- ✦ Ask God to help us live in the new life He gives us. Not to go back to the old sin or stay stuck in the old sin. Help us run away from sin and live in His grace.
- ✦ Ask God to bless this new year with safety and peace.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with health: Norma Jean Mangrich, Kent Kischer, Jay Oelberg, Lisa Oelberg, Delbert Neely, Janet Weber, James Weber, Curtis Bethurum, Kathy Anderson, JoAnn Mitchell, Chris Wrage, Ricky Moore, Paula Slavin, Nancy Griffin, and many family members and friends.
- ✦ Pray for Calvary Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Des Moines as they work with Iowa District West to plan the future of the deaf ministry there.
- ✦ Pray for men studying to become pastors and women studying to become deaconesses for the deaf.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.

Announcements!

- Pastor Eckert says THANK YOU to everyone for thinking of him this Christmas. Your cards and gifts are very kind and thoughtful. He is thankful to be able to work with all of you!
- Dubuque and Davenport are thinking about changing the times they meet. They might be trying some different times for a couple months, so be aware of that.

Dive Into God's Word

Ash Wednesday

Christians have many days that we remember or celebrate. Many of these days are based on events in the Bible. For example, Holy Thursday is the day Jesus gave the Lord's Supper. Good Friday is the day He died on the cross. Easter is the day He rose alive from the dead. Pentecost is the day Jesus sent the Holy Spirit for the church. All of those days are connected to something Jesus did.

Ash Wednesday is not connected to a specific event in the Bible. So why do we have it? Let's look at what Ash Wednesday means and how it is connected to God's Word. These are some readings that can be used for an Ash Wednesday service.

A reminder of what our life should look like

Read 2 Peter 1:2-11.

1. What has God given us? (verses 3-4)
2. As Christians, what things are important in how we live? What does Peter say we should add to our lives? (verses 5-7)
3. If we have these qualities (the things listed in vs. 5-7), what does that mean? (verse 8)
4. If we don't have these qualities (the things listed in vs. 5-7), what does that mean? (verse 9)

Repentance

Does our life look like it should? No. Ash Wednesday is all about repentance. It is 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays) and is the beginning of Lent. It is a time for us to remember why Jesus suffered and died for us. We remember our sin, repent and confess our sin to God.

Read Joel 2:12-19.

5. What does God tell His people to do in verses 12, 15-16? How does this show sorrow for our sin?
6. Why can we repent? What does the Bible tell us about God and His attitude toward us? (verse 13)

Read Psalm 51:1-12.

7. This is King David's Psalm of confession and repentance. What did he confess (admit) in vs. 3-5?
8. When we sin, who do we sin against? Who has the right to judge us for our sin? (verse 4)
9. What did David ask God to do in verses 1-2?

10. "Confess" means we admit our sin and guilt. "Repent" means that we confess our sin and also that we turn away from it. We don't want to continue that sin. What do verses 10-12 say about what God does to change us so we don't continue in sin?

11. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. How can you know that God truly forgives you?

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

A reminder of what our life should look like

1. God gives us everything we need for a life with Him. He makes us know Jesus. He gives us His promises. Through His promises, He saves us from this sinful world and death and gives us a relationship with Him.
2. Peter lists several things that are important for us to have. First and most important is faith. Then these are also important: integrity, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, Christian affection, and love.
3. When we are growing in those gifts, that shows that we have life in Jesus. Understand, doing those things don't give us life in Jesus. He is the only one who gives us life. When we are alive in Him, then we will grow in integrity, knowledge, etc.
4. If we don't have those qualities (integrity, knowledge, etc.), that means we aren't looking to Jesus. Our faith is weak and dying because we forgot that He forgives us and gives us life.

Repentance

5. God told His people to come back to Him. Sin means we are running away from Him. He told His people to come to Him with fasting (not eating), crying and mourning. Doing that shows we are truly sorry and not just saying "sorry." God also tells His people to come together to repent and come back to Him. We are His people and we repent together, believe together, and live together.

6. God has mercy on us. He is patient and ready to forgive us. He doesn't want to punish us. He wants to forgive and save us. Then we know we can repent and come to Him and He will forgive us and accept us.

Read Psalm 51:1-12.

7. David admitted that he is rebellious. He confess that he sinned, that he did evil, and that he was born guilty. He was a sinner even before he was born.

8. When we sin, we usually sin against a person, but we also sin against God. We especially sin against God because we are breaking His law. God has the right to judge us for our sin.

9. David asked God to have mercy on him and forgive him. He asked God to wash away all his sin and guilt and make him clean.

10. God gives us a new clean heart and a right spirit that want His ways. Because He forgives us, we don't want to go back to sinning. He gives us joy with Him. We don't want to go again to the guilt and sadness of sinning.

11. Jesus took away our sin. God put all our sin on Him on the cross. Because of that, God forgives you and accepts you.

January

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



February

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

January 2026

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

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 3:00 p.m., but 2nd Saturday may change.
 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 10:00 a.m., but the time may change.

February 2026

1 * See below for worship and Bible study times.			4 7:00 WL – Worship			7 3:00 QC – Worship
8 * See below for worship and Bible study times.			11			14 10:00 DU – Bible Study 3:00 QC – Worship
15 * See below for worship and Bible study times.			18 Ash Wednesday 12:00 CR – Ash Wed. Worship 7:00 WL – Study			21 3:00 QC – Worship
22 * See below for worship and Bible study times.			25			28 3:00 QC – Worship

BR – Burlington. Concordia Lutheran Church, 2901 Cliff Rd., Burlington. 4th Sunday worship at 3:00 p.m.
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The Ten Commandments

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

When we think about repentance, we think about God's Law and how we don't follow His Law. God says much about His Law throughout the Bible, but the Ten Commandments is a short summary of how God wants His people to live. The commandments are given in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. The words for the puzzle are from the Ten Commandments. Find the underlined words.

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

1. Never have any other god.
2. Never use the name of the Lord your God carelessly.
3. Remember the worship day by observing (honoring) it as a holy day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. Never murder.
6. Never commit adultery.
7. Never steal.
8. Never lie when you testify about your neighbor.
9. Never desire to take your neighbor's household away from him.
10. Never desire to take your neighbor's wife, his male or female slave, his ox, his donkey, or anything else that belongs to him.

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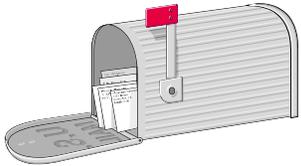


12-17-2001

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD HAVE PUT SOMETHING
IN THERE ABOUT SPAMMING

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

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Postal Carrier: Have a great day!

