

Sign Post

**July – August
2018**

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Sign Post is online at
www.iowaeastdeaf.org.
It is the newsletter for:

Word of God Lutheran
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Teach me to use good judgment and knowledge, because I believe in your commandments. Psalm 119:66

The world is a mess. That’s probably not a surprise to you. Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, nothing has worked the way it should. But now things seem a little more confused than usual.

It used to be that liberals supported liberal goals, conservatives supported conservative goals, Christians stood for Christian values, etc. But now we see the news reporting strange things. Just today, I saw news stories that said Conservative Christians...

- Support separating migrant children from their parents.
- Are voting for an owner of a brothel (prostitution house) who is running for the state legislature.
- Are complaining that the Miss America Pageant is ending the swimsuit competition.

What is going on??? No, this isn’t all “fake news.” The simple explanation is this: Christians are reacting to news and reacting to non-Christians. If non-Christians are doing wrong, we should stand up for what is right. But if non-Christians change and support doing right, should we oppose them and say we should do wrong? No! But that is what some Christians are doing.

There is a simple answer for this. Learn God’s word and follow it. Don’t make your goals and plans based on what the world says. Don’t choose who to vote for or what ideas to support because Republicans or Democrats say to do it. Look at God’s word and see what He says.

God’s word is eternal and is always true. The world’s ideas will always change. You can’t depend on them. But what God tells us is always true. His word gives us life and will guide our lives now and forever.

Pastor Eckert

Dive Into God's Word

We are continuing in our study of people in the Bible, how God used regular people to serve Him and do great things. Gideon was a leader in the Old Testament before Israel had kings. These leaders were called Judges and you can read about them in the book of Judges. God chose them to save Israel from their enemies and to lead the people back to God. You can read about Gideon in Judges 6:1-8:35. *Answers are on page 4.*

1. All through the book of Judges, the people of Israel left God and worshiped idols. Then God punished them and let an enemy nation rule Israel. What nation ruled Israel now? Judges 6:1,6.
2. The people of Israel asked who to help (save) them? Judges 6:6
3. The Angel of the Lord came to Gideon. What was Gideon's complaint? Judges 6:11-13
4. The Lord said He is sending who to save Israel? Judges 6:14
5. Gideon doubted he could save Israel. Why? What did he think was wrong with him and his family? Judges 6:15
6. When God calls us to follow and serve Him, He doesn't let us follow other gods or idols. Gideon's father had an altar to worship the idol Baal. What did God say to do? Judges 6:25-27
7. God made Gideon brave to call together an army. But Gideon still doubted, and he wanted proof God will help him. What proof did Gideon ask for, and God gave? Judges 6:36-38
8. One proof wasn't enough. Gideon wanted more proof. Did God give it? Is it okay for us to ask God for proof like this? Judges 6:39-40, 1 Corinthians 10:9
9. Gideon had 32,000 men for his army. What did God think about that? Why? Judges 7:1-2
10. God reduced the size of the army to 300 men (Judges 7:7-8). What were their weapons? Judges 7:16-20
11. How could 300 men beat over 120,000 men in the Midianite army? Judges 7:21-25
12. Our biggest enemies are sin, death and the devil. What did Jesus do to them? 1 Peter 3:18, 1 Corinthians 15:20-22, Colossians 2:13-15
13. Remember Gideon's complaint in Judges 6:13, and God's answer in 6:14? How does God give us victories in our life? 1 John 5:4, John 16:33, Romans 8:37-39, Philipians 4:13.

God's Higher Ways

From www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch

Gideon asked why bad things were happening. He thought maybe God left them. But when bad things happen, that doesn't mean God left us. God doesn't work the same way we work. God uses both good and bad events to call people to repent and trust in Him. His word calls us to repent, and His word tells us to believe in Him and His salvation through Jesus. This reading is from Isaiah 55:6-11. Find the underlined words.

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

Seek the Lord while He may be found. Call on him while He is near. Let wicked people abandon their ways. Let evil people abandon their thoughts. Let them return to the Lord, and He will show compassion to them. Let them return to our God, because He will freely forgive them. "My thoughts are not your thoughts, and My ways are not your ways," declares the Lord. "Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts are higher than your thoughts. Rain and snow come down from the sky. They do not go back again until they water the earth. They make it sprout and grow so that it produces seed for farmers and food for people to eat. My word, which comes from my mouth, is like the rain and snow. It will not come back to me without results. It will accomplish whatever I want and achieve whatever I send it to do."

July

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

1. The nation of Midian ruled Israel now. The Midianites were very mean to Israel and attacked them often and stole from them.
2. The people of Israel cried out to the Lord to save them.
3. Gideon said that the Lord saved His people in the past. If God is with them now, why isn't God saving them? Gideon didn't understand why God wasn't saving them.
4. The Lord said He was sending Gideon to save Israel. Notice – if you want God to help people, He might send you to help them!
5. In Israel, the larger families had more power and respect. Gideon was from a small tribe (Manasseh). He was also from the smallest clan (family group) in Manasseh, and he was the least important man in his father's family. This is like not choosing an experienced army general to lead a battle, but instead choosing an army cook with no fighting experience. God chose Gideon, but Gideon couldn't understand why God would choose him.
6. God told Gideon to destroy the altar to Baal, and cut down the Asherah pole (another idol). God also told him to build an altar for the Lord. In other words, stop worshipping idols and worship only the true God.
7. Gideon put fleece (wool from a sheep) on the ground. He asked God to make the fleece wet with dew overnight and keep the ground dry. God made no dew go on the ground, but much dew in the fleece. There was enough water in the fleece, Gideon could wring it out and fill a bowl with water.
8. Yes, God gave more proof. The first time, Gideon wanted the ground dry and the fleece wet with dew. Now he wanted the opposite. He asked God to make the ground wet with dew and keep the fleece dry. God did that. The Bible warns us not to test God. Deuteronomy 6:16 says, "You will not put the Lord your God to the test." Psalm 78:41, Psalm 95:9, and 1 Corinthians 10:9 show that it is not right to test God. When the devil tempted Jesus to jump off the temple and prove God will save Him, Jesus answered, "You will not put the Lord your God to the test." (Matthew 4:7)
9. God said that was too many men. If Israel had a large army and won the battle, they will think they won because of their strength. God wanted them to have a small army so they will know God won the battle for them.
10. Each man had a torch, an empty jar, and a trumpet. Those were their main weapons to start the battle.
11. God made the Midianite army confused and fight and kill each other. After the army ran away, then the Israelite army chased them and fought them.
12. Jesus defeated all our enemies. He suffered to forgive our sins. He rose alive again and promises that we will rise alive. And He took away the devil's power to hurt us.
13. When we belong to Christ, the world will attack us, but no one can take us away from Him. Jesus defeated the world and He gives us that victory. Nothing can separate us from Him and His love for us. And He gives us strength to get through any trouble, no matter how bad. That is His promise for you, even if you think you are not an important person. God loves and cherishes you!

July 2018

1 * See below for worship and Bible study times.			4 Independence Day			7 10:00 QC – Worship
8 * See below for worship and Bible study times.			11 7:00 WL – Worship		13 10:00 QC – Study	14 10:00 QC – Worship
15 * See below for worship and Bible study times.			18 7:00 WL – Study		20 10:00 QC – Study 1:00 MU – Worship/Study	21 10:00 QC – Worship
22 * See below for worship and Bible study times.					27 10:00 QC – Study Midwest ILDA, Austin, MN	28 10:00 QC – Worship Midwest ILDA, Austin, MN
29 * See below for worship and Bible study times. Midwest ILDA, Austin, MN						

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.
 WL – Waterloo/Cedar Falls. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4820 Oster Parkway, Cedar Falls. 2nd and 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
 DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. No meetings for the summer. See you in September!
 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.

August 2018

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

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Prayers

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ For all Christians this summer to remember that Christ is our rest. Vacation doesn't mean vacation from church. We go to church to find our true rest in Him.
- ✦ Continue to pray for our nation and our leaders. Ask God to lead them to do what is right for all people.
- ✦ Pray that all Christians will pay attention to God's word to teach us and guide us. Too many people listen to the world and that will never lead us right. When we are strong in God's word, then we will shine as God's lights in this world.
- ✦ For all who ask God to give them health: Mollie Schmitz, Lorri Green, Shirley Green, Pat Monroe's father, Jackie Spencer, Barbara Zimmerman, Janet Weber, Mae and Jerry Hanson, Joan Mass, Arlene Ritze, Rosie Glime, Chris Wrage, Sharon Pope, Jeanette Kern, Bonnie Lou Huffman, Vicki Hoover's daughter Cleta, 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.
- ✦ 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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(See Genesis 6-8)

07-24-2015

WELL BOYS, I HAVE TO SAY IT'S BEEN NICE HAVING THREE DOGS THESE PAST YEARS ... BUT NOT SO MUCH TODAY

Bible Riddles

- Q. Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?
A. Because he knew there was something fishy about it.
- Q. Why didn't Noah go fishing?
A. Because he only had two worms.
- Q. What kind of lights did Noah have on the ark?
A. Floodlights.

Once a little babe was drifting
In a basket all alone,
When the king's fair daughter found him-
Wished to have him for her own.
So she found the baby's mother
For his nurse that very day
But when he had grown to manhood,
He his people led away.
Who was he? (Exodus 2)