

Sign Post

**July – August,
2022**

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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
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*“Speak out for the one who cannot speak, for the rights of those who are doomed. Speak out, judge fairly, and defend the rights of oppressed and needy people.”
Proverbs 31:8-9*

As I write this today (June 24), there are many very happy people in the U.S., and many angry people. The U.S. Supreme Court announced their decision this morning to overturn Roe v. Wade. That means they said the U.S. Constitution doesn’t guarantee a right to abortion. Now every state will need to decide if abortion will be legal or illegal in that state. Many of the states have already decided.

In one way, this is a great victory. Unborn babies have been given life by God. They cannot speak up to defend themselves. Proverbs 31:8-9 reminds us that we need to speak up for them, to defend them and their right to live. The Supreme Court did that today and gave many more babies a chance to continue living.

But this is not at all a complete victory. There are many people angry. That shows that people’s hearts and minds still need to change. Our work on abortion is not finished until everyone respects and cherishes God’s gift of life. We must continue to teach and work to change the culture so that people will value life.

And there is much more work to do beyond that. For years now, Crisis Pregnancy Centers and other groups like that around the country have helped women avoid abortion. They give them counseling, food, clothes, and other support they need so they can keep their babies and give their children a better life.

Now that abortion is illegal in some states, how many more women will have babies and need help? Their families should be the first ones to help them. But then the church should also be ready to help. As Christians, God gives us His love so we can love other people. We love them, protect them and help them whether they are 100 years old, 10 years old, 1 year old, or 1 day old inside their mother.

There will be more of a need to help, and the church will help. But we don’t do it to show the world that we really do care. Abortion supporters continue to say we hate women, even though the church has been helping women and babies for years. (But we do pray that witness will make them wake up and see who Jesus is.) We help because of what Jesus has done for us. We have a God who became human and was born as a baby, so He could grow up and die on a cross and rise alive again to save us. He gives us life and He makes our lives holy. Now we want to love other people with the life He gives us.

Pastor Eckert

Dive Into God's Word

The Table of Duties

What do people owe their pastors?

Martin Luther's Small Catechism has a section named the "Table of Duties." The Table of Duties reminds us what our responsibilities are and how we live as Christians in the roles that God puts us in. God puts us together in the church as His people, as the body of Christ. In the church, we have different roles and responsibilities. In January, we looked at the pastor's job and His responsibilities to his people. Now we will look at the members and their responsibilities to their pastor. *Answers are on p. 4*

Martin Luther chose these five Bible passages to show what people should give or do for their pastor.

1. 1 Corinthians 9:14

- "The people who preach the good news" means pastors. Their work is to preach the Gospel. How does a pastor earn a living from preaching?

2. Galatians 6:6-7

- Verse 6 says the person who is learning God's word should share all good things with his teacher (pastor). What good things should you share with your pastor?
- Verse 7 says what you plant is what you harvest. Read verse 8. If you work to serve and please yourself (the "planting"), what will you get (the "harvest")?
- Galatians 6:8-10 encourages us to do good, especially for believers. How does this help your pastor and the church?

3. 1 Timothy 5:17-18

- Verse 17 says to give double honor to leaders (pastors) who do their work well, especially if they teach God's word. How do you honor your pastor?
- "Never muzzle an ox when it is threshing grain." That meant when an ox is working to clean the grain, you should let it eat some of the grain. (1 Corinthians 9:9-14 also talks about this.) What does that mean for pastors?

4. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

- Paul writes that Christians can do four things for their pastors. The first is show appreciation for their pastors and teachers. What does that mean?
- Second, he says to love them. What does that mean? How do you show love?
- Third, he says to think highly of your pastor. What if you think your pastor isn't very good? Should you still think highly of him, or what should you do?
- Fourth, Paul says to live in peace with each other. How does that help your pastor and the church?

5. Hebrews 13:17 (I will add Heb. 13:7 to this.)

- This verse emphasizes obeying your pastor and respecting his authority. Why should you obey your pastor?
- How is respecting your pastor's authority good for you and for your pastor?

NOTE: These questions and answers assume your pastor is preaching and teaching God's word correctly. If he is not preaching the truth, then see the answer to number 4 (1 Thess. 5).

Prayers

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ Thank God for the Supreme Court ruling that ended legal abortion under Roe v Wade. Pray that God will change people's hearts to respect His gift of life, and that He will protect: unborn babies and their mothers, Supreme Court justices, Crisis Pregnancy Centers and other similar agencies, and churches.
- ✦ Continue to pray that God will protect people and keep them safe from COVID. Thank God that the newer variants seem to be less serious. Ask God to give our leaders wisdom to protect people's health and also protect our freedoms.
- ✦ Thank God that Alex Hoover healed from his surgeries and is home now.
- ✦ 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 and to stop leaders' lust for power.
- ✦ Pray for all the victims of shootings and their families in our country.
- ✦ Pray for our divided nation and our leaders. It seems like we are becoming more and more divided. Pray that God will lead people and our leaders to humbly look for God's way.
- ✦ But we also know that Jesus said we will never have true peace in this world. Only Jesus gives us true peace. Pray that all Christians will live their faith boldly and not fear the world.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with trust and health: Mollie Schmitz, Doris Harris, Shirley Green, Susan Green, Barbara Zimmerman, James Weber, Lisa Oelberg, Jerry Hanson, Curtis Bethurum, Kathy Anderson, Rosie Glime, Gary Lewis, Gerald Mitchell, Chris Wrage, Ricky Moore, Sharon Pope, Paula Slavin, Jeanette Kern, Terry Ann Check, and many family members and friends.
- ✦ Pray for Becky Jungklaus (deaconess student) and for Vince Mroz and Dan Wallis (pastoral students) as they continue their studies. Also pray for Pastor Luvisha in Kenya as he begins his deaf education studies.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.



July

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August

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

1. 1 Corinthians 9:14

- A pastor's job is to preach the Gospel and be a shepherd for God's people. He shouldn't need to get another job to earn money for himself and his family. (But sometimes he might do that, the same as Paul did.) Church members give offerings to the church and the church uses that to pay the pastor.

2. Galatians 6:6-7

- You can share many good things with your pastor! Like 1 Cor. 9:14 said, you can give to help pay his salary, but much more than that! Your pastor is teaching you; share with him what that teaching means to you. Tell him what you are learning, how you are telling other people what you learn, and how you are growing in your faith and life. Those are great things to share with your pastor!
- If we plant to please our sinful self, then we will harvest destruction. In other words, if I do what makes me happy, not what God wants, then my life is ruined and God will judge me.
- Sometimes people think the pastor should do all the work in church and the members only show up on Sunday. Not true! We are the body of Christ together. In church, God forgives our sin and gives us life. We learn how to live as Christians. We do good for all people, especially other believers. That builds up the church and makes it stronger. It's not just the pastor's job. That is work God gives you to do, too!

3. 1 Timothy 5:17-18

- There are many ways you can honor your pastor. First and most important, respect him for his work of preaching God's word. Don't ignore what he teaches. Honor him by working with him to do the work of the church. Also, honor him by supporting his needs and family.
- An ox works and can eat to benefit from its work. The same, pastors work and can get paid for their work.

4. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

- Thank your pastor for his work. Pastors are human and they need to know that their members appreciate the work they do. But especially, listen to God's word that they preach and teach.
- "Love your pastor" means care about them. Show that they are important to you. If they do something wrong, forgive them and don't hold grudges.
- What should you do if your pastor isn't very good? It depends on how he isn't very good. God says what a pastor should be like in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9. If your pastor doesn't teach the truth of God's word, if he is not doing his work, if he is doing serious sins and not stopping, then you need to talk to your church board and the district president about that. But most of the time, problems are not that serious. Most complaints are that his sermons are boring, or he isn't a skilled teacher, or something like that. Again, your pastor is human. Love him, work with him, try to help him get better. That is the best way to respect him and think the best about him.
- Fighting hurts the church. A lot of time and energy is wasted on fighting or trying to stop the fights. God gives us peace in Jesus. When we live in peace, working together as God's people is much easier!

5. Hebrews 13:17 (and 13:7)

- Verse 7 shows that we obey the pastor because he preaches God's word. That is his authority. He doesn't have authority over what kind of phone you buy or what your favorite food is. His authority is to preach and teach God's word, His truth. It is necessary for us to listen to and obey God's word.
- If we don't respect the pastor's authority, that is often because we are not respecting God's word. When we respect and obey God's word, and we respect the pastor's authority to teach His word, then we will continue to learn and grow in His word.

July 2022

					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/Study 1:00 DU – Bible 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 7:00 WL – Study	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. 5th 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.

August 2022

	1	2	3 7:00 WL – Worship	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 – Bible Study
14 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	15	16	17 7:00 WL – Study	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.	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. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1705 E. Locust St., Davenport. Every Saturday, Worship at 10:00 a.m., Study at 11:15 a.m.
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Psalm 27

From www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch

The book of Psalms is the song book in the Bible. This book has many different kinds of songs for God's people. Some Psalms praise God for His work of creating all things, some praise Him for making Israel His people, some for saving His people. Other Psalms are sad because the writer is suffering, but show hope that God will save him. Some Psalms sing about God's wonderful word and teaching. Some look forward to God sending the Savior, and they talk about who Jesus will be and what He will do. Psalm 27 is a song that rejoices in God and worshiping Him in the temple. We want to be with God in church to worship Him and to receive His blessings. The words in this puzzle are from Psalm 27:1-6.

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G R B E H C M T E B G N R G I
H I D F R N R P E N E S I I O
E H O E S E V I L D O E R S S
I L S F S D T E F E A R S P P
R S P S T I A H C I S U M S E
T A C E N F A S G P C B H S U
H I D D E N P R A I S E C E N
G S E R N O I T A V L A S Z C
U P A A O C R D S T M U H A E
I U L S P L Y P E P O T C G O
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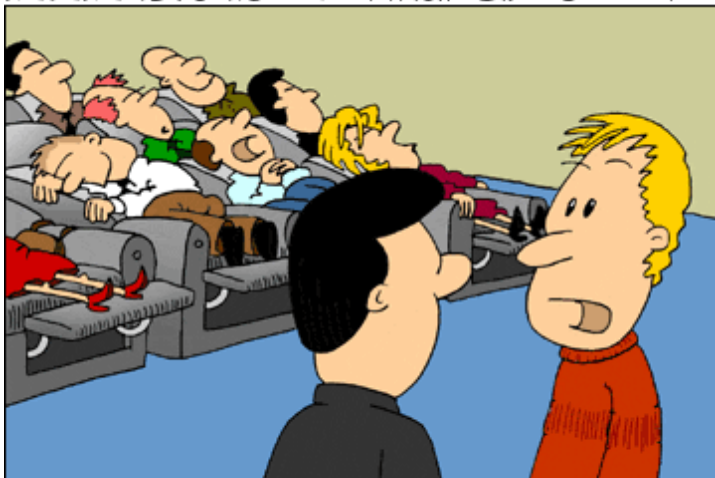
The Lord is my light and my salvation. Who is there to fear? The Lord is my life's fortress. Who is there to be afraid of?

Evildoers closed in on me to tear me to pieces. My opponents and enemies stumbled and fell. Even though an army sets up camp against me, my heart will not be afraid. Even though a war breaks out against me, I will still have confidence in the Lord.

I have asked one thing from the Lord. This I will seek: to remain in the Lord's house all the days of my life in order to gaze at the Lord's beauty and to search for an answer in his temple. He hides me in his shelter when there is trouble. He keeps me hidden in his tent. He sets me high on a rock. Now my head will be raised above my enemies who surround me. I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy in his tent. I will sing and make music to praise the Lord.

When we go to church, God wants us to be a little more awake and attentive than this:

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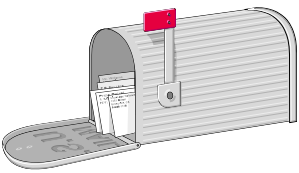
Thanks to Crystal

11-12-2001

IN THEIR DEFENSE, ATTENDANCE IS UP SIXTY PERCENT

Word of God Lutheran Church
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Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

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