

# Sign Post

**July – August,  
2023**

## **In This Issue...**

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Sign Post is online at  
[www.iowaeastdeaf.org](http://www.iowaeastdeaf.org).  
It is the newsletter for:

Word of God Lutheran  
Church for the Deaf  
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*When Jesus finished saying these things, the people were amazed at His teaching, because He did not teach like their teachers of the law. He taught like a person who had authority. Matthew 7:28-29*

About half of the church year (December to May) is about the life of Jesus and His work to save us. The other half of the church year is mostly about the church and God’s teachings for us. This time is called the season of Pentecost. It goes from Pentecost Sunday (7 weeks after Easter) until the end of November. This is known as the teaching time of the church year.

How important is teaching? Think of all the things you have learned in your life. Someone taught you most of what you learned. Parents, teachers, friends, pastors, coaches, and others taught you how to get dressed, how to write your name, how to read, how to drive, how to apply for a job, and many other things.

Teaching in church is very important because that is how we learn who God is, who we are, and what God has done to save us and give us new life now and forever. If God didn’t teach us those things in the Bible, and if a pastor or teacher didn’t explain the Bible to us, how could we know?

You might think you can study and learn the Bible all on your own, that you don’t need a church, a pastor, or a teacher. Yes, there are some things that you can learn on your own. But even most of the things you learned on your own, you learned from a book, a video, or some kind of instructions. Someone was still teaching you through those things.

The early church listened to their teachers, the apostles. Acts 2:42 describes this time in the church. It says, “The disciples were devoted to the teachings of the apostles, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.” They didn’t listen to a lot of different teachers and choose what they liked. They listened to the apostles who knew Jesus and the Bible and preached the truth.

Today there are so many churches with so many different teachings! The Internet makes it easy to find all these different teachings! That is very sad, because there are many false teachings out there. Some people look for the teachings that they like. They don’t look for the truth. They want teachings that make them feel good. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 says, “A time will come when people will not listen to accurate teachings. Instead, they will follow their own desires and surround themselves with teachers who tell them what they want to hear. People will refuse to listen to the truth and turn to myths.” That is happening today.

*Continued on p. 2*

## Teaching (continued from p. 1)

Other people become confused because of all the different teachings. They try one church, then another church, then another. Finally, they become so frustrated that they give up and quit church. That is not good, either.

What does God want His church to do?

1. Pastors must teach the truth (2 Cor. 4:2, Eph. 4:11-15, 2 Tim. 2:15)
2. Christians should find a church that teaches the truth (Rom. 16:17, 1 Cor. 13:6, Eph. 1:13, 2 Tim. 3:1-7, 1 John 4:5-6). Compare the church teachings with the Bible to make sure the church is following Christ and not human ideas (Acts 17:11).
3. Live what you learn (Matt. 7:24-27, Eph. 4:25, Phil. 4:8-9).

Make sure you see “Dive Into God’s Word” for more about God’s Word and teaching!

Pastor Eckert

## Prayers

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ Pray that all churches will teach God’s word in all its truth and purity. Ask Him to stop people from teaching what they think and only teach what God says.
- ✦ Ask God to give all Christians a strong desire to read and study God’s word, so we will be strong and mature Christians who can explain the faith and also eagerly live the same as we believe.
- ✦ Thank God for the rain He has given us. Pray that He will send rain for places still experiencing drought.
- ✦ Continue to pray for Ukraine and an end to the war there.
- ✦ Thank God for our nation and the many freedoms and blessings we have. Ask God to make people recognize that all these blessings are from Him and to use them in the right way so we don’t lose them.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with health: Mollie Schmitz, Doris Harris, Shirley Green, Susan Green, Barbara Zimmerman, Norma Jean Mangrich, Kent Kischer, Lisa Oelberg, Janet Weber, James Weber, Curtis Bethurum, Kathy Anderson, Gerald Mitchell, Arlene Ritze, Ricky Moore, Paula Slavin, Nancy Griffin, 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), Nola Gray, and Peggy Gott (as deaconesses). Becky Jungklaus will finish her studies and will serve as a deaconess in Sealy, Texas, when she graduates this summer.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.



## July

- 2 Ricky Moore
- 13 Barb Zimmerman
- 31 Michael Anderson



## August

- 14 Jackie Spencer
- 17 Stephen Eckert
- 28 Mary Erpelding
- 29 Mike Currier

# Dive Into God's Word

## The Importance of Teaching God's Word

Teaching requires four simple things:

1. Something worth teaching and believing.
2. Someone to teach.
3. Someone to learn.
4. Use what you learn.

### God's Word is worth teaching and believing *(Answers are on p. 4)*

1. Read 2 Peter 1:16-21. Many religions are based on made-up stories (myths). Is Christianity like that? What did Peter say?
2. Where did prophecy (speaking and writing the Bible) come from?
3. Read 2 Tim. 3:15-17. What is Scripture (the Bible) able to do? (vs. 15)
4. God "breathed out" Scripture. What four things are God's Word good for? (vs. 16)
5. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. What is the Gospel, the main message of God's Word?

### Who should teach in church?

1. Read James 3:1. Some people think anyone can teach or become a pastor. What does this verse say about that?
2. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13. This lists the requirements for pastors and deacons. What does God say about pastors and deacons? What are the requirements for them?

### We should all learn!

1. Read Deuteronomy 6:6-9 and Psalm 1:2. How often should we remember God's word and think about what it means?
2. Read John 8:31-32. We must know God's truth and avoid lies and false teaching. How do we do that?

### When you learn, apply that to your life!

1. Read James 1:22-25. Reading and learning God's Word is very important. What else is important about His Word?
2. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. We don't learn the Bible only to know it. Scripture teaches and trains us for what kind of life? (vs. 16-17)

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

### **God's Word is worth teaching and believing**

1. Peter said they didn't follow myths or made-up stories. The apostles were witnesses of everything Jesus did. When the apostles taught, they could talk about what they heard Jesus teach and saw Jesus do. Peter also said that the things they saw in Jesus showed that God's Word is true. Everything God said in the Old Testament about Jesus was true and you can believe it.
2. Peter said that "no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation." That means the people who wrote the Bible didn't write their own ideas. How did they know what to write? The Holy Spirit led them to speak and to write God's Word.
3. Scripture makes you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. When you learn God's Word, the Holy Spirit uses His Word to give you faith and salvation.
4. 2 Timothy 3:16 says God's word is good for teaching, reproof (showing sin), correction (fixing problems, leading you in the right direction), and training in righteousness.
5. In these verses, Paul summarized the Gospel. He said this is what is most important. In other words, if you learn anything from the Bible, this is what you must know and believe. Jesus died for our sins, the same as the Bible said He would do. He was buried and raised alive on the third day, the same as the Bible said He would do. Jesus proved He was alive because He appeared to the apostles and many disciples. That is the message that Paul and the other apostles preached and what Christians believe.

### **Who should teach in church?**

1. James warned that not everyone should become a teacher, because God will judge teachers more strictly. When he talks about "teachers," he probably means pastors. Not everyone can become a pastor.
2. 1 Timothy 3:1-13 has a long list of requirements for pastors (overseers, or bishops) and deacons. Here are some of the requirements. A pastor can have only one wife, he should have a good reputation, he must control himself and his desires, he should be able to teach, not a drunk, he should be gentle and not violent, he shouldn't be an arguer and he shouldn't love money. He has to take care of his family well. He should be mature in the faith. Pastors and deacons should also be tested to make sure they can do their work well and teach and preach the truth.

### **We should all learn!**

1. We should always remember God's Word and think about it. In Psalm 1:2, it says a man is blessed who is happy with the Law of the Lord (meaning God's Word) and he thinks about God's Word day and night. Deuteronomy 6:6-9 describes a family talking about God's Word at all different times of the day and in different places. God's Word is not only for us to learn in church. His Word is part of our life every day.
2. Jesus said if you abide (continue) in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free. Continuing in Jesus' word means knowing His word, believing it, and living in faith in Him and His word. When we do that, we will stay in His truth.

### **When you learn, apply that to your life!**

1. James said don't only hear God's Word. Do what His Word says. If we learn His Word but then don't live in His Word, then His Word means nothing to us and we have no faith.
2. Scripture teaches and trains us for righteousness. That is a life that agrees with what God wants. Then we are ready to do every good work that God plans for us to do.

# July 2023

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

BR – Burlington. Concordia Lutheran Church, 2901 Cliff Rd., Burlington. 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday worship at 4:00 p.m.  
 CR – Cedar Rapids. Word of God Lutheran Church Deaf, 1515 - 29<sup>th</sup> 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.  
 WL – Waterloo/Cedar Falls. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4820 Oster Parkway, Cedar Falls. 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday worship at 7:00 p.m., 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday study at 7:00 p.m.  
 DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Study at 1:00 p.m.

# August 2023

		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  7:00 WL – Worship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
<b>6</b> * See below for worship and Bible study times.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 8:15 QC – Doxology Event at Trinity, Davenport
<b>13</b> * See below for worship and Bible study times.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  7:00 WL – Study	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
<b>20</b> * See below for worship and Bible study times.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
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 DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. No study this month. Study continues in September.

# The Torah of the Lord

From [www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch](http://www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch)

In this newsletter, we are talking about teaching. What do we teach? Only God's Word! Our ideas are not worth talking about, but God's Word is true and continues forever (1 Peter 1:25). The Old Testament often uses the Hebrew word "Torah." Torah means law, teaching, command, instruction. It is God's Word. Psalm 119 is known as the longest chapter in the Bible. It is a Psalm about how God's Torah, His Word, is wonderful. This reading is from Psalm 119:1-8. Find the underlined words.

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

Blessed are those whose lives have integrity, those who follow the teachings of the Lord.

Blessed are those who obey His written instructions. They wholeheartedly search for Him. They do nothing wrong. They follow His directions.

You have commanded that Your guiding principles be carefully followed.

I pray that my ways may become firmly established, so that I can obey Your laws.

Then I will never feel ashamed when I study all Your commandments.

I will give thanks to You as I learn Your regulations, which are based on Your righteousness.

I will obey Your laws. Never abandon me.

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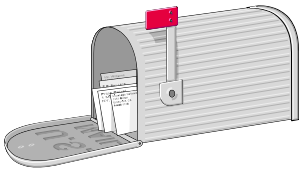
Thanks to Colin Nelson

10-01-2007

I USUALLY SAY TO NOT BELIEVE EVERYTHING THAT YOU READ, BUT THIS IS AN EXCEPTION

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Postal Carrier: Have a great day!

