

Sign Post

**July – August,
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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The woman saw that the tree had fruit that was good to eat, nice to look at, and desirable for making someone wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.
Genesis 3:6

You have probably heard a lot about Artificial Intelligence (AI). There is a lot of news about how much AI will change our lives. There are many promises about how it will make life so much better and also many warnings about how much it will hurt our life. What does all of this mean and what should Christians think about AI?

What is AI? What can it do? AI is a computer technology that lets computers do work the same as people do, but much faster. AI makes it look like computers can think. AI means computers can understand human language and talk and write like a person. They can diagnose diseases. They can do complicated math. AI can create music and pictures and videos.

There are some very good uses for AI. For example, AI can help find cures for cancer. But there are also many concerns. AI is already taking away many jobs from people. AI is not always correct – sometimes it gives wrong information. AI also needs data centers that use huge amounts of electricity and water and are not good for the environment or local communities.

Those are all things that people need to think about regarding AI. For us as Christians, we also need to ask what God thinks about AI.

There are many ways we could talk about this, but for now, we will just make two points. The first point is about people. Genesis 1:26-27 says:

Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, in our likeness. Let them rule the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the domestic animals all over the earth, and all the animals that crawl on the earth.” So God created humans in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female.

In all of creation, God made people in His image. Nothing else is in His image, like Him. God gave us the ability to think, reason, love, and serve.

Continued on p. 2

Artificial Intelligence (continued from p. 1)

God made us able to make new things, but we should not think we can make something equal to people. AI or a robot can never be human. A machine cannot have a soul. We must recognize that God made us special to be like Him. AI can and should never try to copy that.

The second point is about God. Do you remember the first commandment? “You will have no other gods before Me.” Only God is our God. There is no other God. In Genesis 3:4-6, Satan tempted Eve to want to be like God herself.

“You certainly won’t die!” the snake told the woman. “God knows that when you eat it (the fruit) your eyes will be opened. You’ll be like God, knowing good and evil.” The woman saw that the tree had fruit that was good to eat, nice to look at, and desirable for making someone wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Satan tempted Eve with wisdom. Wouldn’t it be great to be wise and knowing the same as God? Then you could be like God Himself. That is the temptation of AI. AI promises to give us great knowledge and the ability to solve many problems. So there is a temptation to trust AI for our future instead of trusting God.

We must remember that sinful humans created AI. AI will never be perfect. There are many examples that show that AI may be faster than people, but it has many of the same problems that people have – bias, discrimination, misunderstanding, etc. Maybe AI can solve math problems, but it can’t solve our sin problem.

As this new technology develops, AI may do some very good things in the future. But always remember AI cannot be human, it cannot be perfect, and it cannot save you. Only the true God became a true human, lived a perfect life and saved you. Trust in Him.

Pastor Eckert

Prayers

Please remember these in your prayers:

- ✦ Ask God to protect us from trusting false gods, and to trust in Him to take care of us, save us, and give us everything we need.
- ✦ Thank God for blessing the U.S. as a country for 250 years. God has truly given us great freedoms and opportunities. Even as we have great blessings, there are always threats to our government and freedoms. Ask God to protect our country and freedoms and guide us in the way He wants us to go.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with health: Norma Jean Mangrich, Kent Kischer, Jay Oelberg, Lisa Oelberg, Delbert and Connie Neely, Janet Weber, James Weber, Curtis Bethurum, Kathy Anderson, JoAnn Mitchell, Rosie Glime, 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.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.

Dive Into God's Word

Godly Leaders

As the U.S. celebrates 250 years, we have many reasons to thank God. One thing we can thank God for is that we have had many good leaders. Yes, we do often complain about our leaders in government, and they are not perfect. But we have had many good leaders throughout our history. Especially at the beginning of our nation, many presidents and representatives were not selfish and felt it was important to serve for the good of other people, not for themselves. That is one characteristic of a good leader. The Bible tells us more characteristics of godly leaders. *Answers are on page 4.*

Characteristics of Godly Leaders

1. Deuteronomy 1:13. Choose men who are _____, _____, and _____.
2. Ezra 7:25. Leaders should know God's _____.
3. Psalm 2:10, 11. Leaders should know that they are serving _____.
4. Psalm 72. This whole psalm describes a very good king.
5. Proverbs 17:7. Nobles (leaders) should not _____.
6. Proverbs 20:26, 28. A king scatters the _____, but has _____ on others.
7. Proverbs 24:23-26. Judges should not say a guilty person is _____.
8. Proverbs 28:16. A leader without understanding _____ people heavily. So a wise and understanding leader will not be so hard.
9. Proverbs 31:4-5. Leaders should not _____ too much or be addicted to anything.
10. Proverbs 31:8-9. Leaders should speak up for people who cannot _____. Speak out, judge _____, and defend the rights of _____ and _____ people.
11. Romans 13:1-7. Leaders should _____ people who do wrong.

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

The words here are from the "God's Word" translation of the Bible.

1. Deuteronomy 1:13. Choose men who are wise, intelligent, and experienced.
2. Ezra 7:25. Leaders should know God's teachings.
3. Psalm 2:10, 11. Leaders should know that they are serving the Lord.
4. Psalm 72. This whole psalm describes a very good king. A good king serves with God's righteousness. He will work for peace and justice. He saves people who are in trouble. He protects his people from enemies. A good ruler is a blessing for the people. They can live in peace and prosperity. A ruler like that deserves much honor and praise. This psalm describes a good leader in government, but it also describes how God is our great and perfect King who takes care of His people.
5. Proverbs 17:7. Nobles (leaders) should not lie.
6. Proverbs 20:26, 28. A king scatters the wicked, but has mercy on others.
7. Proverbs 24:23-26. Judges should not say a guilty person is innocent.
8. Proverbs 28:16. A leader without understanding taxes people heavily. So a wise and understanding leader will not be so hard.
9. Proverbs 31:4-5. Leaders should not drink too much or be addicted to anything.
10. Proverbs 31:8-9. Leaders should speak up for people who cannot speak. Speak out, judge fairly, and defend the rights of oppressed and needy people.
11. Romans 13:1-7. Leaders should punish people who do wrong.

July

- 2 Ricky Moore
- 31 Michael Anderson



August

- 17 Stephen Eckert
- 29 Mike Currier

July 2026

			1 7:00 WL – Worship	2	3 3:00 QC – Worship	4 <i>Happy 250th Birthday, America!</i>
5 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	6	7	8	9	10	11 10:00 DU – Bible Study 3:00 QC – Worship
12 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	13	14	15 7:00 WL – Study	16	17	18 3:00 QC – Worship
19 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	20	21	22	23	24	25 3:00 QC – Worship
26 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	27	28	29	30	31	
BR – Burlington. Concordia Lutheran Church, 2901 Cliff Rd., Burlington. 4 th Sunday worship at 3:00 p.m. CR – Cedar Rapids. Word of God Lutheran Church Deaf, 1515 - 29 th 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 except July 4, Worship at 3:00 p.m. WL – Waterloo/Cedar Falls. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4820 Oster Parkway, Cedar Falls. 1 st Wednesday worship at 7:00 p.m., 3 rd Wednesday study at 7:00 p.m. DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. 2 nd Saturday Study at 10:00 a.m.						

August 2026

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

The Days of Creation

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

In 6 days, God created everything we see and can't see. On the 7th day He rested. That was the beginning of the whole universe and life in this world. Genesis chapters 1 and 2 tell the story of creation. These are some of the words and phrases from the story of how God created everything. (The days – Day 1, 2, etc., are not part of the word search.)

R I E O D W A T D O S M R O N	Day 1	
O A K D O O G Y R E V I L O A	Light	
A S I E G L S K Y A V Y T R W	Day 2	
E S E N F E L D G E A S R R S	Sky	Waters above
T E E V O B A S R E T A W N A	Waters below	
T L A K E S M S O I M H H K R	Day 3	
D R H Y G R I C U P B O G A F	Oceans	Lakes
O S V U A E N S N A E C O I E	Rivers	Dry ground
U T M R M T A S D H E A S N L	Plants	
N S T E I A D B P S N H O I B	Day 4	
S B G S R W N L S S N S R G A	Sun	Moon
D R E T U O A S M Y R Y N U B	Stars	
O S R A S N L A A R A R W N R	Day 5	
V A H R T G T F A A R E S L A	Fish	Birds
O I I S L N S D R O K Y E S S	Day 6	
	Land animals	Humans
	Image of God	Very good
	Day 7	
	Rest	

AFTER EDEN

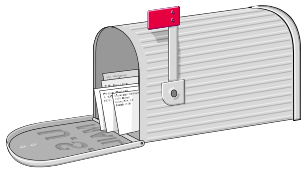
by Dan Lietha



Little Edmund had to keep reminding himself that broccoli was originally created "very good".

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Postal Carrier: Have a great day!

