

Sign Post

**March – April
2020**

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

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Sin came into the world through one person, and death came through sin. So death spread to everyone, because everyone sinned. Rom. 5:12

In the January/February newsletter, we started looking at a Christian worldview. That means we see the world the way God teaches us to see it. We don’t think about life and the world the same as an unbeliever. Unbelievers and Christians have two very different perspectives on God, life, the world, everything! But the unbelieving world influences us and how we think. So we want to make sure we remember how God wants us to think.

Last month we learned again that **God made the world** and that influences everything in life. This month, we think about the fact that **all people are sinful**.

Who wants to admit they are sinful? Most people don’t want to say that. They will talk about other problems; they will talk about the environment, economy, government, family, etc., but they usually don’t want to talk about their sin. Everyone wants to think they are mostly good and only do bad things sometimes.

If you ignore a problem, will it go away? No. If we ignore our sin and pretend we aren’t very sinful, our sin doesn’t go away. Here is an example of how the world works. Suppose you fall and break your arm. It’s a bad break, it’s very painful and you are crying. You go to the emergency room for help. The doctor sees that you are crying and hurting and gives you pain medicine and an anti-depression medication to help you feel better. How foolish! That won’t fix anything! That doctor should get fired because he ignored what is making you hurt. His job is to take care of your arm, the problem that caused all the problems.

Sin is at the root of all the problems in the world today. Think about the various problems people face: pollution, greed, bullying, not enough education, poverty, unemployment, depression, crime, addiction, war, government corruption, etc. The list could go on and on. Every problem we face as a nation or in our personal lives happens because we are sinners and we live in a sinful world.

This is what God says:

- Genesis 6:5 The Lord saw how evil humans had become on the earth. All day long their deepest thoughts were nothing but evil.
- James 2:10 If someone obeys all of God’s laws except one, that person is guilty of breaking all of them.
- Ecclesiastes 7:20 Certainly, there is no one so righteous on earth that he always does what is good and never sins.

(p. 1 continued)

Because the world doesn't admit that sin causes our problems, they ignore the only solution. People think education will solve our problems. If everyone went to school more or studied the right things, then we will all love each other and do the right things. But even people with a good education still sin and hurt the people around them. Or people trust technology to save us. But remember how many people use technology to sin or hurt others online. Technology can't take sin out of your heart.

Thank God that He solves the problem of sin for us! This is why His Son, Jesus, came to earth. Sin means we broke God's law. We did what we wanted and not what God wants, and that deserves punishment. Jesus accepted the punishment for us. He didn't ignore sin. He took our sin on Himself and killed sin on the cross when He died.

That changes how we see ourselves and how we see the world. The world doesn't want to admit sin. Christians want to admit (confess) sin because God promises that He forgives us. The world doesn't think much about temptation. Christians are careful to stay away from temptation. But when we still get tempted, then we are bold to say that Jesus defeated temptation for us. We live in His grace, we fight against sin and we follow Him.

As we go through Lent, don't ignore the problem of sin. Remember that we are sinful, confess that sin, and rejoice that God sent Jesus to save us!

In this article, the emphasis was on sin. Next time we will emphasize Jesus and how He saves us.

Prayers

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ For all Christians as we celebrate Holy Week – Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection to life. Jesus did that because He loves you and all people, and He gives you eternal life. Thank Him for His gift!
- ✦ Pray for everyone suffering from the fall into sin (that is all of us!), but especially for all those people who try to hide or deny their sin. Ask God to open their eyes to their sin and to their Savior. Pray that God will make them see that Jesus died and rose alive for them.
- ✦ As I write this, there are many people afraid of the coronavirus. People are afraid of getting sick, afraid of dying, and afraid of the unknown. We don't need to worry. We don't know the future, but God knows, and He promises that He gives eternal life to everyone who trusts Jesus as their Savior. We do pray for people who are sick and the families of those who died. But most of all, we pray for people to know Jesus and not fear things in this world.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with trust and health: Mollie Schmitz, Doris Harris, Lorri Green, Shirley Green, Barbara Zimmerman, Tracy Shepard, Jerry Hanson, Joan Mass, Vicki Hoover, Kris Baltzer, Larry Plumb, Sharon Pope, Jeanette Kern, Bonnie Lou Huffman, Terry Ann Check, Paula Slavin, and many family members and friends.
- ✦ For Pat Monroe as she waits for her parents' house to sell so she can move back to Iowa.
- ✦ Pray for Andy Petajan as he studies to become a pastor and for Becky Jungklaus as she studies to become a deaconess.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.



Dive Into God's Word

Martin Luther wrote the Small Catechism to teach the Christian faith. The catechism has six parts: the Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Lord's Supper, and Confession & Absolution. Confession (admitting our sin) and Absolution (God forgives us) are important parts of Christian life. Answer these questions about Confession and Absolution. *Answers on page 7.*

1. When we sin, who do we sin against? Read Luke 15:18. There are two answers.
2. Because we sin against God, we confess our sins to Him. What sins should we confess?
 - A. All the sins we can remember.
 - B. Only the sins that bother us and make us feel guilty.
 - C. All our sins; all the sins we know about and all the sins we don't know we do.
 - D. Only the sins we do against people.
3. We confess our sins to God. What does He say He will do? Read 1 John 1:9.
4. T / F When we confess our sins, we earn God's forgiveness.
5. T / F If you forget about a sin and don't confess it, then God can't forgive that sin.
6. T / F God forgives us because He is full of mercy.
7. T / F If you don't believe in Jesus, you can still confess your sins and God forgives you.
8. T / F Jesus forgave all our sins on the cross, so we don't need to confess our sins because God already forgave them all.
9. Should you confess your sins to your pastor? Why or why not?
10. Read John 20:22-23. In worship, we confess our sins and we get forgiveness. That forgiveness comes from
 - A. The pastor
 - B. God
 - C. Your heart
 - D. The person you sinned against.
11. Read Matthew 5:23-24. We always confess our sins to God. Because we sin against people, we also confess our sins to who?
12. Read Luke 17:3-4. When another Christian sins against us and then confesses their sin to us, what should we do?
13. What happens if a Christian sins against us, but they refuse to repent and confess their sins?
Read Matthew 18:15-18

Confession and Forgiveness

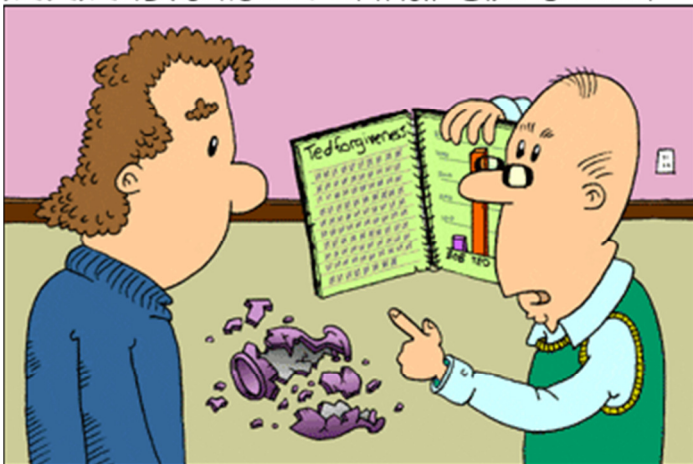
From www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch

Lent is a time to remember our sin and how much we need a Savior, and to remember everything Jesus did to save us. Psalm 51 is a Psalm used on Ash Wednesday or any time we think about our sin and God's rich mercy. Find the underlined words from Psalm 51:1-5, 10-12.

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

Have pity on me, O God, in keeping with your mercy. In keeping with your unlimited compassion, wipe out my rebellious acts. Wash me thoroughly from my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin. I admit that I am rebellious. My sin is always in front of me. I have sinned against you, especially you. I have done what you consider evil. So you hand down justice when you speak, and you are blameless when you judge. Indeed, I was born guilty. I was a sinner when my mother conceived me. Create a clean heart in me, O God, and renew a faithful spirit within me. Do not force me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore the joy of your salvation to me, and provide me with a spirit of willing obedience.

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Thanks to Greg Ballos (See Matthew 18:21-35) 03-28-2002

AS YOU CAN CLEARLY SEE BY THIS
LEDGER, YOU HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN 490
TIMES AND ARE NO LONGER COVERED BY
THE BIBLICAL POLICY

March 2020

1 * See below for worship and Bible study times.			7:00 WL – Worship			7 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
8 * See below for worship and Bible study times.			11 10:00 CR – Senior Citizens			14 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Study
15 * See below for worship and Bible study times.			7:00 WL – Study		20 1:00 MU – Worship/Study	21 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
22 * See below for worship and Bible study times.						28 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
29 * See below for worship and Bible study times.						

BR – Burlington. Concordia Lutheran Church, 2901 Cliff Rd., Burlington. 5th Sunday worship at 3:00 p.m. NOTE THE CHANGE THIS MONTH
 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., Study at 11:15 a.m.
 WL – Waterloo/Cedar Falls. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4820 Oster Parkway, Cedar Falls. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
 DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. 2nd Saturday at 1:00 p.m.
 MU – Muscatine. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2611 Lucas St., Muscatine. Talk to Pastor Eckert to confirm meeting location.

April 2020

			1 7:00 WL – Worship	2	3	4 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Study
5 * See below for worship and Bible study times. Palm Sunday	6	7	8 10:00 CR – Senior Citizens	9 Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday 3:00 QC – Good Friday Worship 7:00 CR – Good Friday Worship	11 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
12 * See below for worship and Bible study times. Happy Easter! Christ is risen!	13	14 Note: Pastor Eckert may be gone Apr. 15-19. Check with Pastor in the beginning of April.	15 7:00 WL – Study	16	17 1:00 MU – Worship	18 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
19 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	20	21	22	23	24	25 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
26 * See below for worship and Bible study times. CR Voters' Meeting and Potluck	27	28	29	30		

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., Study at 11:15 a.m.
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Answers to Dive Into God's Word

1. Many of our sins are against God and people. There are some sins only against God. But most of the time, we sin against both God and people.
2. C. We confess all our sins to God. We can't remember all our sins. We don't even know all of our sins. We sin sometimes without knowing we sin. So when we confess our sins, we confess all the sins that we remember. And we also confess that we are sinful and do many sins that we don't even know or remember.
3. God is faithful to forgive our sins. That is His great promise.
4. F. We don't earn forgiveness. God gives forgiveness as His free gift. We can't earn or buy or deserve His forgiveness in any way.
5. F. We can't remember all our sins. But God still forgives all our sins.
6. T. God is full of mercy. His loving heart is the reason He forgives. We can also say that Jesus' death on the cross paid for our sins, and that is why God forgives us. In His mercy, God sent Jesus to die for us.
7. F. God tells us to believe in Jesus. Jesus paid for our sins. If we don't believe in Jesus, we have no forgiveness. If we don't trust Jesus, then it doesn't matter how much we confess our sins, we still have no forgiveness. Remember, our confession doesn't earn forgiveness. Jesus' death on the cross gives us forgiveness.
8. F. Jesus died on the cross to forgive us. God gives us that forgiveness in different ways – in Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and Confession & Absolution. God wants us to confess our sins and get His forgiveness often.
9. Yes, confess your sins to your pastor. The pastor speaks for God and tells you that God forgives your sins. God put your pastor there for that reason.
10. B. The pastor speaks or signs the words and says he forgives you. But the forgiveness doesn't come from the pastor. The forgiveness comes from God. Jesus told the apostles that when they forgave people's sins, "they are forgiven." That means God forgives them. So when your pastor tells you he forgives your sins, you can be confident that God truly forgives you.
11. We confess our sins to God, and we also confess our sin to the people we sin against. If I said something to hurt you, then I confess that specific sin to you and ask you to forgive me.
12. We forgive them the same as God forgives us. God forgives us freely and lovingly. We forgive other people the same.
13. If a Christian sins against us, we:
 1. Go to them, tell them how they sinned against us, and ask them to repent. That means we ask them to confess their sin. If they do, then we forgive them.
 2. If they refuse to repent, then we get one or two Christians to come with us. Again we ask that person to repent and confess their sin. If they do, then we forgive them and we have a relationship with them again.
 3. If they still refuse to repent, then we bring the issue to the church. The church asks them to repent and confess their sin. If they do, that is wonderful and we forgive them. But if they still refuse to repent, then the church warns them that they are acting the same as an unbeliever and we must think of them as an unbeliever, a person who gave up the faith.

March

- 3 Zakary Anderson
- 10 Pastor Mark Anderson
- 14 Shirley Green
- 21 Theresa Legg
Mikalah Anderson
- 23 Susan Eckert
Vicki Hoover
- 24 Conor Huffman
- 26 Jeanette Kern
- 31 Seth Anderson



April

- 2 Joanne Mitchell
- 4 Kim Brenneman
- 10 Joseph Anderson
- 12 David Kern
- 14 Patty Rowray
- 16 Norma Jean Mangrich
- 28 Rachel Eckert