

Sign Post

**March – April,
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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Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

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Believe the Truth

When we told you about the power and the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, we were not telling clever stories that someone had made up. But with our own eyes we saw his true greatness. 2 Peter 1:16 (CEV)

When the Roman governor was questioning Jesus, he asked, “What is truth?” That is a question many people ask today. Politicians say anything that will get them votes. Millions of people try to live in a computer world of virtual reality. People disagree over many important questions. When does life begin? Who made us?

People in this world don’t know what truth is. So they also don’t know if the Bible says the truth about Jesus. Did Jesus really get crucified and die? Did He really rise alive from the dead? Many people think that isn’t true. They say the Bible is only a bunch of stories to make us feel good.

Don’t let them confuse you! Peter wrote these words to encourage us that God’s word is true. Peter and the other apostles saw Jesus themselves. They were eyewitnesses. Peter, James and John saw Jesus in His glory on the mountain when Jesus was shining bright like the sun. The disciples saw Jesus crucified, dead and buried. They also saw Jesus raised alive!

The disciples were amazed and surprised at what they saw. They also doubted because it was too amazing. But they saw the truth – Jesus crucified and raised alive – and they believed it and wrote it so that we can also believe.

Here are just a few things that help show that the Bible tells the truth about Jesus.

- The Bible shows the disciples doubted and didn’t understand at first. If people make up stories, they will make themselves look good. The Bible didn’t make the disciples look good, because the Bible told the truth.
- The Bible has many historical names, places, events, etc. Research has shown that the Bible didn’t make these up. They are true.
- The disciples changed after Jesus rose alive. If they made up Jesus’ rising alive, they would still be afraid. They were brave because Jesus was alive.

The world will continue to doubt and say that Jesus’ death and resurrection isn’t true. We have God’s word to show us the truth, that Jesus is our living Lord and Savior. Let’s share that truth with everyone!

Pastor Eckert

Dive Into God's Word

The Table of Duties

What are the responsibilities of the government? Of citizens?

In the January/February newsletter, we began a new series on the Table of Duties. This is from Martin Luther's Small Catechism. A catechism is a teaching book to help parents teach their children the Christian faith. We also use it to teach adults who are new to the church and just starting to learn about Jesus. The Table of Duties is a part of the catechism that reminds us what our responsibilities are and how we live as pastors, church members, fathers, mothers, employees, etc. The past couple years, there has been a lot of discussion (and arguing) about the government and what their role is. We will see what God says about the government's responsibilities and also citizen responsibilities. *Answers are on p. 4*

Government Responsibilities

A. Romans 13:1-4. The verses below are from *God's Word* translation.

1. The governments which exist have been put in place by _____.
3. Would you like to live without being _____ of the government? Do what is _____, and it will _____ you.
4. The government is God's _____ working for your good. But if you do what is _____, you should be afraid. The government has the right to carry out the _____ sentence.

B. Exodus 18:21. God gave Moses directions about what kind of leaders to choose.

21. But choose capable men from all the people, men who fear _____, men you can _____, men who hate _____. Put them in charge of groups of 1,000, or 100, or 50, or 10 people.

C. Deuteronomy 16:18-20. These are more instructions that God gave Moses about rulers.

18. Appoint judges and officers for your tribes in every city that the Lord your God is giving you. They are to judge the people _____.
19. Never pervert justice. Instead, be _____. Never take a _____, because bribes blind wise people and deny justice to those who are in the right.
20. Strive for nothing but _____ so that you will live and take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

What does this mean?

- God establishes governments. He wants people to live in good order and obey the law.
- God gives the government the responsibility to punish people who do wrong, and to reward people who do right.
- The government is not the top boss. God and His law are the top authority. Government works best when they honor God's laws and follow the laws themselves.

Citizen Responsibilities

D. Romans 13:5-7. In Romans 13, Paul explains about what we owe the government.

5. Therefore, it is necessary for you to _____, not only because you're afraid of God's anger but also because of your own conscience. (We owe the government obedience.)
6. That is also why you pay your _____.
7. Pay everyone whatever you owe them. If you owe taxes, pay them. If you owe _____, pay them. If you owe someone _____, respect that person. If you owe someone _____, honor that person.

- E. 1 Timothy 2:1-3. This gives us another important thing to do for our leaders.
1. First of all, I encourage you to make _____, _____, _____, and prayers of _____ for all people,
 2. for _____, and for everyone who has _____ over us. Pray for these people so that we can have a quiet and peaceful life always lived in a godly and reverent way.
 3. This is _____ and pleases God our _____.
- F. Titus 3:1. Read this one carefully. There is something we should do, but also something we should not do.
1. Remind believers to willingly place themselves under the authority of government officials. Believers should _____ them and be ready to help them with every _____ thing they do.

What does this mean?

- God wants us to obey the government. He gave them authority, so when we obey our leaders, we are also obeying and honoring God.
- Obey doesn't mean obey and complain. God tells us to respect and honor our leaders, also.
- God tells us to pray for our leaders. Paul uses four different words to describe how we pray for them (1 Tim. 2:1). The words mean we pray about very important things, we pray for other people, we pray for our leaders in church, and we thank God for them.
- What if the government tells us to do something wrong? Acts 5:29 says we must obey God and not people (if people tell us to go against God). Titus 3:1 says we should be ready to help the government with every good thing. But if the government tells us to do evil, we will not do that.

Prayers

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ Thank God for His love, that He sent His Son Jesus to die and rise alive for us, to give us life now and forever with Him.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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 our leaders, that they will learn to work together peacefully and for the good of our nation. Pray that they will look for what God wants and not what will make them popular.
- ✦ 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, 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.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.



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

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

A. Romans 13:1-4. The verses below are from *God's Word* translation.

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March 2022

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

April 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 1:00 DU – Bible Study
10 Palm Sunday * See below for worship and Bible study times.	11	12	13	14 Maundy Thursday	15 Good Friday 3:00 QC – Good Friday Worship 7:00 CR – Good Friday Worship	16 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
17 Easter Sunday * See below for worship and Bible study times.	18	19	20 7:00 WL – Study	21	22	23 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
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The Resurrection

From www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch

If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, then we are still in our sins (1 Cor. 15:17). Sometimes we forget how important it is that Jesus rose alive. We celebrate it every year. We become used to it. It doesn't mean as much to us as it should. 1 Corinthians 15 is a good reminder of what Jesus' resurrection means. If He didn't rise, then we all die and go to hell. But He did rise alive! We can thank God and live a new life now, while we also look forward to Jesus coming again and raising us alive. The reading is from 1 Corinthians 15:12-22.

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

We have preached that Christ has been raised from the dead. So how can some of you say that no one rises from the dead? If no one rises from the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, what we preach doesn't mean anything. Your faith doesn't mean anything either. More than that, we would be lying about God. We are witnesses that God raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if the dead are not raised. If the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith doesn't mean anything. Your sins have not been forgiven. Those who have died believing in Christ are also lost. Do we have hope in Christ only for this life? Then people should pity us more than anyone else.

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(See John 19:17-37)

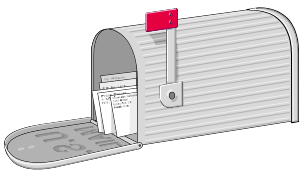
04-18-2014

"I, JESUS, HEREBY BEQUEATH MY CARPENTRY STUFF TO ZED, MY GOOD TUNIC TO ROB, AND I'LL BE BACK TO PICK UP THE REST. TO EVERYONE IN THE UNIVERSE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE ... I LEAVE LIFE."

But Christ really has been raised from the dead. He is the first of all those who will rise from the dead. Death came because of what a man did. Rising from the dead also comes because of what a man did. Because of Adam, all people die. So because of Christ, all will be made alive.

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