

# Sign Post

**March – April,  
2024**

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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  
1515 29th St. NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

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*Then God said, “Let there be a space to separate the water into two parts!” So God made the space and separated the water. Some of the water was above it, and some of the water was below it. God named that space “sky.” There was evening, and then there was morning. This was the second day. Genesis 1:6-8*

In this newsletter we continue our journey through the six days of creation. Last time, we looked at how God created light. God creating light and then separating light from darkness reminds us how God is life and the source of life, and that He judges and separates good from evil.

This month we think about the second day of creation. What did God do on the second day? He separated the waters above and the waters below. God put a space, the sky, between the waters above and the waters below.

When you look at each of the six days, the second day might seem boring. Light is the first thing God made and that is so important! The other days – plants, sun, moon, stars, birds, fish, land animals, people, those are all wonderful parts of creation that we see every day. The Bible gives more explanation about all of those things. But the second day? God made the sky. Yawn.

What does this mean? What does it teach us? God is a God of order. He has a right place for everything. He has a right way for everything to work. God doesn’t want everything to be a mess and out of control.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He put the earth there, but what kind of earth was it at first? A mess. Genesis 1:2 says, “The earth was without form and void (empty).” “Without form” means the earth was a muddy, watery mess. Imagine young kids playing in a huge mud puddle and the mess that would be. In the very beginning, the earth was like that.

That is disorder – not ordered, not right, not working well. A mess. That is the world today because of sin. God is a God of order, making everything right to work the best way. Sin doesn’t want God’s way, so sin messes up everything. You wonder why you work hard to have a good life and things keep going wrong? That is sin ruining God’s good orderly world.

Back to the second day of creation! God has a right place for everything, so He puts everything in the right place. God was going to clean up this messy world. Some water belongs on earth and some above the earth. Why? *Continued on p. 2*

## Day 2 – Water (continued from p. 1)

God had plans for the water on the earth. We have to wait until Day 3 to see those plans. On Day 2, God put the water in the sky to rain on the earth. Psalm 147:8 says, “He covers the sky with clouds. He supplies the earth with rain. He makes grass grow on the hills.” God separated the waters and put the clouds in the sky for our good, so the ground gets rain and can give life to the earth and make food grow for us. For that, we thank and praise Him.

The sky high above us also makes us think of God and His work. Psalm 19:1 says, “The heavens tell about the glory of God. The skies show that His hands created them.” When we see the sky, we see God’s great work of creation. We know that only a powerful and wise God could make this universe and this earth.

Finally, the sky shows that God is greater than us. God is truly more powerful, but also His knowledge and His plans and His ways are above us, more than we can understand. In Isaiah 55:8-11, God says, “My thoughts are not like your thoughts. And your ways are not like My ways,” announces the Lord. “The heavens are higher than the earth. And My ways are higher than your ways. My thoughts are higher than your thoughts. The rain and the snow come down from the sky. They do not return to it without watering the earth. They make plants come up and grow. The plants produce seeds for farmers. They also produce food for people to eat. The words I speak are like that. They will not return to Me without producing results. They will accomplish what I want them to. They will do exactly what I sent them to do.”

If you have been to a place like Montana or the northern Great Plains, you know how big the sky can look. God’s ways are that much higher, that much bigger than our ways. His way is that He works through His Word, Jesus, and the good news that Jesus saves us. When you look up at the sky, remember that God put the clouds in the sky to give rain for the earth. Remember that the sky shows God’s glory and power to create everything. But more than everything, remember that the sky high above us reminds us that God works in amazing ways through His Word that gives salvation in Jesus.

Pastor Eckert

## **Prayers**

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ Holy Week is the greatest week of the year. Pray that all Christians will be prepared to remember Jesus’ sacrifice for us on the cross and to celebrate His resurrection from the dead for us. Thank God that because of Jesus, God takes away our sin and gives us life!
- ✦ Many people celebrate Easter as candy and bunnies and nothing more. Ask God to open their eyes to see that Good Friday and Easter are God’s work and salvation for us. Pray that God will make us bold and eager to witness and tell people about Jesus.
- ✦ As we approach the elections in November, ask God to give us good and wise leaders who will work agreeing with God’s ways.
- ✦ These people passed away recently: Jackie Spencer, Mollie Schmitz, Sharon Pope, Johanna Palmer (wife of Pastor Bud Palmer, pastor for the Deaf in the Milwaukee area). Ask God to give His peace and comfort to all these families. Thank God that He gives His people eternal life in Jesus.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with health: 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.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.

# Dive Into God's Word

## Isaac and Jesus

Many Old Testament prophecies talk about Jesus and what He will do. Here are some examples.

- Isaiah 7:14 says, “The Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel.” That tells us Jesus would be born of a virgin, and that happened.
- Psalm 22:1 says, “My God, my God, why have you deserted me?” This shows us that God the Father would turn His back on Jesus on the cross. Jesus would suffer and die alone, without God the Father being with Him. Jesus even said these words on the cross (see Matthew 27:46).

Did you know that Old Testament Bible stories also looked forward to Jesus and what He would do? One of the most famous ones is the story of Abraham ready to sacrifice his son Isaac. That looks forward to God the Father sending His Son Jesus to die for us. We will see how this Old Testament story told about what Jesus would do for us. *Answers are on page 4.*

1. See what God said about the son.
  - a. How did God describe Isaac? (Genesis 22:2)
  - b. How did God describe Jesus? (Matthew 3:17, John 3:16)
2. See where the sacrifice happened.
  - a. Where did God tell Abraham to go? (Genesis 22:2)
  - b. Jesus died just outside Jerusalem. Where was Jerusalem? (2 Chronicles 3:1)
3. Compare what they carried.
  - a. What did Isaac carry to the place of sacrifice? (Genesis 22:6)
  - b. What did Jesus carry to the place of His sacrifice? (John 19:17)
4. Compare who will kill the son.
  - a. Who was going to kill Isaac? (Genesis 22:9-10)
  - b. Who killed Jesus? (John 3:16, Acts 2:22-23, Romans 8:32, Ephesians 5:2, John 10:18)
5. The substitute.
  - a. Isaac was supposed to die. Who or what died instead of Isaac? (Genesis 22:13)
  - b. We were supposed to die because of our sin. Who died instead of us? (Romans 5:6-8)
6. God provides.
  - a. Abraham trusted God to provide (give) what for the sacrifice? (Genesis 22:8,13-14)
  - b. How did God provide the sacrifice for us? (John 1:29, 1 Corinthians 5:7, 1 Peter 1:18-19)
7. See what happens after the sacrifice.
  - a. Abraham believed Isaac will live, even after the sacrifice? (Genesis 22:5)
  - b. Jesus knew what will happen after He died? (Matthew 16:21, Luke 24:45-47)

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

1. See what God said about the son.
  - a. God talked to Abraham and said this about Isaac: "Take your son, your only son, whom you love."
  - b. When Jesus was baptized, God the Father said, "This is My Son, whom I love." (Matthew 3:17). In John 3:16, we see that Jesus is the only-begotten Son of God.
2. See where the sacrifice happened.
  - a. In Genesis 22:2, God told Abraham to go to the area named Moriah. Then God will show him a specific mountain where he should sacrifice Isaac.
  - b. The temple in Jerusalem was in Mount Moriah (2 Chronicles 3:1). This means the sacrifice of Isaac happened in or near Jerusalem, the same as Jesus was crucified there.
3. Compare what they carried.
  - a. Genesis 22:6 says Abraham put the wood on Isaac. Isaac carried the wood for the sacrifice.
  - b. John 19:17 says Jesus carried His cross to the place of crucifixion.
4. Compare who will kill the son.
  - a. Abraham was going to kill his son. He made the altar, he put the wood on the altar. Then he tied up Isaac and put him on the wood. Abraham held the knife and was ready to kill his son when God stopped him. Also notice that the Bible doesn't say Isaac fought to get away. It looks like Isaac was willing and obeyed his father. (Genesis 22:9-10)
  - b. We know the Jews arrested Jesus and gave Him to the Romans, and the Romans killed Jesus. But who really put Jesus on the cross? John 3:16 and Romans 8:32 say God the Father gave His Son, meaning He gave Jesus to die (see John 3:14). Acts 2:22-23 says the Father planned long ago for Jesus to die. Ephesians 5:2 says Jesus gave Himself up as a sacrifice to God. John 10:18 says very clearly that Jesus gave up His life Himself. No one forced Him to die.
5. The substitute.
  - a. Abraham saw a ram stuck in the bushes. He sacrificed the ram and Isaac lived. (Genesis 22:13)
  - b. Jesus died for us, even while we were sinners. He died and we go free. (Romans 5:6-8)
6. God provides.
  - a. Abraham told Isaac that God will give a lamb for the sacrifice. God did give a ram to be sacrificed instead of Isaac. (Genesis 22:8,13-14) But there was another Lamb coming later.
  - b. Jesus is the Lamb of God (John 1:29). He is the Lamb that God gave to die as a sacrifice for our sin (1 Corinthians 5:7, 1 Peter 1:18-19). When Abraham said God will give a lamb, that was looking forward to God giving His Lamb, Jesus, to be the sacrifice for our sin.
7. See what happens after the sacrifice.
  - a. Abraham told the two servants that he and Isaac will go and worship and they will both come back. Abraham didn't know how, but he believed Isaac will live, even after the sacrifice. (Also see Hebrews 11:17-19.)
  - b. Jesus knew that He will die and rise alive again and He explained that to the disciples (Matthew 16:21). Jesus also told the disciples that the Scriptures long ago said that He must die and rise alive again (Luke 24:45-47).

## March

- 3 Zakary 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
- 16 Norma Jean Mangrich
- 28 Rachel Eckert

# March 2024

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

BR – Burlington. Concordia Lutheran Church, 2901 Cliff Rd., Burlington. 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday worship at 3:00 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Study at 1:00 p.m.

# April 2024

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

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# This Is the Son of God

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

The Gospels show us Jesus is the Son of God and our Savior. But there is a surprising and amazing way we see that. Yes, Jesus' miracles show that He is the Son of God. His teaching showed that He is the Savior that God promised to send. But where does God show most clearly that Jesus is His Son and our Savior? On the cross. The sign announced that Jesus is the King of the Jews. The Roman centurion said that Jesus was the Son of God. When we see Jesus on the cross, God wants us to see Jesus is our Savior. The reading is from Mark 15:22-28, 33-34, 37-39. Find the underlined words.

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

The soldiers took Jesus to Golgotha, which means "Place of a Skull." There they gave Him some wine mixed with myrrh, but He refused to drink it. They nailed Jesus to a cross and gambled to see who would get His clothes. It was about nine o'clock in the morning when they nailed Him to the cross. On it was a sign that told why He was nailed there. It read, "This is the King of the Jews." The soldiers also nailed two criminals on crosses, one to the right of Jesus and the other to his left. So the Scriptures came true which say, "He was accused of being a criminal."

About noon the sky turned dark and stayed that way until around three o'clock. Then about that time Jesus shouted, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you deserted Me?"

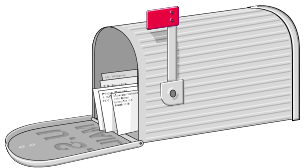
Jesus shouted and then died. At once the curtain in the temple tore in two from top to bottom. A Roman centurion (army officer) was standing in front of Jesus. When the officer saw how Jesus died, he said, "This man really was the Son of God!"



**Saviour crossing**  
 (See Genesis 3:14-15)

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Postal Carrier: Have a great day!

