

Sign Post

**March – April,
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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Jesus said, “My kingdom is not from this world. If it were, those who serve me would fight. They would try to keep the Jewish leaders from arresting me. My kingdom is from another place.” John 18:36

The top headline in the news today is the attack on Iran. That started a discussion at home with our daughter about various world events – the Islamic revolution in Iran with the hostage crisis back in 1979-81, the assassination of Pres. Kennedy, the tragedy of 9/11, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and other events in history.

Think about that for a moment. The history of the world is full of wars, assassinations, riots, famine, sickness, and many other terrible things. That is the story all over the world. When Jesus said there would be wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes and famines before the end of the world, He was describing all of history. Ever since the fall into sin, those things have happened. They will continue until the end, so they are a warning for us to be ready all the time for Jesus to come again.

So what does all of this mean for the church? Tomorrow and for the next couple weeks, there will probably be many prayers in church for God to protect our men and women in the military, and for God to bring peace to the Middle East, and for God to bless the people of Iran with a good government.

That is good and we should pray for those things. But what about the people of Mexico? And Ukraine? And Pakistan and Afghanistan? Israel, Gaza, and Lebanon? Sudan? We can make the list very, very long. There is trouble everywhere.

This is how the world works. We have learned that you are supposed to sit down and talk and try to find a solution. But everyone knows that if that doesn’t work, there is always a chance that you fight. You can’t just talk; you have to force people to give you what you want. That’s how it works on the playground, at work, and between nations.

Jesus doesn’t fight like that. And His people don’t fight like that.

Continued on p. 2

Not from this World (continued from p. 1)

That confused Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. The Jewish leaders said Jesus called Himself a King. But Jesus didn't act like any king that Pilate knew. He was used to people and kings who fight, argue, and threaten. But Jesus didn't do that. Pilate didn't know what to do with Jesus.

Then Jesus explained, "My kingdom is not from this world." That makes all the difference. Jesus Himself came to live in this world, but He is not from this world. So He doesn't think and do the same as people in this world. Jesus does the same as His Father in heaven does. That means He doesn't kill others to win a fight. Instead, He sacrifices Himself. He doesn't hate His enemies. He loves them.

Now, because you belong to Jesus, you don't fight like the world. You follow Jesus' way, the Father's way. You don't try to get everything for yourself. Instead, you love and help other people. Your life isn't about you. That's the world's way. Instead, we live with God and are a blessing to the people around us. Also, very important, we don't just pray for physical protection and peace for people. We pray that they will know Jesus and God's kingdom and eternal life, and we work to tell people that good news about Jesus.

Don't expect to see wars and fighting end in this world. Jesus said it will continue. But don't let that distract you from who God calls you to be. You belong to God's kingdom, not this world. You live in a way that is different from the world. Keep your eyes on Jesus and continue living as a child of His kingdom.

Pastor Eckert

Prayers

Please remember these in your prayers:

- ✦ Thank God that He makes us citizens of His kingdom.
- ✦ Pray for all who suffer in this world – people who don't have enough food or shelter, bad governments, wars, natural disasters, etc. Ask God to protect and take care of them. Especially pray that God will show them His true gift of life that is greater than the suffering of this world.
- ✦ Thank God that we can remember Holy Week – Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. He defeated sin and death so we can live now and forever with Him! Thank Him for that most wonderful gift!
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with health: Norma Jean Mangrich, Kent Kischer, Jay Oelberg, Lisa Oelberg, Delbert Neely, Janet Weber, James Weber, Curtis Bethurum, Kathy Anderson, JoAnn Mitchell, 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.
- ✦ Pray for men studying to become pastors and women studying to become deaconesses for the deaf.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.

Dive Into God's Word

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

Many important things happened in Holy Week. On Holy Thursday, we remember that Jesus gave the disciples and us the Lord's Supper. He gave them and us His body and blood to forgive our sins and to tell us that we are His people, His church. We are united together with Him and with each other.

Earlier that evening, Jesus did something else to show how we think about ourselves and other Christians. This study looks at what Jesus did and what we can learn from Him about Jesus Himself and about our relationships with each other.

The Action

Read John 13:1-5.

1. Jesus and His disciples were eating. Jesus stopped eating and did what?
2. There are many reasons Jesus washed their feet!
 - Jesus knew He would leave the _____ and go back to the _____.
 - Jesus wanted to show _____ for the disciples.
 - Jesus knew God gave _____ of everything to Jesus.
3. Jesus knew He had all power. How do we like to use power?
4. How did Jesus use His power now with the disciples?

Jesus Washes Peter's Feet

Read John 13:6-11.

5. Did Peter want Jesus to wash his feet? Why do you think Peter was upset?
6. What did Jesus answer? "If I don't wash you..."
7. How does Jesus wash us and make us clean? How does Jesus make us belong to Him?

Jesus Teaches About Service

Read John 13:12-17.

8. Was Jesus more important or less important than the disciples? So should Jesus wash the disciples' feet, or the disciples wash Jesus' feet?
9. Does Jesus want us to wash feet? Or what does Jesus want us to do?

Jesus Gives a New Command

Read John 13:34-35

10. What did Jesus say we should do? How can we best show that?
11. Other people will see Christians loving each other. What are you showing them?

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

The Action

1. Jesus got a towel and a bowl of water and He began washing the disciples' feet.
2. There are many reasons Jesus washed their feet!
 - Jesus knew He would leave the world and go back to the Father .
 - Jesus wanted to show love for the disciples.
 - Jesus knew God gave control of everything to Jesus.
3. We like to use power for ourselves. We want to do what we want, what makes us happy, what serves us.
4. Jesus served the disciples by washing their feet. Jesus didn't use His power selfishly.

Jesus Washes Peter's Feet

5. No, Peter didn't want Jesus to wash his feet. Peter probably thought it was shameful and wrong for Jesus to humble Himself and serve the disciples. Jesus is Lord. He should act like the Lord and not like a servant. That is probably what Peter was thinking.
6. Jesus said, "If I don't wash you, you don't belong to Me." We need Jesus to wash us!
7. Jesus washes us in baptism. He washes away our sin. The Bible also says Jesus' blood washes away our sins and makes us belong to Him.

Jesus Teaches About Service

8. Jesus is the Son of God and the Savior of the world. Yes, He is more important than the disciples! We would think that means the disciples must serve Jesus and wash His feet. He must never wash their feet. But Jesus' example taught that we should think about how to serve; don't think selfishly about ourselves.
9. Washing feet was an example. Jesus wants us to serve each other.

Jesus Gives a New Command

10. Jesus said we should love each other the same as He loves us. Jesus showed His disciples what that looks like. We love when we serve. We don't make ourselves look important and want other people to serve us. We serve the same as Jesus serves us.
11. Jesus said when people see Christians loving each other, they will see that you are disciples of Jesus. Loving and serving is one of the best ways to show people who Jesus is.

March

- 3 Zakary Anderson
- 21 Theresa Legg
Mikalah Anderson
- 23 Susan Eckert
Vicki Hoover
- 24 Conor Huffman
- 26 Jeanette Kern
- 31 Seth Anderson



April

- 2 JoAnn Mitchell
- 4 Kim Brenneman
- 10 Joseph Anderson
- 12 David Kern
- 16 Norma Jean Mangrich
- 28 Rachel Eckert

March 2026

1 * See below for worship and Bible study times.			7:00 WL – Worship			3:00 QC – Worship
8 * See below for worship and Bible study times.						10:00 DU – Bible Study 3:00 QC – Worship
15 * See below for worship and Bible study times.			7:00 WL – Study			3:00 QC – Worship
22 * See below for worship and Bible study times.						3:00 QC – Worship
29 * See below for worship and Bible study times.						

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.

April 2026

			1 7:00 WL – Worship	2 Holy Thursday 2:00 CR – Worship	3 Good Friday 10:30 QC–Worship 2:00 CR - Worship	4 3:00 QC – Worship
5 Easter Sunday Christ is risen! * 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		

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Jesus Rose Alive!

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

Did Jesus really rise alive from the dead? Yes! People have always doubted and said He didn't rise alive. Also in the early church, people doubted. But Paul explained to the church in Corinth that Jesus really did rise alive and many people saw Him. The words for this puzzle are from his explanation in 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. Find the underlined words.

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

Brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the good news I preached to you. You received it and have put your faith in it. Because you believed the good news, you are saved. But you must hold firmly to the message I preached to you. If you don't, you have believed it for nothing. What I received I passed on to you. And it is the most important of all. Here is what it is. Christ died for our sins, just as Scripture said he would. He was buried. He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as Scripture said he would be. He appeared to Peter. Then he appeared to the 12 apostles. After that, he appeared to more than 500 brothers and sisters at the same time. Most of them are still living. But some have died. He appeared to James. Then he appeared to all the apostles. Last of all, he also appeared to me. I was like someone who wasn't born at the right time.

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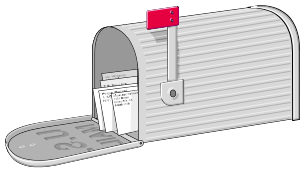
(See John 20:1-18)

03-29-2002

I WANT YOU TO FOLD UP MY BURIAL CLOTHES, WAIT FOR MARY, AND REMEMBER THAT THIS IS SERIOUS ... NO HIDING AND YELLING "BOO"

Word of God Lutheran Church
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Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

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Postal Carrier: Have a great day!

