

Sign Post

May – June 2020

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

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From this time on we do not think of anyone as the world does. It is true that in the past we thought of Christ as the world thinks. But we no longer think of him in that way. If anyone belongs to Christ, then he is made new. The old things have gone; everything is made new! 2 Cor. 5:16-17 (ICB)

How do you see the world right now? Are you afraid, brave, don’t care? Some people are going through hard times. A loved one died, or they are sick, or they lost their job. We pray for them and offer them help where we can. Seeing the trouble going on can make people afraid. Other people see that their own life hasn’t changed much, so think this is no big problem. People have different experiences and different perspectives.

Big events, especially terrible events, make people talk about how the world will change now. COVID-19, 9/11, WWII, the Great Depression, WWI, and other major events – people said they changed the world. Yes, things changed afterwards. But did they completely change life? No, not really. Most of life stayed the same, and the way people see life didn’t change much.

But there is one event in history that did change life. One event truly changed our lives – Jesus’ death on the cross and rising alive again. His death and rising alive for you changed your life. Before, you were dead in your sins. You had no promise of heaven. You didn’t know God’s love for you. But then you got baptized, or you learned God’s word, and He gave you faith in Jesus. Now you have a new relationship with God and you have a new relationship with the world.

This is where we are in our series so far about how Christians see the world and think about this life. This month, how does God saving us change how we see life? January/February – God created the world. He has a plan and purpose for us. March/April – the fall into sin. All people are sinful. Sin causes all our problems. May/June – God is our Savior and the Savior of the world.

We often say that Jesus died to forgive all people. John 3:16 says God loved the world and gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not die, but will have eternal life. Do we really understand everything that means?

This is what we usually think, and these statements are all correct.

- God loves every person on earth, believers and unbelievers. (John 3:16)
- Jesus died to take away all sin, for believers and unbelievers. (1 John 2:2, John 1:29)
- God wants all people to believe in Jesus and have life in Him. (1 Tim. 2:4)

(p. 1 continued)

But if that is all we think, then we are missing something. That describes God's attitude and work to save sinners. If Jesus is our Savior and the Savior of the world, that should also change how we see the world.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 is an awesome passage. It tells about God making us new, about Jesus saving the world, and about God giving us the good news to give to other people. This passage shows what God's attitude is about the world and also what our attitude is.

Some Christians think they still belong to the world. They think the same as the world, talk the same, do the same, live the same. These Christians think we're all one group of people in the world and we're all the same. They don't understand that God saved them from sin and death. We don't belong to this world any more.

Some Christians think God saved us from the world and that means we are completely separate from the world. There are two separate groups of people in this world – believers and unbelievers. We should have only Christian friends, only go to Christian stores, only visit Christian websites, etc. These Christians understand that God saved them, but they don't completely understand the new heart and work God gives us.

Here is a summary of what 2 Cor. 5:16-21 teaches us.

- God made you into a new person because you belong to Jesus!
- Now we don't see sinful people the same way we used to see them. We don't see the world the same way we used to.
- We see one large group of people in the world – all the people Jesus died for. That's everyone!
- But some people don't know Jesus died for them. It is our job and our joy to tell them.

Our new heart in Christ is a heart that loves all people and wants them to have the same salvation we have. That is how a Christian sees the world – through the eyes of Jesus our Savior.

Next time – how do Christians understand “right” and “wrong” in this world?

Pastor Eckert

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Announcements, Part 1

When will church meet again? When can we go out? When can we visit friends? When will all this news about the virus be finished? We have lots of questions, but not many answers. We want to meet together in church to worship God and for Him to give us His gifts. At the same time, we love each other and the people in the community, and we don't want to make anyone sick. That makes our decisions difficult. Based on the governor's announcement on April 27, we might start meeting May 16 in Davenport and May 17 in Cedar Rapids. That is what we will hope and pray for.

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. The second part of the Apostles' Creed, named the Second Article of the Creed, is about Jesus and His work to save us. Answer these questions about who He is and what He for you and all people. *Answers on page 7.*

The second article of the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. The Holy Spirit made the Virgin Mary become pregnant. She gave birth to Jesus. When Pontius Pilate was Roman governor, Jesus suffered, was crucified, died and was buried. Jesus went down into hell. On the third day, Jesus was raised alive again from the dead. Jesus went up into heaven. He sits by God the Father's right hand. Jesus will come again to judge all people living and dead.

What does this mean? (This is Martin Luther's explanation.)

I believe that Jesus Christ is true God with God the Father from eternity ago. He is also true man, born from the Virgin Mary. He is my Lord. I am a lost and guilty person, but He saved me. Jesus bought me and saved me from all sins, death, and the devil's power. Jesus didn't buy me using gold or silver. He bought me using His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. He did that so I can belong to Him, live in His kingdom and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessing. I will live the same as He was raised alive and lives and reigns for all eternity. This is most true!

1. Read John 20:28. Jesus is true God. Thomas said to Jesus, "My _____ and my ____!"
2. Read 1 Timothy 2:5. Jesus is also true man. There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the _____ Jesus Christ.
3. Why did Jesus have to be true man? Read Hebrews 2:14-18
4. Why did Jesus have to be true God? Read Isaiah 43:11
5. The Creed tells us about Jesus' humiliation. (Think of humiliation as going down steps.) Jesus gave up His power and glory and became a servant to save us. Read the verses and see what each step was in His humiliation.
 - a. Luke 1:30-31. Jesus was _____ inside His mother Mary.
 - b. Luke 2:4-7. Jesus was _____ in a humble stable in Bethlehem.
 - c. Matthew 27:27-30, Luke 24:46. Jesus _____ punishment and abuse.
 - d. John 19:18. Jesus was _____ on the cross for us.
 - e. 1 Corinthians 15:3. Jesus _____ to pay for our sins.
 - f. 1 Corinthians 15:4. Jesus was _____ in the tomb.
6. The Creed also tells us about Jesus' exaltation; God gave Jesus glory again. (Think of going up steps.)
 - a. 1 Peter 3:18-19. Jesus _____ into hell.
 - b. Matthew 28:5-6, Acts 13:30. On the third day, God _____ Jesus from the dead.
 - c. Acts 1:9-11. After Jesus rose alive, God took Jesus up into _____.
 - d. Ephesians 1:20. Now Jesus is _____ with God the Father in power and glory.
 - e. 2 Corinthians 5:10. Jesus will come again to _____ the world.
7. What do Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection mean for us?

Jesus Ascended into Heaven

From www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch

“Ascended” means to go up. 40 days after Jesus rose alive from the dead, He went up into heaven again. His ministry, death and resurrection were finished. But His work is not finished! Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to give us faith in Him, and Jesus continues to lead His church from heaven. Read this section from Acts 1:4-11 about Jesus ascending into heaven, and find the underlined words.

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

Once, while He was meeting with them, He ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for what the Father had promised. Jesus said to them, “I’ve told you what the Father promises: John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” So when the apostles came together, they asked Him, “Lord, is this the time when you’re going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” Jesus told them, “You don’t need to know about times or periods that the Father has determined by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be My witnesses to testify about Me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” After He had said this, He was taken to heaven. A cloud hid Him so that they could no longer see Him. They were staring into the sky as He departed. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood near them. They asked, “Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking at the sky? Jesus, who was taken from you to heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw Him go to heaven.”

This cartoon was from 2007. Can you believe it?

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Thanks to Richard Germain (See Exodus 7-12) 02-26-2007
YAY, NO SCHOOL ... PLAGUE DAY!

May 2020

<p>This is a proposed schedule. May 16/17 is a possible starting date, but that can change. It all depends on how COVID-19 continues to spread. Pastor Eckert will contact all the members when we will meet again. You can also look at our website, www.iowaeastdeaf.org, to see when we are meeting.</p>						1	2
3 Worship online at youtube.com/ deaflutheran	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10 Worship online at youtube.com/ deaflutheran	11	12	13	14	15	16 10:00 QC – Worship/Study	
17 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	18	19	20 7:00 WL – Study	21	22	23 10:00 QC – Worship/Study	
24/31 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	25	26	27	28	29	30 10:00 QC – Worship/Study	
<p>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. Starting Sunday, May 17, 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. Starting Saturday, May 16, Worship at 10:00 a.m., Study at 11:15 a.m. WL – Waterloo/Cedar Falls. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4820 Oster Parkway, Cedar Falls. 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. No meeting this month. MU – Muscatine. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2611 Lucas St., Muscatine. No meeting this month.</p>							

June 2020

	1	2	3 7:00 WL – Worship	4	5	6 10:00 QC – Worship
7 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	8	9	10	11	12	13 10:00 QC – Worship/Study 1:00 DU – Study
14 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	15	16	17 7:00 WL – Study	18	19 1:00 MU – Worship	20 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
21 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	22	23	24	25	26	27 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
28 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	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.
 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, Bible Study at 1:00 p.m.
 MU – Muscatine. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2611 Lucas St., Muscatine. Talk to Pastor Eckert to confirm meeting location.

Announcements, Part 2

Here are some things I (Pastor Eckert) have seen in the past month.

- You love God and His word and worship. You are eager to come back to church again.
- You love other people. You want to protect them from getting sick and you want to help them if they need help.
- You have been patient and understanding. No one likes being stuck at home. But you are showing a good Christian character with your patience and trust in God.
- You have been faithful in watching worship online. Of course, we want to be together again in church. But while we are stuck at home, we can worship online, and you are being faithful in doing that.

So the COVID-19 virus is not what anyone wants, but I can see your faith living and active during this time! We praise God and thank Him that He is always good to us, no matter what is happening in the world.

Pastor Eckert is working on an online Bible study. You can look for it at www.iowaeastdeaf.org. It will be a vlog. You will be able to ask questions, answer questions, and add your own comments. The first study will be up by May 1.

Some of you get help to pay your gas and electric bill through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). If you want to apply for that help, the deadline to apply is now May 31, 2020. The deadline was extended this year because of COVID-19. If you are having trouble paying your gas and electric bill right now, you can contact your county for help. You can apply for the Energy Assistance program at your local community action agency. The community action agencies also have food and clothing pantries and other help if you need it. You can find your local agency at <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply>.

Prayers

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ Thank God for Jesus' resurrection on Easter! Jesus paid for all our sin and He rose alive to give us life. And not only for us, but He did that for all people. Thank God for His wonderful gift for you, and ask Him to help you share that good news with people you know.
- ✦ Thank God for the faithful people fighting the coronavirus – the medical staff who take care of all people who are sick, the politicians and other leaders who have to make difficult decisions, and others involved in helping or protecting people. Lord, give them wisdom and safety.
- ✦ The many people who are unemployed now, that God will take care of them and give them what they need. Also pray for the people who are still working but are around people all day and are at higher risk of getting sick.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with trust and health: Mollie Schmitz, Doris Harris, Lorri Green, Shirley Green, Barbara Zimmerman, Tracy Shepard, James Weber, 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.
- ✦ Thank God that Pat Monroe is selling her parents' house this Summer. Pray that she can find work and a place to live in 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.



Answers to Dive Into God's Word

1. Thomas said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

We know Jesus is God because:

- The Bible says Jesus is God.
- The Bible describes Jesus the same way it describes God (God is eternal, God never changes, God is all powerful, God knows everything, etc. Jesus is also eternal, never changes, etc., the same as God.)
- Jesus does work that only God can do. He created the world, He forgives, He will judge.
- Jesus gets honor and glory that only God can get.

2. "There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ."

We know Jesus is man because:

- The Bible says Jesus is a man.
- The Bible shows Jesus had a human body and soul.
- The Bible shows Jesus did not sin, but He still had human feelings.
- Jesus got hungry, thirsty, and tired the same as us. He felt pain and He suffered and died the same as a man.

3. Jesus had to be true man so He could obey God's Law for us. And He had to be true man so He could suffer and die for us.

4. Only God can save us. If a man dies to pay for sin, that could only pay for one person's sin. But if God dies to pay for sin, He can pay for the sin of the whole world. Jesus had to be God to pay for all our sin. He had to be God to defeat death and the devil.

5. These verses talk about Jesus' humiliation.

- a. Luke 1:30-31. Jesus was conceived inside His mother Mary.
- b. Luke 2:4-7. Jesus was born in a humble stable in Bethlehem.
- c. Matthew 27:27-30, Luke 24:46. Jesus suffered punishment and abuse.
- d. John 19:18. Jesus was crucified on the cross for us.
- e. 1 Corinthians 15:3. Jesus died to pay for our sins.
- f. 1 Corinthians 15:4. Jesus was buried in the tomb.

6. These verses talk about Jesus' exaltation; God gave Jesus glory again. (Think of going up steps.)

- a. 1 Peter 3:18-19. Jesus descended (went down) into hell. This may seem strange. Jesus going to hell is a good thing? That is His glory? Yes. On the cross, Jesus suffered for our sins and that was the same as suffering in hell. But after Jesus died, He went down into hell to announce that He defeated the devil and sin. Going to hell was part of His victory, not part of His suffering.
- b. Matthew 28:5-6, Acts 13:30. On the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead.
- c. Acts 1:9-11. After Jesus rose alive, God took Jesus up into heaven.
- d. Ephesians 1:20. Now Jesus is seated with God the Father in power and glory.
- e. 2 Corinthians 5:10. Jesus will come again to judge the world.

7. Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection for us means that we have life with Jesus. That life is here and in heaven. Martin Luther explained that now we belong to Jesus and we serve Him here on earth. We will also live with Him in heaven and serve Him in glory there.