

# Sign Post

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**November –  
December 2018**

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Smile

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  
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*But when the time was right, God sent his Son, and a woman gave birth to him. His Son obeyed the Law, so he could set us free from the Law, and we could become God’s children. Galatians 4:4-5*

If you went shopping in October, you probably saw some stores that had both Halloween and Christmas decorations out. You could buy your Halloween candy, a skeleton, Christmas ornaments and stockings all at the same time. What is wrong with this picture? Halloween belongs in October and the right time for Christmas is December. There is a right time for everything, but some people (especially stores!) like to follow a different time schedule.

What kind of time schedule does God follow? Sometimes people think God could plan His events better. Some people wonder, why did God wait so long to send Jesus? Why wait so many years after Adam and Eve? God should have sent Jesus right away and not make people in the Old Testament wait so long for the Savior. Others think God should have waited longer and sent Jesus now. Certainly Jesus could have used TV and the Internet to spread His message much better than years ago!

Sometimes we question God’s timing for events in our lives, also. If something happens at a bad time, it makes our life more difficult and we wonder why God let it happen now. Even if something good happens, sometimes we wish it could have happened at a time when we could share it with someone special.

God doesn’t choose what time to act based on what we think might “work best.” God loves us and He works according to what He knows is best for us and for all His people. The Bible tells us that “at the right time, God sent His Son into the world.” That “right time” is that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). If God loves us so much that He sent His Son to die for us, then we can trust that all of His plans for us are from His love and will be done in His perfect time.

Pastor Eckert

# Dive Into God's Word

This is our last study for this year of people in the Bible. Since we celebrate Christmas soon, we will look at two people who are part of the Christmas story. Mary was the mother of Jesus and Zechariah was the father of John the Baptizer. What were their strengths and weaknesses? How did God use them, and how did they learn to trust God in this responsibility? God used these regular people to serve Him in His plan of salvation. *Answers are on page 4.*

1. What work did Zechariah do to serve the Lord? Luke 1:5
2. How does the Bible describe Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth and how they lived? Luke 1:6
3. Zechariah was in the temple, offering incense to God. An angel appeared and gave him good news. What was the good news? Luke 1:8-17
4. What did Zechariah think about this good news? Luke 1:18
5. Zechariah couldn't speak until the baby was born and he named him John. That could make him angry and bitter that God didn't let him talk before, or he will be happy and rejoice. Zechariah rejoiced and blessed God. What did Zechariah say about God...
  - a. In the first half of the song, Luke 1:68-75.
  - b. In the second half of the song, Luke 1:76-79.
6. Six months after the angel Gabriel visited Zechariah, Gabriel visited who? Luke 1:26-27
7. Gabriel told Mary that the Holy Spirit would make her become pregnant and give birth to Jesus, the Son of God. What was Mary's attitude about that? What did she say? Luke 1:28-38
8. Zechariah spoke a beautiful prophecy when John was born. Mary also spoke a beautiful poem when Elizabeth greeted her. Look at all the things she said.
  - a. What did Mary say about herself? Luke 1:46-49
  - b. What did Mary say God does for people? Luke 1:50-53
  - c. What does God do for His people Israel? Luke 1:54-55
9. Mary had great faith that God was doing great work to save His people. Did she always understand what God was doing? Luke 2:41-50
10. In Mark 3:20-21, Jesus' family (His mother Mary and His brothers) heard that He was so busy, He didn't have time to eat. What did His family think and try to do?
11. Zechariah and Mary were not perfect people. They believed, they doubted, they misunderstood, and they rejoiced in God's promises. But God used them and gave them roles in His plan of salvation through Jesus. How might God use you in His work?

# The New-Born King

*From [www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch](http://www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch)*

There are several wonderful prophecies in the Old Testament about Jesus's birth. One of them is Isaiah 9:6-7. These verses say that Jesus will be a powerful leader. He will rule with right judgment and His kingdom will have peace. This is one of the things we celebrate at Christmas!

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

A child will be born for us. A son will be given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. He will be named:

Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.

His government and peace will have unlimited growth. He will establish David's throne and kingdom. He will uphold it with justice and righteousness now and forever. The Lord of Armies is determined to do this!

## November

- 1 Agnes Mundhank
- 4 David Legg
- 5 Kathy Anderson
- 6 Tracey Shepard
- 8 Lilly Anderson
- 12 Wanda McAllister
- 14 Chris Wrage
- 15 Doris Ciha
- 16 Gary Lewis
- 19 Vicki Morris
- Pastor Tim Eckert
- Mike Check



- 20 Melody Schulte
- 22 Jack Barnett
- 23 Shirley Hampton
- 25 Arlene Ritze
- 28 Paula Slavin
- 30 Rhonda Wegenether

## December

- 1 Jennifer Legg
- 11 Sheri Pohlman
- 25 Jesus Christ
- 30 Terry Ann Check

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

1. Zechariah was a priest. That meant he served in the temple, offering sacrifices and prayers.
2. The Bible says that Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous. They lived in a way that was right and pleasing to God.
3. Zechariah and Elizabeth couldn't have children. The angel Gabriel gave him the good news that they would have a son. More than that, this son named John will be a great prophet and prepare people for the Lord.
4. Zechariah doubted. He and Elizabeth were old, too old to have children. So he thought the angel's good news wouldn't happen. He should have remembered all the times before that God gave children for women who couldn't have children, even when they were older, and all the times God did wonderful things for His people.
5. A. Zechariah praised God because God remembered and was saving His people. Long ago, God promised that He would save them. Now God was doing the same as He promised.  
B. Now Zechariah believed what the angel said about his son. He said that John would be God's prophet and prepare people for the Lord to come and save them. John would announce salvation and forgiveness from God.
6. Gabriel visited Mary, the mother of Jesus.
7. At first, Mary was confused. She didn't understand why the angel called her "favored one" and said the Lord was with her. Then she didn't understand how she could become pregnant since she wasn't married. But after the angel explained everything, then Mary said she was the Lord's servant. She accepted what the angel told her. This showed her faith in God, because she accepted the plan God had for her.
8. A. Mary said she was a humble servant. She also said all generations would call her blessed. That doesn't mean Mary is a great person. That says great things about God because He is the one who blessed her. That is why she rejoices in God and praises Him.  
B. Mary talked about two groups of people. One group is proud, powerful and rich. These people, God defeats their proud thoughts, He takes away their power, and He doesn't give them His blessings. The other group includes people who honor God, are humble, and don't have all they need. For them, God lifts them up, fills them with good things, and saves them.  
C. God remembered to show mercy to His people Israel. He remembered His promises to Abraham and His people, and so He came to help and save them.
9. No, both Mary and Joseph didn't understand. Mary corrected Jesus when He stayed in the temple, in God's house. Jesus had to tell them how important it was for Him to be there. But they didn't even understand Jesus' explanation. But Mary did remember what Jesus said, and she continued to think about what He said.
10. They thought Jesus was crazy (out of His mind). Mary and Jesus' brothers went to try to force Jesus to come home with them and keep Him at home. They really didn't understand what Jesus was doing, and they were going to work against Jesus.
11. There is no right or wrong answer for this question! What is important for you is that you remember God's promises for you and for all people. Zechariah and Mary doubted when they looked for proof, or when they thought God should work how they thought He should work. Let God work His way and trust Him. He can and will even use you to do His work!



If you are a member of Thrivent, you have Thrivent Choice Dollars that you can donate to Word of God or another eligible charity. If you don't donate them, the dollars don't go anywhere. Go to [www.thrivent.com/choice](http://www.thrivent.com/choice) and log in to choose where to donate.

# November 2018

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

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. 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. 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. At worship, will decide about 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.  
 DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 1:00 p.m.  
 MU – Muscatine. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2611 Lucas St., Muscatine. Talk to Pastor Eckert to confirm meeting location.

# December 2018

<b>2</b> * See below for worship and Bible study times.			7:00 WL – Worship			<b>1/8</b> 10:00 QC – Worship/Study  1:00 DU – Study (on Dec. 8)
<b>9</b> * See below for worship and Bible study times. CR – Potluck			10:00 CR – Senior Citizens			<b>15</b> 10:00 QC – Worship
<b>16</b> * See below for worship and Bible study times.			7:00 WL – Study		1:00 MU – Worship	<b>22</b> 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
<b>23</b> * See below for worship and Bible study times.		<b>Merry Christmas!                  Jesus is born!</b>				
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

BR – Burlington. Concordia Lutheran Church, 2901 Cliff Rd., Burlington. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday worship at 3:00 p.m.  
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 DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, Bible Study at 1:00 p.m.  
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## Prayers

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ For all Christians as we celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas, that we will keep the focus on God and His work of love and mercy to save us.
- ✦ For all non-Christians who think that Thanksgiving and Christmas is only family and football time. Those are good things, but we pray that God will open their eyes to see His better gifts through Jesus.
- ✦ Pray for all those affected by the recent hurricanes. Ask God to protect all who are in danger from these disasters.
- ✦ Pray that God will lead people to vote for the right leaders in our government. Ask God to give all our leaders a desire to serve Him and do what is right. Also pray that people will learn to listen to each other and work together, especially to do what God wants.
- ✦ Ask God to give His peace to the families of Rebecca Daggett and Cleta Brundage (Vicki Hoover's daughter and Josh Hoover's mother). Rebecca and Cleta both passed away in October. Thank God for their faithful witness about Jesus, and thank God for His gift of life and salvation for them!
- ✦ For all who ask God to give them health: Mollie Schmitz, Lorri Green, Shirley Green, Pat Monroe's father, Barbara Zimmerman, Janet Weber, Mae and Jerry Hanson, Joan Mass, Chris Wrage, Sharon Pope, Jeanette Kern, Bonnie Lou Huffman, Terry Ann Check, and Paula Slavin.
- ✦ Pray for all deaf missions around the world so more Deaf people will know and believe in Jesus. Pray for the deaf ministry in Kenya. The pastor in Kenya is having some family health problems now, so pray that God will give healing for his family so he can continue his ministry.
- ✦ Continue to pray for Andy Petajan as he studies to become a pastor.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.



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Thanks to Wilma Melendez (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-24-2010

**THIS IS LIKE TOTALLY THE COOLEST  
THING THAT HAS EVEN HAPPENED IN THIS  
STABLE!**