

Sign Post

**November –
December, 2020**

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

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So do not worry about tomorrow; it will have enough worries of its own. There is no need to add to the troubles each day brings. Matthew 6:34

All this year, we have looked at how Christians see the world compared to how unbelievers see the world. What a difference! Unbelievers look to themselves for good things, we look to God. We won’t find anything in this world that is always good and right and trustworthy. But God is. He influences how we see everything and He gives us hope.

That brings us to our final topic: the future.

What will happen in the future? Everyone knows 2020 has been a strange, difficult, unusual year. No one wants another year like this. No one wants things to get worse. Could things get worse? Yes. Could they get better? Yes. But no one knows what will happen.

On Dec. 31, many people celebrate the end of the year. They say goodbye to the old year and hope all the problems of the old year will go away and never come back. Lots of people will wish that this Dec. 31! They hope next year will be better – healthier, wealthier, better relationships, fewer problems. But they don’t have much hope. A recent survey said 79% of Americans are worried about the future.

People worry about the future because we can’t control it. What will happen with the election? Can you decide that COVID-19 will be gone tomorrow? Can you stop all hurricanes and derechos? Even if you could, you would only do what you think is good for you and maybe good for other people. You wouldn’t know if it would really be good or not. How many times have you tried to help someone and only made things worse?

Christians don’t need to worry about the future. We don’t know the future, we can’t control the future, but we know who does. Isaiah 46:10 says,

From the beginning I revealed the end.

From long ago I told you things that had not yet happened, saying, “My plan will stand, and I’ll do everything I intended to do.”

(p. 1 continued)

God knows the future. More than that, He plans the future. He knows His plans for you and for His church. We know that everything He does for us will be good in the end because Jesus, His Son, died and rose alive again to give us life.

Life will have good times and difficult times on this earth, but no matter what happens, God will keep us safe in Christ. Romans 8:38-39 says, “I know for sure that nothing can separate us from God’s love; not death, not life, not angels, not rulers, nothing now, nothing in the future, not powers, not height, not depth, nothing in all the world can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Because we have God’s promise and love for us through Jesus, we have hope for the future. Not worry. Not fear. We don’t have hope in this world. God doesn’t promise that the pandemic will end and everyone will have jobs and our leaders will stop fighting. Our hope and trust are in God, because He will continue to give us life and peace in Jesus now, and also when we rise alive to live with Him forever. That is truly a perspective on life that only Christians have, and the world doesn’t have.

Pastor Eckert

Here is a summary of the topics we looked at this year, and how Christians think versus how unbelievers think.

Topic	Unbelievers	Christians
Creation	Rich, beautiful and powerful people have value.	God makes each person valuable, precious.
Sin	People think they can fix themselves and all their problems (but they can never fix them)	We can’t fix our sin. Only God makes us free from sin through Jesus.
Jesus and salvation	People think they don’t need Jesus.	We know Jesus saves us and He is proof of God’s love for us.
God defines right and wrong	People think they can ignore God’s Law and make all their own rules.	God knows what is best for us, and His word tells the truth. We know His Law is good and right.
Love your neighbor	People think love means making me happy and making other people happy.	True love, God’s love, sacrifices for other people. True love does what is best for them.
The future	People don’t know the future. They try to have hope, but are afraid – global warming, storms, economy, politics, etc.	Our future is in God’s hands. He promises we will rise alive and live with Him forever. No fear! All peace and joy!

Dive Into God's Word

In November and December, we look forward to celebrating Jesus' birth. The church also looks forward to Jesus coming again. Those two comings are very different, but in some ways they are the same. In this study, we will compare Jesus' first coming and His second coming. We will see what is the same and what is different. *Answers on page 8.*

1. Who is coming?
 - Christmas: Read Luke 1:31-33
 - End of the world: Read Mark 13:26
2. Why is Jesus coming?
 - Christmas: Read Matthew 1:21
 - End of the world: Read Matthew 25:31-33, 2 Corinthians 5:10
3. When is Jesus coming?
 - Christmas: Galatians 4:4
 - End of the world: Mark 13:32-36, Revelation 22:20
4. Where will Jesus come?
 - Christmas: Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:4-6
 - End of the world: Matthew 26:64, Acts 1:11
5. Will anyone announce Jesus' coming?
 - Christmas: Luke 2:9-14
 - End of the world: 1 Thessalonians 4:16, Matthew 25:31
6. Who will see Jesus?
 - Christmas: Luke 2:9-18
 - End of the world: Revelation 1:7
7. How are we ready for Him to come?
 - Christmas: Matthew 3:1-6
 - End of the world: Luke 12:42-46, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

God Protects Our Future

From www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch

Romans 8 is full of great comfort and encouragement for God's people. The last part of Romans 8 is often read at funerals, because it tells us that God promises nothing can stop His love, not even death. He lets us experience difficult times so we learn to trust in Him and not the things in this world. Through all the hard times, He continues to work out His plan to save us and raise us alive and glorious with Jesus. That is the future God plans for us and He promises to protect us all the way home. The reading is from Romans 8:28-30, 37-39.

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

We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God—those whom he has called according to his plan. This is true because he already knew his people and had already appointed them to have the same form as the image of his Son. Therefore, his Son is the firstborn among many children. He also called those whom he had already appointed. He approved of those whom he had called, and he gave glory to those whom he had approved of. The one who loves us gives us an overwhelming victory in all these difficulties. I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love which Christ Jesus our Lord shows us. We can't be separated by death or life, by angels or rulers, by anything in the present or anything in the future, by forces or powers in the world above or in the world below, or by anything else in creation.

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Thanks to Lee-Ann Pickett (See 1Thessalonians 4:16) 02-28-2001

READY OR NOT, HERE I COME

November 2020

1	2	3	4 7:00 WL – Worship	5	6	7 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
8 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	9	10	11	12	13 1:00 MU – Worship	14 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Study
15 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	16	17	18 7:00 WL – Study	19	20	21 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
22 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	23	24	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving!	27	28 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
29 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	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. 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 and 3rd Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
 DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. 2nd Saturday at 1:00 p.m.
 MU – Muscatine. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2611 Lucas St., Muscatine. Talk to Pastor Eckert to confirm meeting location and time.

December 2020

		1	2 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 – Study
13 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	14	15	16 7:00 WL – Study	17	18 1:00 MU – Worship	19 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
20 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	21	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas! Jesus is born!	26 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
27 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	28	29	30	31		

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Worship and Videos Online

Remember! Our worship services and short Bible studies are online at www.youtube.com/deaflutheran. You can watch the videos any time. Please check it out!

Prayers

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ Pray for all of God's people to be strong in faith, hope and love, and watch for Jesus to come again. Also pray for unbelievers to come to faith in Jesus so they can have a future with Jesus in heaven.
- ✦ Pray for people in Cedar Rapids and all over Iowa who are still cleaning up and making repairs after the storm. Ask God to help the roofers and construction crews to get as many houses as possible done before winter.
- ✦ All the people who have COVID-19, medical staff who have to work with sick people, and anyone like teachers and students who have to be around a lot of other people.
- ✦ By the time most of you get this, the election will be over, but we might not know the results yet. Whoever our elected leaders are, pray for them. Pray that they will work to follow God's ways. Also pray that people will accept the results of the election.
- ✦ Larry Plumb passed away Oct. 29. Thank God for His promise of resurrection and life in Jesus, and pray for Larry's family and friends to know the peace that Jesus gives.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with trust and health: Mollie Schmitz, Doris Harris, Lorri Green, Shirley Green, Barbara Zimmerman, James Weber, Jay Oelberg, Jerry Hanson, Joan Mass, Kathy Anderson, Rosie Glime, Gary Lewis, Kris Baltzer, Sharon Pope, Paula Slavin, Jeanette Kern, Bonnie Lou Huffman, Terry Ann Check, District President Brian Saunders, and many family members and friends.
- ✦ Pray for Andy Petajan as he studies to become a pastor and for Becky Jungklaus as she studies to become a deaconess.
- ✦ Pray for our partner churches in Kenya and India.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.



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. Who is coming?

- Christmas: Jesus is the Son of God and the King of Israel. He was born as a humble baby.
- End of the world: Jesus is the Son of Man (meaning He is the Savior). He will come in clouds with great power and glory. That shows He is God.

2. Why is Jesus coming?

- Christmas: Jesus came to save His people from their sins.
- End of the world: Jesus will come to judge the world.

3. When is Jesus coming?

- Christmas: God the Father sent Jesus "at the right time." In the Old Testament, God told His people many times that the Savior will come, but God never said exactly what time.
- End of the world: No one knows when Jesus is coming again. We don't know. The angels don't know. Even Jesus said He doesn't know. So when you see people say they are figuring out all the signs to know when Jesus is coming, just ignore them. They don't know. All we know is what Jesus said in Revelation, that He is coming soon.

4. Where will Jesus come?

- Christmas: Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in Judea.
- End of the world: Jesus will come from heaven. After Jesus died and rose alive again, Jesus went back up through the clouds into heaven. When Jesus comes again, He will come down from heaven on the clouds.

5. Will anyone announce Jesus' coming?

- Christmas: God sent angels to shepherds near Bethlehem. The angels told the shepherds about Jesus' birth and then sang praise to God.
- End of the world: When Jesus comes at the end of the world, a trumpet will announce He is coming, and an archangel will shout to announce He is coming. Jesus will also bring His angels with Him.

6. Who will see Jesus?

- Christmas: Of course, Mary and Joseph saw Jesus when He was born. The shepherds also saw Jesus. There may have been a few other people in the stable with them. But that is all, just a few people.
- End of the world: Everyone in the world will see Jesus. People who died and were buried will rise alive and see Him, even the people who crucified Jesus.

7. How are we ready for Him to come?

- Christmas: All through the Old Testament, God told His people to repent. Before Jesus began His ministry, John the Baptizer announced the same thing. He told people to repent, confess their sins, and get baptized. John led them to Jesus and said they should believe in Jesus.
- End of the world: 1 Thessalonians 5 says we should have faith, love and hope in Jesus. That makes us alive with Him. We should be awake and thinking clearly (sober). That means we attend to God and His word. We aren't ignoring Him or don't care about life with Jesus. Also, we encourage each other. We don't only make ourselves ready, we also help other people get ready for Jesus to come. Luke 12 says we will be busy doing our job when Jesus comes. God gives each person ways to serve Him and love other people, as family members (parents, grandparents, children, siblings), as friends, employees, neighbors, etc. Serve in faithfulness and love.