

Sign Post

**November –
December, 2021**

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

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Don't love the world or anything that belongs to the world. If you love the world, you cannot love the Father. Our foolish pride comes from this world, and so do our selfish desires and our desire to have everything we see. None of this comes from the Father. The world and the desires it causes are disappearing. But if we obey God, we will live forever. 1 John 2:15-17

Suppose you learn about a new food service that is very popular. The food is very fresh, healthy, and delicious. They deliver the food from the farm straight to your door. And the prices are low. Of course you want to try it! So you sign up.

The first day, a person brings a box of food – fresh vegetables, fruits, meat, bread, all wonderful. And they also bring a bucket of manure and dump it on your living room floor. Remember, this is coming directly from a farm. You are not happy at all, right? You're actually very angry. But the delivery person excuses it and says that is how the service works. You hope it doesn't happen again. But... the next week, the same thing happens. You get your box of delicious food and another bucket of manure. Will you continue using that service? Probably not.

There is something happening in the U.S. that is worse than getting manure dumped into your living room. Many people see it happening, but not many people are doing anything about it. What is it? The Internet, TV, movies, and social media have good things that they give us. There are many ways the Internet and social media are good. But at the same time, they are all dumping garbage into our lives, our minds, even our souls, and we let it happen. Here are just a few examples of how the Internet and social media are influencing us.

- Depression and suicide rates have increased.
- People have become more critical and more violent.
- Children (and adults) learn harmful and sinful behaviors from each other.
- Making many sexual temptations and sins look “normal.”
- Social media has increased bullying and abuse.
- False religions, conspiracies and other harmful ideas look “normal” online.
- Online pornography is a huge problem for men and women.

Sadly, all of this is affecting Christians just as much as unbelievers. Many Christian adults and children are accepting everything the Internet and social media give us – all the good stuff and all the garbage. Many people, especially young people, don't even realize how much technology is affecting them.

God tells us to be wise and understanding. The devil always works to influence us and fill our hearts and minds with his lies and temptations. In everything we do, we need to think about what we are doing and ask if this is good for us or not.

Pastor's Article (continued)

1 John 2:15-17 tells us not to love the world and not to want the things of the world. Unbelievers chase after things that make them feel good. They want pleasure. They chase after things that look interesting and fun. God warns us not to follow their ways. That means God doesn't want us to have fun? No. God gives us joy and fun and pleasure in a way that is good for us and is part of a strong relationship with Him. The world wants fun in a way that leads to sin and hurt and leads us away from God. Don't follow that way!

When we use the internet, social media, TV, etc., we need to think about what we are doing, if it is good and pleases God, or if it is bad for us. Here are some questions to help you decide if something is okay or if you should avoid it.

1. Does the Bible say anything about this thing you are reading or watching?
2. Is it good for you or your children?
3. Will this hurt my faith? Will this hurt someone else's faith?
4. Does this show love for people, or does this hurt people?
5. Does this honor God?
6. I am watching a video of people or reading about people doing things. If I do the same as them, will people think I am a good Christian or a sinner?

Again, the point is to pay attention to what you are doing. There are many good and useful things online. But too often, we go online and we don't think about whether something is good or bad, and we fill ourselves with garbage.

For the times you have failed and you sinned, confess that sin to God. Trust that He forgives you. Repent, turn away from that sin, and with His forgiveness and His grace, follow Him.

Remember that you are always a Christian – when you wake up, when you work, when you're online, or watching TV, or with friends, and going to bed. At all times, Christ lives in us. He has made you new. Don't go back to an old life full of sinful, worldly things, that will hurt you. Live in the new life with Christ.

Pastor Eckert

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Dive Into God's Word

These things happened to make them an example for others. These things were written down as a warning for us who are living in the closing days of history. 1 Cor. 10:11

The Bible has many examples. Some are good examples that we should follow. Some are bad examples that show what we should not do. Understand – Jesus' main job isn't to be our example! Jesus is our Savior, not our example. He doesn't show you how you can save yourself. He shows you that He saves you. How does your life show that? Many of the stories about God's people in the Old Testament and New Testament are good examples for us to learn how we can live as God's people.

This year, we have been looking at stories from the Old Testament. The theme this month is loving your enemies. We know Jesus said we should love our enemies (Matthew 5:44). Does the Old Testament show that? God's word gives examples of people hating their enemies and also people loving their enemies. *Answers on page 4.*

Example: Cain and Abel, Genesis 4:1-12

1. How were Cain and Abel related? (Gen. 4:1-2)
2. What did Cain do to worship God? (Gen. 4:3)
3. What did Abel do to worship God? (Gen. 4:4)
4. Did God accept Cain's offering? Did God accept Abel's offering? (Gen. 4:4-5)
5. How did Cain feel about that? (Gen. 4:6)
6. God warned Cain. What should Cain do right? What was the danger for Cain? (Gen. 4:7)
7. Did Cain listen to God's warning? What did Cain do? (Gen. 4:8)
8. Cain hated his brother Abel and he didn't control his hatred. What happened to Cain because of his anger and hatred? (Gen. 4:11-12)

Example: Elisha shows mercy (love) for the enemies of Israel, 2 Kings 6:15-23

Israel and Syria were often fighting each other. They were enemies. This story happened when Elisha was a prophet in Israel and he was in the capital city of Samaria.

1. This happened in the Israelite city of Samaria. Who was surrounding the city? (2 Kings 6:15,18)
2. Elisha's servant was afraid. Why didn't he need to be afraid? (2 Kings 6:15-17)
3. How did God protect Samaria from the Syrian army? (2 Kings 6:18)
4. Where did Elisha lead the enemy Syrian army? (2 Kings 6:19)
5. What did the king of Israel want to do to the Syrian army? (2 Kings 6:20-21)
6. What did Elisha say to do for the army? Think about how much that cost, and doing that for the enemy! (2 Kings 6:22-23)
7. What was the result of that? What happened? (2 Kings 6:23)
8. How is this like Proverbs 25:21?

Emotions are powerful. When you feel angry, it's easy for that anger to become hatred. The problem is that our hatred never does anything good. Never. That is why God tells us to love our enemies. Anger and hatred have bad results, love has good results. Maybe you love an enemy and they still do something bad to you. That might look like a bad result, but in God's eyes that is a good result. You showed love and you suffered because you loved. Jesus also loved, and He died on the cross because of His love. Don't be afraid of your enemies, don't hate them, and don't be afraid to love them. Remember that God's love in you is more powerful than your emotions.

Prayers

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ For all Christians, especially young Christians, to be safe from the temptations of the world. The devil tries hard to get Christians to follow the world. Ask God to make His people wise and strong in faith, and to protect us from those temptations.
- ✦ Pray that God will protect people from COVID. Also pray that people will be responsible and love and protect each other as God calls us to do.
- ✦ Pray for our leaders, that they will learn to work together peacefully and for the good of our nation. Pray that they will look for what God wants and not what will make them popular.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with trust and health: Mollie Schmitz, Doris Harris, Shirley Green, Barbara Zimmerman, James Weber, Jay Oelberg, Jerry Hanson, Curtis Bethurum, Kathy Anderson, Rosie Glime, Gary Lewis, Kris Baltzer, Chris Wrage, Sharon Pope, Paula Slavin, Jeanette Kern, Bonnie Lou Huffman, Terry Ann Check, and many family members and friends.
- ✦ Pray for Becky Jungklaus (deaconess student) and for Vince Mroz and Dan Wallis (pastoral students) as they continue their studies.
- ✦ Thank God for the gift of His Son, Jesus, to be born for us, to live, die, and rise again to give us life!
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.



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

Cain and Abel, Genesis 4:1-12

1. Cain and Abel were brothers. Cain was the oldest son of Adam and Eve. Abel was born later.
2. Cain was a farmer. He grew food and brought some of that food to give to God as an offering.
3. Abel was a shepherd. He brought the firstborn lambs and the fat parts of the sheep. That was considered a special offering for God. He gave the good parts, not the parts worth nothing.
4. God was happy with Abel and his offering. God was not happy with Cain and his offering. Some people think it is because Abel brought good sheep for his sacrifice, and Cain brought a food offering that wasn't good. That may be true. We can say for sure that Abel trusted God and he had faith to give God his offering. It looks like Cain didn't have that kind of faith, if he had any faith at all.
5. Cain was angry that God didn't accept his offering.
6. God gave Cain a very clear warning. Cain wasn't doing right. If he did right, then everything would be okay. Trust God and give Him the right sacrifice. But if Cain refused to do that, then Cain was in danger. Sin was ready to control Cain. If Cain didn't want to do right, then his sin will become worse.
7. Cain didn't listen to God. His hatred controlled him and he killed Abel.
8. Cain was guilty of murder. God made his life become more difficult. God said the ground won't grow food for him anymore, and Cain would have to leave his home and move away and wander around.

Elisha shows mercy (love) for the enemies of Israel, 2 Kings 6:15-23

1. The enemy army of Syria, with horses and chariots, surrounded Samaria.
2. The servant didn't need to be afraid because God's army was all around Samaria. God's army was protecting the city. The servant didn't see that until Elisha prayed and God let him see His army.
3. Elisha prayed that God would make all the people in the army become blind. God did that. Then the army couldn't see, so they couldn't fight.
4. Elisha led the Syrian army into the middle of the city of Samaria. This might seem like a strange thing to do. When Elisha led an enemy army into Syria, what that meant for the army is that they were surrounded and helpless. They were trapped in Israel and couldn't fight.
5. The king of Israel had total control of his enemy. He asked Elisha if he could and should kill them all.
6. Elisha said don't kill them. Give them food and drink and send them home. Imagine if you had to feed a whole army, how much food that is. The king of Israel spent a lot of money to feed his enemy.
7. The result was good. People from Syria stopped attacking Israel for a long time.
8. Proverbs 25:21 says to feed your enemy and give him something to drink. We avoid doing bad things, but we should also do good things. Giving our enemy food and drink is loving and doing good for them.

November 2021

	1	2	3 7:00 WL – Worship	4	5	6 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
7 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	8	9	10	11	12	13 10:00 QC – Worship
14 * See below for worship and Bible study times. 2:00 DU – Bible Study	15	16	17 7:00 WL – Study	18	19	20 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
21 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	22	23	24	25 Thank God today (and every day) for all His blessings!	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. 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 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 Sunday Study at 2:00 p.m.

December 2021

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

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A Child Will Be Born for Us

From www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch

Christmas has many familiar songs and Bible readings. Luke 2:1-20 is probably the most familiar Bible reading for Christmas since it is about Jesus' birth, the angels appearing to the shepherds, and the shepherds going to Bethlehem to visit Jesus. There are also several important readings from the Old Testament, hundreds of years before Jesus was born. In these verses, God told His people about the coming Savior. Then, when Jesus came, they could see that God was keeping His promises. This reading is from Isaiah 9:6-7

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

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 the throne and
kingdom of David.
 He will uphold it with justice and
righteousness now and forever.
 The Lord of Armies is determined to
 do this!

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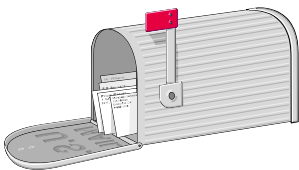


Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-20-2000

'JESUS, WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY
 GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF
 PEACE' IS A BIT LONG FOR THIS FORM
 ... YOU MIGHT WANT TO JUST USE
 'JESUS'

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