

Sign Post

**November –
December, 2025**

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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

Rev. Tim Eckert
DeafLutheran@q.com
Home: 563-424-7141 VP
or 563-359-7105 V

I saw a new heaven and a new earth, because the first heaven and earth had disappeared, and the sea was gone. Revelation 21:1

Did you know there are different kinds of “new” things? Some things are new in time. They aren’t old. For example, if you drop a glass and break it, you can go buy another one. That is a new glass. It’s not much different from the old one; it’s just newer and not broken. Or when a baby is born, we say that is a “newborn” baby. That isn’t the first baby in the world. All of us started out as babies, but then we grew up. This is a new baby because he or she was recently born.

You get to learn some Greek this month! Greek has two words for “new.” One word is νέος (neos). That means new in time, more recent. This is new like buying a new glass, having a new baby, baking a fresh (new) batch of cookies, or going to a new school.

The other Greek word for “new” is καινός (kainos). This word can mean new in time, more recent, the same as neos. But kainos can also mean a new kind of thing that didn’t exist before.

Remember when everyone had TTYs and you had to type back and forth? Then some people created a videophone and you could call people and sign with them. No more typing! That was a brand new way of calling your friends that you couldn’t do before. Think back to when you saw a personal computer for the first time. That was new. Before 1977, personal computers didn’t exist. We can add smartphones, the Internet, and electric cars to the list of things that are new because they didn’t exist before. The Greek word “kainos” can describe how these things are new.

Revelation tells us that God will make a new heaven and a new earth. Which kind of “new” do you think that will be? Just another heaven and earth to replace the current one? Or a completely new and different kind of heaven and earth? Think about it carefully and then go to the next page to see if you are right.

Continued on p. 2

New Heaven and Earth (continued from p. 1)

God will make a *kainos* heaven and earth – a brand new world that is very different from our world now. It isn't going to be just another world to replace this one. It will be very new and different. How will it be different? Rev. 21:3-4 explains:

I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "God lives with humans! God will make his home with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There won't be any more death. There won't be any grief, crying, or pain, because the first things have disappeared."

Imagine that! No more tears. No more death. No grief, crying, or pain. All of those things belong to this world now. Our life now is a mixture of God's blessings and also sin and death and trouble. He will destroy this entire universe with fire (2 Peter 3:10-13) and then make a new heavens and earth and He will live with us.

That is His promise to you and His promise is absolutely true in Jesus. In a couple months we will change over to a new year, 2026. That new year will be the same as the old year. But soon God will give us a completely new world and new time and new life with Him, one full of joy and peace forever. Keep living in Jesus and look forward with hope to God's wonderful promises coming true.

Pastor Eckert

Prayers

Please remember these in your prayers:

- ✦ Thank God for His promise to give us eternal life with Him in the new world He will create, with no tears, no pain, and no death. Ask Him to give us strong hope and trust in His promises.
- ✦ God gives us His promises in His word, in baptism, and in the Lord's Supper. Ask God to make all His people faithful to come to church often. His people should not stay home and miss His gifts. It is good to be in God's house so His word and Lord's Supper can feed us.
- ✦ The government shutdown is affecting more people as it drags on – government workers, government contractors, people who depend on SNAP benefits, and others. Ask God to make our leaders work together for the good of our nation and to follow what God wants.
- ✦ Pray for the family of Barb Zimmerman. She went to be with her Savior on Oct. 6. Thank God for His promise of resurrection and eternal life for everyone who believes in Jesus.
- ✦ Nov. 1 is All Saints' Day. We thank God for choosing all of His people on earth and all His people now in heaven, that He forgives our sins and makes us His holy people.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with health: Susan Green, 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.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.

Dive Into God's Word

Advent is the four Sundays before Christmas. The word “Advent” means “coming.” During Advent, we look forward to Jesus coming two times. We remember He came the first time at Christmas. The Son of God was born as a true human being to live with us, to teach, to help God’s people, and to obey God’s law for us, then finally to die on the cross and rise alive again. If God’s Son didn’t have a body, He couldn’t do all those things. So He was born as a baby so He could grow up and do everything to save us. We also look forward to Jesus coming again at the end of the world. He will end this world, judge, and create a new heavens and earth where we will live together forever.

The Old Testament says much about looking forward to both of those things. These are verses that told people to watch for Jesus coming the first time and that tell us to watch for Him to come again at the end of the world. *Answers are on page 4.*

1. Genesis 3:14-15. This was the first promise that started everything. God told the snake (Satan) that He will send someone who will do what?
2. Genesis 49:8-12. Jacob blessed each of his 12 sons before he died. He gave Judah a very special blessing. Verse 10 looks forward to Jesus. How?
3. 2 Samuel 7:12-16. King David was the greatest king in Israel. God told David about a future King to come from David’s family. What did God say about that King?
4. Isaiah 7:14. What did God promise here? What does the name Immanuel mean (see Matthew 1:22-23)?
5. Isaiah 9:2-7. This passage is often read at Christmas because this looks forward to Jesus being born. What does verse 6 say about who Jesus is?
6. Micah 5:2. This says where Jesus would come from (where He would be born). Where? Also, what does it mean that His origins are from long ago?
7. Isaiah 25:6-9. Now we begin looking at Jesus’ second coming. These verses are about Easter and look forward to what Jesus will do when He comes again. What is the big thing He will do for His people?
8. Isaiah 65:17-25. This talks about what God will do at the end of the world. List all the things that will be new or different.
9. Daniel 12:2-3. What will happen to believers in the end? What will happen to unbelievers?

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

1. Genesis 3:14-15. God told Satan that He will send someone who will crush Satan's head. Satan is our enemy and Jesus came to defeat him. Also notice this interesting thing. The Bible usually talks about fathers and sons. Here God talks about the woman and her child. That is looking forward to Jesus being born from Mary.
2. Genesis 49:8-12. This verse may be confusing. A scepter is a special staff that a king has. Jacob is saying that Judah and his family will reign. But then Jacob talks about one specific man. He will be the last and greatest ruler and people will obey Him. That is looking forward to Jesus. Jesus was from Judah's family and He is the greatest ruler of all.
3. 2 Samuel 7:12-16. God told King David that a ruler will come from David's family. We know that ruler is Jesus. God said He will make His kingdom great. He will reign forever and He will build up God's kingdom. God says here that He will be the father of this King and the King will be His Son. God also said that He will punish that King, which means Jesus dying on the cross. But that doesn't mean God doesn't love Him. God promised to always love Jesus.
4. Isaiah 7:14. God promised that a virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son. They will name Him Immanuel. Matthew 1:22-23 explains that Immanuel means "God with us." This is talking about Jesus because Jesus was born from a virgin and He is true God Himself.
5. Isaiah 9:2-7. Verse 6 says that a son is given to them, which means God will send His Son to His people. The government will depend on Him. That doesn't mean the U.S. government or any other government depends on Jesus. This means when Jesus reigns, His people will all depend on Him. Jesus has many different names, but this verse gives four names or titles for Jesus: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
6. Micah 5:2. Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. It says His origins (His beginning) is from long ago because God's Son already lived long ago, in eternity past. Our life begins when we are conceived inside our mother. Jesus' life had no beginning. God's Son has always lived.
7. Isaiah 25:6-9. The greatest thing Jesus will do is He will defeat death and take it away. After Jesus died on the cross, He rose alive and defeated death. But we still die for now. But when Jesus comes again, He will take away death and we will live forever.
8. Isaiah 65:17-25. Many things will be new! God will create new heavens and a new earth, He will give us a joyous celebration that never ends, He will take away crying. No one will die anymore. His people will work and enjoy their work and what they do. God will bless all of His people. He will always answer us. Everyone will live in peace, even the wolf, lamb, lion and ox will live in peace. There will be no more pain or hurt or destruction.
9. Daniel 12:2-3. All people will rise alive. Unbelievers will rise and live in shame and suffering. Believers will rise and live forever and shine like the stars.

November 2025

2 * See below for worship and Bible study times.			5 7:00 WL – Worship			1/8 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Bible Study
9 * See below for worship and Bible study times.						15 10:00 QC – Worship
16 * See below for worship and Bible study times.			19 7:00 WL – Study			22 10:00 QC – Worship
23 * See below for worship and Bible study times.				27 Happy Thanksgiving!		29 10:00 QC – Worship
30 * 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 10:00 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 Saturday Study at 1:00 p.m.

December 2025

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

BR – Burlington. Concordia Lutheran Church, 2901 Cliff Rd., Burlington. 3rd 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.
 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 1:00 p.m..

Thanksgiving

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

Psalm 95 is a Psalm that has been used in worship in the church for more than 1500 years. The same as many other Psalms, it praises God for who He is. The words for the puzzle are from Psalm 95:1-7. Find the underlined words.

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

Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord.
 Let us sing loud with joy to the rock Who saves us.

Let us come before Him giving thanks.
 Let us make a sound of joy to Him with songs.

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

The deep places of the earth are in His hand. And the tops of the mountains belong to Him.

The sea is His, for He made it. And His hands made the dry land.

Come, let us bow down in worship. Let us get down on our knees before the Lord Who made us.

For He is our God. And we are the people of His field, and the sheep of His hand.

November

- 1 Agnes Mundhank
- 4 David Legg
- 5 Kathy Anderson
Lisa Oelberg
- 6 Tracey Shepard
Gary Lewis
- 8 Lilly Anderson
- 12 Wanda McAllister
- 14 Chris Wrage
- 15 Doris Ciha



- 19 Vicki Morris
Pastor Tim Eckert
Mike Check
- 20 Melody Schulte
- 22 Josh Hoover
- 23 Shirley Hampton
- 26 Kelani Purdy-Allen
- 28 Paula Slavin
- 30 Rhonda Regenwether

December

- 1 Jennifer Legg
- 11 Sheri Pohlman
- 25 Jesus Christ

FACT Sheet for the 2026 ILDA Convention

June 11-14, 2026

Registration

Please note there are two choices for registration: ILDA members and non-members. ILDA members must put their 2025-2027 membership number on the registration form. Non-members will have to pay increased costs. All convention registration forms received will follow the postmark date on the envelope for the cost. If you wish to only attend the banquet, there is a separate line item for that. **No registrations accepted after May 15th due to food count total requirements by the hotel and possible post office delivery delays.**

The combo ticket includes all meals- (Saturday breakfast to Sunday breakfast, Saturday lunch and Saturday Banquet). Required registration fee is **NOT** included in the combo prices.

There will be no money collected for ILDA membership dues on this 2026 convention registration form. You will need to fill out the separate ILDA membership form and send it with your payment to John Mason, Jr prior to the ILDA 2026 convention. The new ILDA membership year is 06/01/2025—5/31/2027.

Payment

You can pay your registration by personal check, bank cashier's check or money order with "ILDA 2026", Memo: ILDA 2026. Send it to Jeff Padon at the address on the bottom of the registration form.

Donations

Your help will be appreciated to cover expenses. Make a check to "ILDA 2026", Memo: 2026 ILDA Donation.

Room cost

Room with 2 Queen beds: \$159.00 + 12.36% tax = \$178.65 per night

Room with 1 King bed: \$159.00 + 12.36% tax = \$178.65 per night

Room block deadline is May 13, 2026.

There are 2 ways to make reservations:

1) www.hilton.com

Or

2) Call the Hilton reservation line at 1-800-Hiltons and b) note that you would like to reserve a room in a group block at the Hilton Cincinnati Airport (7373 Turfway Rd, Florence, KY) c) ask for the group rate for International Lutheran Deaf Association or reference the group "91L".

Childcare

If you plan to bring your child(ren) to the 2026 ILDA convention, please contact Nancy Bergstresser, VP (614-980-0505).

Refund policy

No refunds after May 29, 2026 unless a doctor's note or copy of a death certificate is provided. On or prior to May 29 any cancellations will result in a \$50 cancellation fee that will be deducted from your registration cost. Please sign and date the registration form on the bottom section that you agree to this.

Tours

Noah Ark Encounter or

Underground Railroad Museum + Cincinnati downtown.

More information



International Lutheran Deaf Association

(Tentative Schedule)



Wednesday, June 10

9:00 am – 5:00 pm ILDA Board Meeting
(10 people)

Thursday, June 11

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Board Meeting (12 people)
 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch on your own
 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Deaconess Workshop
 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm Registration
 5:00 pm Dinner on your own
 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Open Ceremony/
 Announcements/etc

Friday, June 12

7:00 am – 8:00 am Breakfast ~~Buffet~~ *on your own*
 8:15 am – 8:45 am Devotion
 9:00 am – 9:15 am Get on bus(es)
 9:15 am Enjoy your tour and Lunch (?)
 10:00 am – 4:30 pm Museums (Ark Encounter,
 Creation, and National
 Underground Railroad
 Freedom Center)
 4:30 pm – 4:45 pm Get on bus
 5:00 pm Return to hotel
 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Dinner ~~Buffet~~ *on your own*
 7:30 pm – 8:00 pm Devotion
 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm ?? About museum/workshop

Saturday, June 13

7:00 am – 8:15 am Breakfast Buffet
 8:30 am – 9:00 am Devotion
 9:00 am – 4:30 pm Day Care
 9:00 am – 10:15 am Business Mtg #1
 10:15 am – 10:45 am Break
 10:45 am – 12:00 pm Business Mtg #2
 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch
 1:15 pm – 4:30 pm Business Mtg #3
 If finish early – Elective Workshops 1 and 2
 5:30 pm Door open for Banquet/
 Cash Bar open (?)
 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm Banquet/Awards/
 Entertainment

Sunday, June 14

7:00 am – 8:15 am Breakfast Buffet
 8:30 am – 9:30 am Bible Study/
 Sunday School for kids
 10:00 am – 12:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/
 Closing Ceremony
 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch on your own
 Bon Voyageur (safe travel)

Ephphatha Conference

2:00 pm – 8:00 pm
 Dinner on your own

Monday, June 15

Breakfast on your own
 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Meeting
 Go, Serve the Lord in His mission fields



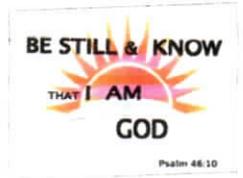
International Lutheran Deaf Association

Junior Biennial Convention June 11-14, 2026

Hilton Cincinnati Airport

7373 Turfway Rd

Florence, KY 41042 (859) 371-4400



Please fill out the youth ILDA registration form and mail to:
Nancy Bergstresser, Holy Cross Deaf Lutheran Church, 360 Morse Rd, Columbus, OH 43214.
More information will come in March.

Junior ILDA Registration: Please print clearly ONE form per person:

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Check one: VP Voice Text

Email address: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Check all that apply:

Deaf Hearing

Deaf/Blind

Visual Impaired - your own companion

Wheelchair - your own wheel

Special Diet

Other: _____

Tour:

We are working on tours to Noah Ark Encounter and Underground Railroad Museum. We will send information out with the cost. Let us know if you are interesting in going to one of those tours.

____ Noah Ark Encounter

____ Underground Railroad Museum



International Lutheran Deaf Association

28th Biennial Convention June 11-14, 2026

Hilton Cincinnati Airport

7373 Turfway Rd

Florence, KY 41042 (859) 371-4400



How will you come?

Hilton shuttle bus will be provided. Please look for person with sign "ILDA" in baggage claim area and will guide you to shuttle bus or you can find shuttle bus that looks like this:



But we need to know your flight, so we can help you. Please fill out this form:

Name: _____

What airline/flight #: _____

From what city will you come from (airport): _____

What date of arrival: _____ Time: _____ am / pm

For your flight home, see the hotel front desk.

Mail to: Nancy Bergstresser
Holy Cross Deaf Lutheran Church
360 Morse Rd
Columbus, OH 43214

Thank you,
Nancy Bergstresser
ILDA 2026 Chairperson
Email: leelot@columbus.rr.com