

Sign Post

**September –
October 2018**

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Smile

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

Word of God Lutheran
Church for the Deaf
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So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female. Genesis 1:27

This is an amazing teaching. God made people to be perfect, intelligent, to love, to live forever, the same as God Himself. Look at all the other amazing things in creation. None of them are the same as people. God made people as the crown, the best, of creation.

God made people for relationships. He made them to have a perfect relationship with Him. Of course, sin ruined that relationship, but He makes us new and gives us a new relationship with Him. Our relationship with Him depends on His grace, His forgiveness, that He gives us in Jesus.

God also made us for relationships with each other. He made families as the main unit of society, and the chief relationship in a family is the marriage of one man and one woman, husband and wife. This is God's creation, His plan, His gift. He gave them His command to have children and to work together to care for the earth.

There is great blessing in following God's plan. Sadly, the world today thinks God's plan for marriage and family is no good. Many people now believe the story that male and female isn't enough; they think we need to have many more genders. Other people say marriage should be for anyone, not just one man and one woman. Many other people think marriage isn't necessary. Just love and live with whoever you want.

What can Christians say to all this? Dr. John Kleinig recently led a seminar at Trinity Lutheran Church in Davenport. He encouraged us to show the world that God's design for marriage is a good thing. Marriage in God's way follows the example of Christ and the church, so it is based on giving and forgiving, not selfishness. It is filled with deep love, it is fun, encouraging, fulfilling, no guilt, and it is healthy and it works! The world is desperate for good relationships, but they try all the wrong things. Let's show the world what God's design for marriage, family, and friendship looks like, and how good it is to live in relationship with Jesus!

Pastor Eckert

Dive Into God's Word

We are continuing in our study of people in the Bible, how God used regular people to serve Him and do great things. Esther was different from many other people in the Bible. The Jews loved Israel, the promised land. Esther was a Jew who lived outside of Israel in the country of Persia (today named Iran). Did God still care about His people there? Will He save them? Esther's challenge was to trust God and do a difficult and dangerous thing to save her people. Read about Esther in the Old Testament book named Esther. *Answers are on page 4.*

1. King Ahasuerus wanted to show off his beautiful wife, Queen Vashti. So he called for Queen Vashti to come and let the people see her. What did Vashti do? Esther 1:10-12
2. Now the king was very angry. His advisors were worried that their wives would learn to not obey them. So what did King Ahasuerus do to Vashti? Esther 1:18-22
3. Who were Mordecai and Esther (also named Hadassah)? Esther 2:5-7
4. King Ahasuerus was searching for a new queen. The king's servant chose many young women to meet the king, to see which girl he liked (Esther 2:8-14). What did the king think of Esther? Esther 2:16-18
5. Did the king know Esther was a Jew? Esther 2:10, 19-20
6. Haman was a powerful ruler, second to the king. He liked to have people bow down and honor him. Did Mordecai bow down to him? What did Haman think of Mordecai? Esther 3:1-6
7. Haman asked the king for permission to kill all the Jews. What did the king do? Esth. 3:8-15
8. Mordecai told Esther about Haman's plan and asked her to beg the king for help. Esther said she had to wait for the king to call her. She couldn't go in to talk to him until he called her. What did Mordecai say to answer her? Esther 4:13-14
9. Mordecai told Esther how important this was and how much she needed to help. What did Esther ask him to do, and what did she said she would do? Esther 4:15-17
10. What happened when Esther told the king about the Jews and Haman's plan? Esther 7:1-10
11. There are two great lessons to see in Esther. First, should we be afraid of what people might do to us? Psalm 56:4, Psalm 119:46
12. God put Esther in the right place as queen so she could speak up to defend the Jews. You might not be queen, but God puts you where he wants you so you can speak up, defend people, show love, and tell people about Jesus and His life for us. Who can you do that for now?

The Free Gift of Salvation

From www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch

October 31 is Reformation Day (yes, it is also Halloween...), the day we remember and celebrate the beginning of the Reformation. The Reformation is important because people found again the good news that God forgives us freely in Jesus Christ. We don't have to work and earn forgiveness. God gives it freely to all people through faith in Jesus. One of the Bible readings often used for the Reformation is in Romans 3. This reading is from Romans 3:21-26. Find the underlined words.

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

Now, the way to receive God's approval has been made plain in a way other than the laws in the Scriptures. Moses' Teachings and the Prophets tell us this. Everyone who believes has God's approval through faith in Jesus Christ. There is no difference between people. Because all people have sinned, they have fallen short of God's glory. They receive God's approval freely by an act of his kindness through the price Christ Jesus paid to set us free from sin. God showed that Christ is the throne of mercy where God's approval is given through faith in Christ's blood. In his patience God waited to deal with sins committed in the past. He waited so that he could display his approval at the present time. This shows that he is a God of justice, a God who approves of people who believe in Jesus.

September

- 1 Lynn Eiben
- 5 Carissa Huffman
- 13 Jim Biwer
- 15 Karlene Kischer-Browne
- 26 Kent Kischer
- 27 Mollie Schmitz



October

- 12 James Weber
- 16 Sharon Pope
- 17 Kris Baltzer
- 29 April Powell

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

1. Queen Vashti refused to come. This was very unusual not to obey the king's order, even for the queen. Not obeying the king could mean you would die.
2. The advisors said the king should divorce Queen Vashti ("she should not come to the king anymore.") They also said he should choose a new queen. The king wrote a letter saying that Vashti was no longer queen and that every man is the master of his family.
3. Mordecai and Esther were Jews living in Susa, a city in Persia. Hadassah was Esther's Hebrew name. Mordecai was Esther's older cousin. Esther was an orphan, so Mordecai raised her as his own daughter.
4. The king loved Esther more than all the other women. (Was this like an early version of *The Bachelor*?) He chose Esther to become the new queen.
5. No. Esther said nothing about being a Jew, because Mordecai told her to say nothing.
6. Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman. The Bible doesn't tell us why, but it was probably because Mordecai wanted to honor God and bow down to God, but not to a man. Haman was very angry. He wanted to kill Mordecai and also kill all the Jews.
7. The king gave permission for Haman to find a way to kill all the Jews. Haman sent letters to the whole empire to give people permission to kill the Jews and steal their things on the 13th day of the 12th month.
8. Mordecai told Esther four things. First, Esther was not safe, even in the king's palace. Someone there could still kill her because she was a Jew. Second, Mordecai had faith in God, that God will make a way to save His people. Third, if Esther would not speak to the king, then she and her family would die, even if God saved the Jews. The last thing is very important. Fourth, Mordecai said Esther had a very important position as queen. Maybe God made her queen at this time just so she could speak up and defend her people.
9. Esther's reply is fantastic! Mordecai asked her to go in to speak to the king, and that might get her killed before she could even ask him to save the Jews. But she made the brave decision to go in and ask the king for help. But that is not all. She needed help, too. She asked for all the Jews in the city of Susa to give up eating for 3 days (and also to pray). She and her servants would do the same. They did that to pray and ask God for His mercy and help.
10. The king hanged Haman. The king couldn't change laws, so he couldn't change the law that gave permission for people to kill the Jews on the 13th day of the 12th month. But he could make new laws, so the king made a new law (with Mordecai's help) that the Jews could defend themselves, fight their enemies, and take their enemies' things. God used that new law to protect and save the Jews.
11. No, we should not be afraid. Esther was afraid at first, but she trusted God and was brave to do what she needed to do. We can be brave to serve God and speak His word, too. He is our God and Savior and He will never leave us.
12. Think about your life and the people you know. Think about who needs encouragement, who needs support or an advocate, who needs to hear about Jesus' forgiveness. Don't be afraid, and do wait. Go and talk to them!

September 2018

2 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	3	4	5 7:00 WL – Worship	6	7	1/8 10:00 QC – Worship/Study 1:00 DU – Study (On Sept. 8)
9 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	10	11	12 10:00 CR – Senior Citizens	13	14	15 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
16 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	17	18	19 7:00 WL – Study	20	21 1:00 MU – Worship/Study	22 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
23 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	24	25	26	27	28	29 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
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. 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 Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. 2nd Saturday at 1:00 p.m.
MC – Mason City. On hold for now. Watch for news later about meetings.
MU – Muscatine. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2611 Lucas St., Muscatine. Talk to Pastor Eckert to confirm meeting location.

October 2018

	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 10:00 CR – Senior Citizens	11	12	13 10:00 QC – Worship 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
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Prayers

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ For Christians to be good witnesses to God's wonderful creation. He made marriage and family for our good. Pray that God will make our marriages and families strong, and all our relationships full of His forgiveness and love. Then that will be a powerful witness to all people.
- ✦ Pray for all those affected by the hurricane in Hawaii and the wildfires in the West. Ask God to protect all who are in danger from these disasters.
- ✦ Continue to pray for our nation and our leaders. Ask God to lead them to do what is right for all people.
- ✦ Ask God to give His peace to Ruth Mettler after her mother passed away, and also to the family of James LeHew. Jesus is our resurrection and life!
- ✦ For all who ask God to give them health: Mollie Schmitz, Lorri Green, Shirley Green, Pat Monroe's father, Jackie Spencer, Barbara Zimmerman, Connie Neely, Janet Weber, Mae and Jerry Hanson, Joan Mass, Gerald Mitchell, Chris Wrage, Sharon Pope, Jeanette Kern, Bonnie Lou Huffman, Vicki Hoover's daughter Cleta, 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.



Notice: In Davenport, the Friday morning Bible study has been moved to Saturday. Now Bible study is right after worship on Saturday morning.

