

Sign Post

**September –
October, 2020**

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

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But here is how God has shown His love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Love your neighbor the same as you love yourself. Matthew 22:39

This year, we have been thinking about how Christians see the world. We don’t see things the same way non-Christians see things. We see the world from God’s perspective, so we see the world the same as God sees it. We think about everything in life the same as what God says.

The topic this month is love. The world has many wrong ideas about love. Some people think love is sex, or love means making people happy, or love is always wanting to be with someone. That is not true. True love means wanting and doing what is best for someone else.

For example, a child may want to go to another child’s house. Mom and Dad say no. The child begs, “Don’t you love me? If you love me, then you want me to be happy. And I’ll be happy if I can go to my friend’s house!” But Mom and Dad know the other child has a reputation for using drugs or alcohol. They love their child and want the best for them, so they protect their child. The goal isn’t to be happy. The goal is to grow up healthy, safe, and following Christ.

Doing what is best for another person sometimes requires sacrifice. Jesus showed perfect love for us because He gave up His life for us. He gave us the best gift He could give, and it cost Him everything, it cost Him His life. When you were baptized, He gave you new life and He put His love in you, His perfect, giving, self-sacrificing love. That is how God loves you.

Do we see the world showing love that way? Look around the world today. Look at all the insanity that you see in the news, whether it is about COVID-19, the economy, masks, protests, riots, racism, civil rights, the election, etc. When you watch the news, you see this is how the world thinks and works: I want something and you have to give it to me.

That is complete selfishness. Look at how that selfishness is hurting people and hurting our nation. Vladimir Lenin, the leader of the communist revolution in Russia, supposedly said this: “If you put a cookie on a table

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between two Christians, the cookie will get moldy (because the Christians aren't selfish and are waiting for the other person to take it). If you put the cookie between two communists, they will fight over it."

I can't find that quote now, so I don't know if he actually said it or not. But it still illustrates the point – the world will be selfish and fight for what they want, but Christians will not be selfish. God wants His people to be loving and giving.

The world needs God's love. God gave His love in Jesus. Jesus showed His love for all people in everything He taught, in His miracles, and especially in His death and resurrection to take away our sin. He continues to love people by forgiving sins through His church and giving eternal life to everyone who believes in Him.

The world needs to see God's love through you. We want to love them, as God's word says to love our neighbor the same as we love ourselves. The world won't understand that and they will try to control us. People will tell us what to do. They will tell us to make them happy, they will say we have to accept their sin, they will insist we have to give them what they want. But that is not our job. We don't see the world the way they do. We see the same as God sees. We will give them true joy in Jesus and His salvation for them. We will tell them that Jesus takes away their sin. We won't give them what they want, but we will give them what God says they need.

God bless you to faithfully love your neighbor the same as God loves you!

Pastor Eckert

Prayers

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ Pray for all of God's people to love the world the same as God loves the world, that we want them to confess their sin and trust in Jesus their Savior. Ask God to help us love our neighbor the same as He loves us.
- ✦ Pray for people in Cedar Rapids and all over Iowa who are still cleaning up and making repairs after the storm.
- ✦ For everyone dealing with the coronavirus, especially teachers and students, and all the medical staff who take care of all people who are sick.
- ✦ Pray for peace in our nation. Ask God to take away people's hate and fill them with His love. Make people learn to listen and respect each other, and especially to honor God in how we treat each other.
- ✦ As we get closer to the election on Nov. 3, ask God to give us good leaders who will honor Him and lead agreeing with what God wants.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with trust and health: Mollie Schmitz, Doris Harris, Lorri Green, Shirley Green, Barbara Zimmerman, Tracy Shepard, James Weber, Jerry Hanson, Joan Mass, Kathy Anderson, Rosie Glime, Vicki Hoover, Kris Baltzer, Larry Plumb, Sharon Pope, Paula Slavin, Jeanette Kern, Bonnie Lou Huffman, Terry Ann Check, 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.



Dive Into God's Word

Martin Luther wrote the Small Catechism to teach the Christian faith. The catechism has six parts: the Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Lord's Supper, and Confession & Absolution. God tells us to love Him and love our neighbor. How? Where can we get true love? Only from God. He gives us all His good gifts, including love. Where? Baptism is a good place to start. God's word tells us He gives many blessings in baptism. *Answers on page 7.*

Why baptize?

1. Matthew 28:18-20. Why do we baptize? Jesus commands that we should make disciples. How? _____ them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and _____ them to obey everything Jesus commands.

What is our problem?

2. Ecclesiastes 7:20. There is not one person on earth who does _____ and never _____.

3. 1 John 1:8. If we say we have no _____, the truth is not in us.

4. Romans 5:12. _____ spread to all people, because all people sinned.

God Gives What We Need

Baptism does much good, because God promises to work through baptism. Read the following verses and see what God promises to do through baptism.

5. John 3:5. If you are baptized (born of water and the Spirit), you can enter the _____ of God.

6. Colossians 2:12. Through baptism, we are _____ with Christ and also _____ up from the dead with Him.

7. Romans 6:4. Baptism means we will live a _____ life.

8. 1 Peter 3:21. Baptism now _____ you.

9. Galatians 3:27. When we are baptized, we become clothed with _____.

10. 1 Corinthians 12:13. Baptism unites us together into one _____ in Christ.

11. Acts 2:38-39. God promises us and our children, anyone baptized in His name will receive _____ of sins, and God will give the _____.

How Love Acts

From www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch

Many people call 1 Corinthians 13 the “Love Chapter” in the Bible. In that chapter, Paul describes true Christian love. This is a popular reading in weddings. This isn’t really about marriage, but it does apply to marriage. This chapter describes God’s love in Christians. This is the love God gives us in Jesus. Read this first half of 1 Corinthians 13 and find the underlined words.

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

I may speak in the languages of humans and of angels. But if I don’t have love, I am a loud gong or a clashing cymbal. I may have the gift to speak what God has revealed, and I may understand all mysteries and have all knowledge. I may even have enough faith to move mountains. But if I don’t have love, I am nothing. I may even give away all that I have and give up my body to be burned. But if I don’t have love, none of these things will help me. Love is patient. Love is kind. Love isn’t jealous. It doesn’t sing its own praises. It isn’t arrogant. It isn’t rude. It doesn’t think about itself. It isn’t irritable. It doesn’t keep track of wrongs. It isn’t happy when injustice is done, but it is happy with the truth. Love never stops being patient, never stops believing, never stops hoping, never gives up. 1 Cor. 13:1-7

GOD’S LOVE DISPLAYED

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. — ROMANS 5:8 NIV

September 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	26 10:00 QC – Worship/Study
27 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	28	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. 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 Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
 DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. No meeting this month.
 MU – Muscatine. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2611 Lucas St., Muscatine. Talk to Pastor Eckert to confirm meeting location and time.

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The Derecho

What a storm! Everyone says they have never seen a storm like that before in Iowa. Burlington had a little damage, the Quad Cities had more, and Cedar Rapids got hit very hard. The church building in Cedar Rapids had some damage, but nothing seriously damaging. We had a little bit of siding come loose, a tree took down our electrical line and meter, and another tree dented up a corner of our roof and gutter. Otherwise, it was a lot to clean up. You can see some pictures on our website, www.iowaeastdeaf.org.



Damage to the SW corner of the building

Some of our members had more damage than the church did – leaking roofs, chimneys blown off, siding damaged or blown off, trees falling on cars or roofs, etc. And of course, no one had electricity for at least a week, and cell phones didn't work well because so many cell towers were damaged. We are thankful that none of our members were hurt and that very few people in the community were hurt.

A BIG thank-you to the people who helped clean up: Curtis Bethurum, Mark Holerud (neighbor who lives next to the parking lot), Sheila Killham, Rev. Dean Rothchild from the district office, Rev. Rothchild's brother-in-law and another volunteer who came with them, Pastor, Susan, Stephen and Sarah Eckert. Thank you also to Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Jacksonville, Illinois, for their support!



Sheila pulling branches to the street



Curtis had his generator to power his tools

September

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



October

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

Higher Things Devotions

Do you want daily devotions in ASL? Go to our website, www.iowaeastdeaf.org. There is a link on the home page to the daily devotions. You can also go to higherthings.org/content-subscription to sign up to get daily reminders in text or e-mail about the devotions.

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

- 1. Baptize, teach
- 2. Good, sins
- 3. Sin
- 4. Death
- 5. Kingdom
- 6. Buried, raised.
- 7. New
- 8. Saves
- 9. Christ
- 10. Body
- 11. Forgiveness, Holy Spirit