

Sign Post

**September –
October, 2021**

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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
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Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

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So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’” Luke 17:10

How important is your pastor? (Pastors, you might want to skip this paragraph.) In one way, your pastor is not important at all, meaning he is not better than you. There is nothing special about a pastor that makes him more holy, or smarter, or better in any way. This is what Jesus taught His disciples in Luke 17:10. They couldn’t say they were special in any way. They should recognize they are unworthy servants. That is true about pastors today. A pastor is not a lord, not a boss, not a CEO. Your pastor is a servant of God and the church.

But a pastor is very important in this way: his work is to preach and teach the gospel, to baptize and to give the Lord’s Supper. That is the greatest work in the world. That work brings blessings for Christians, and those blessings continue into eternal life. The man himself is a servant and not anything special, but his work is from God and is very valuable.

Think about the twelve apostles whom Jesus called. They were ordinary men. They didn’t go to a special school. They weren’t important Jewish leaders. The world didn’t respect them. But they had been with Jesus and learned from Him, and He sent them out to make disciples by preaching and baptizing. (See Acts 4:13, Matthew 28:18-20.) They were ordinary men, but their work was precious!

How can you work with your pastor? There are several things you can do to help him do his work better. First, honor God by going to worship and Bible study. Listen to what your pastor preaches and teaches and apply that to your life. If you don’t go to church, or you don’t listen to God’s word, then your pastor works for no reason. He is here to give God’s word and forgiveness to you!

Second, encourage your pastor. Sometimes a pastor’s work is difficult or lonely. Also, pastors are human, too, and may be tempted to do things in a way that makes people happy instead of serving God. You might need to remind him and encourage him to continue faithful to God and His ways. You also encourage him when your congregation pays him appropriately for his work.

Third, work with your pastor. Your pastor is not a hired man to do all the work for the church. All Christians can tell about Jesus. All Christians can volunteer to do different jobs at church – taking care of the building, office work, visiting people, helping people with different needs, etc. The whole church is the body of Christ and works together to build up each other and to work in God’s kingdom.

Pastor Eckert

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. We will continue to study stories from the Old Testament this year.

This month, we will look at who we follow – the world or God? God calls us to follow Him, which means we trust Him, honor Him, and do what He says. Sometimes Christians say they trust God, but they do things the same-as the world. That only leads away from God. *Answers on page 4.*

Example: King Solomon lived like a worldly king, 1 Kings 11:1-13

1. King Solomon was a great and wise king. But he didn't always use his wisdom like he should. For example, Solomon married many women. Where were they from? (1 Kings 11:1)
2. How many women did Solomon marry? (1 Kings 11:3)
3. What did God say about women from other nations? Why did God say that? (1 Kings 11:2, Deuteronomy 7:2-4)
4. What did Solomon's wives do to him? (1 Kings 11:4)
5. Did God say Solomon was wrong, or his wives were wrong? (1 Kings 11:6-11)
6. Kings made agreements (treaties) with other kings that they will respect each other, not war against each other, and do business with each other. Part of that agreement could mean one king would marry the other king's daughter. Solomon was the king of Israel and he made many agreements with the nations around Israel. He probably married many of those women as part of the agreements with other nations. Was Solomon doing the same as the world, or the same as God wanted? How could Solomon have known what God wanted? (Exodus 34:12-16)
7. Sometimes you might think the same as the world, or you want things the same as the world. How can you recognize that and change your thinking to the right way? (2 Timothy 3:15-17)

Example: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego only worship God, Daniel 3:1-30

1. What did King Nebuchadnezzar make and what did he order people to do? (Daniel 3:1-6)
2. When the music played, what did everyone do? Did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego follow everyone else? What did they do? (Daniel 3:7-12)
3. Sometimes we follow the world because we are afraid people will reject us or say bad things about us. Were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego afraid of the king? (Daniel 3:16-18)
4. How did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego show they trusted in God? (Daniel 3:17-18)
5. What happened to the three men? Did God save them? (Daniel 3:19-27)
6. Daniel 3:28 is an important verse. What did the king say about who the three men followed and obeyed?

God made you His child. He baptized you, gave you the Holy Spirit, and He gives you eternal life in Jesus. You belong to Him! That means our whole life, our thoughts, words and actions all belong to God. We serve Him and honor Him with our lives every day. Think of Solomon's example and remember that following the world only leads to trouble. Remember Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and let their example encourage you to follow God, no matter what the world may say or do.

Future Pastors and Deaconess Serving the Deaf

There is some exciting news about pastors for the deaf! Andy Petajan will be ordained and installed on Sept. 26 as pastor at Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Silver Spring, Maryland. The church's current pastor, Rev. Ron Friedrich, will retire soon. Andy has been studying and preparing for 5 years to be their next pastor. In addition, two other men just started their studies to become pastors for the deaf, Vince Mroz in Pittsburgh, PA, and Dan Wallis in St. Louis, MO. Becky Jungklaus continues her studies, now in her third year, as a deaconess student in Houston, TX. All four of these students are deaf.

Prayers

Please remember these people in your prayers:

- ✦ The devil and the world want us to give up our faith and give up God's word. Pray that all Christians will hold on to God's word and not let it go. Pray that Christians will be faithful to Him and not follow the world.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Andy Petajan has finished his studies and will be ordained as a pastor on Sept. 26. Pray for him as he begins his work as a pastor, that God will use him to serve the church well.
- ✦ Pray for Becky Jungklaus as she continues her studies to become a deaconess (starting year 3 out of 4 years), and for Vince Mroz and Dan Wallis as they begin their studies to become pastors.
- ✦ Pray for our partner churches in Kenya and India.
- ✦ All shut-ins to keep strong faith in Christ Jesus.



September

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



October

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

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

King Solomon lived like a worldly king, 1 Kings 11:1-13

1. Many of Solomon's wives were from other countries. They were not Jewish women. They came from other countries and worshiped idols.
2. Solomon was married to about 1000 women, 700 wives and 300 concubines. A concubine was like a wife, but she had fewer rights than a wife. A concubine was kind of half wife and half servant.
3. God ordered the Jews not to marry women from other nations. The women from other nations will worship idols and lead the Jews to worship idols. God wanted the people to be faithful to Him and not worship idols.
4. Solomon's wives wanted to worship idols. So Solomon built temples for their idols (1 Kings 11:7-8), and eventually Solomon began worshiping the idols, too. That is why God said His people should not marry foreign women.
5. God was angry against Solomon. The wives did wrong in worshiping idols, but Solomon was supposed to know better. He was the king, he was a Jew, he was supposed to be faithful to God and lead the people of Israel to be faithful to God. Solomon was guilty.
6. Solomon was following the world's ways. He should have known what God wanted because God's word said not to make treaties with the other nations, and He said not to marry foreign women. If Solomon paid attention to God's word, he would know that and follow that.
7. Know God's word! God's word in the Bible tells us how we should follow Him. His word will lead us to repent when we do wrong. His word tells us that He forgives us, and His word shows us again how to live as His people and not the same as the world.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego only worship God, Daniel 3:1-30

1. Nebuchadnezzar made a huge idol, 90 ft. tall. He ordered all the leaders in his kingdom to worship it.
2. When the music played, all the people bowed down to worship the idol. But Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego didn't bow down. They refused to worship the idol.
3. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were not afraid of the king. The king promised to throw them into the furnace to kill them, but that didn't matter. They honored God more than they feared the king. The same, we don't need to be afraid of people rejecting us or saying bad things about us. We should honor God more than we fear people (Matthew 10:28).
4. If the king threw them into the furnace, they trusted that God could save them. And they said even if God didn't save them, they will not bow down to worship idols. They only wanted to honor and worship God.
5. God saved them. The king ordered his soldiers to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the furnace. God sent His angel (or Jesus?) to walk in the fire with them and protect them.
6. The king saw that the three men trusted God. They trusted God so much that they were willing to die instead of serving another god. Nebuchadnezzar also praised God for saving His people. We want to trust God and follow Him, and not follow the world. When we faithfully follow God, then the world can see that and they can also see how God saves people.

September 2021

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| | | | 1 7:00 WL – Worship | 2 | 3 | 4 10:00 QC – Worship/Study |
| 5 * See below for worship and Bible study times. | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Bible Study |
| 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 No in-person worship today. Watch online at youtube.com/ deaflutheran |
| 26 No in-person worship today. Watch online at youtube.com/ deaflutheran | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |
| <p>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., 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 Saturday Study at 1:00 p.m.</p> | | | | | | |

October 2021

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

BR – Burlington. Concordia Lutheran Church, 2901 Cliff Rd., Burlington. 4th Sunday worship at 3:00 p.m.
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Faithfulness (Daniel before the Lions' Den)

From www.armoredpenguin.com/wordsearch

Many people know the story of Daniel in the lions' den. Daniel was thrown into the lions' den and God protected him. But do you remember why Daniel got thrown in there? Some men were jealous of Daniel and wanted to find a way to get him killed. They made a new law that for 30 days, people could only pray to King Darius. Do you think Daniel obeyed the law? No way! He was faithful to pray to God the same as always. This part of the story comes from Daniel 6:3-10.

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

This man, Daniel, distinguished himself among the other officials and satraps because there was an extraordinary spirit in him. The king thought about putting him in charge of the whole kingdom. So the other officials and satraps tried to find something to accuse Daniel of in his duties for the kingdom. But they couldn't find anything wrong because he was trustworthy. No error or fault could be found. These men said, "We won't find anything to accuse this man, Daniel, unless we find it in his religious practices."

So these officials and satraps went to the king as a group. They said to him, "May King Darius live forever! All the officials, governors, satraps, advisers, and mayors agree that the king should make a statute and enforce a decree. The decree should state that for the next 30 days whoever asks for anything from any god or person except you, Your Majesty, will be thrown into a lions' den. Your Majesty, issue this decree, and sign it. According to the law of the Medes and Persians no one could change it or repeal it." So Darius signed the written decree.

When Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went to his house. An upper room in his house had windows that opened in the direction of Jerusalem. Three times each day he got down on his knees and prayed to his God. He had always praised God this way.

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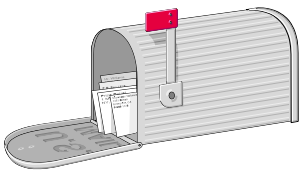
Thanks to Ken Wilburn

04-14-1998

SAY, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD BE A GOOD
GUARD AND FETCH US SOME MORE
MARSHMALLOWS? ... SHADRACH KEEPS
EATING THEM ALL BEFORE WE CAN FINISH
PUTTING OUR SMORES TOGETHER

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