

Sign Post

**September –
October, 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
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Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 2 Corinthians 7:10

We are taking a break from our theme about God making things new to talk about the church and school shooting in Minneapolis. Another school shooting. More children hurt and killed. More questions about how this could happen and why no one recognized the danger and did something to stop it.

There is much we don’t know about the shooter and why he did this. (He thought he was a woman, but God made him male, so I am referring to him as a man.) Right now, the police have said all they can find is that he was full of anger and there wasn’t a specific reason he did this.

The world is full of bad things everywhere. Watch the news. Read a newspaper. Talk to people about what is happening in your neighborhood, or among your friends and family. Look in your heart. There is sin and trouble everywhere.

How do we respond? When you see evil in the world, or evil in yourself, what do you do?

We see how people naturally respond. Blame someone else. People are very skilled at this. In the Garden of Eden, Adam immediately blamed God and Eve and Eve blamed the snake.

Anger is a popular response. If someone shows you your sin, get angry. Tell them they have no right to get into your business and accuse you. If you get angry enough, they’ll leave you alone. If they don’t leave you alone, you have the right to show them how angry you are.

Denial is another popular response. It always amazes me how someone can be caught in the middle of a sin and still insist they didn’t do anything. Another kind of denial is to insist that this isn’t really sin. People say the Bible is an old and outdated book and we are smarter than that today; we can do anything we want.

Continued on p. 2

Godly Sorrow (continued from p. 1)

God's Word is clear about what all these responses lead to. "Worldly sorrow brings death." (2 Cor. 7:10) People may not say they are sorry for sin, but they are hurting. The young man in Minneapolis was hurting and grieving much because of sin. The sad thing is that he didn't recognize that. He didn't understand the true problem and he didn't know the true solution.

Unbelievers know there is pain in the world. But they don't believe God's Word, so they won't admit that we all have a problem – sin. And they look for other solutions. Some of their solutions, such as counseling, can help some. But they can't give the true help we need.

Godly sorrow means we know that our sin breaks God's commandments. We know that we deserve punishment and we are truly sorry we have sinned. We also trust God's promise that He forgives us because of Jesus. The only true solution is forgiveness and peace and hope in Jesus. He forgives your sin and the troubles your sin causes. When the problems of this world beat you up, Jesus comforts you and fills you with His peace. And when death comes, even if it comes in a tragic way like a school shooting, Jesus promises you that He is the resurrection and the life. He has defeated death and we can have confident hope that we will rise alive to live with Him forever.

May God fill you with confidence and hope in Jesus. May He help you to share that hope with other people and lead them to His gift of true repentance and salvation.

Pastor Eckert

Prayers

Please remember these in your prayers:

- ✦ Pray for all the people in the world who are stuck in sin and see no way out. Ask God to show them that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, He forgives and saves.
- ✦ Pray for the families and community in Minneapolis that are grieving because of the shooting. Ask God to comfort them and give them true peace in Jesus, even when things happen that we can't understand.
- ✦ Pray for the church, that God's people will faithfully follow Him and not be tempted to follow the world and sinful ways.
- ✦ Thank God for Pastor Vince Mroz who graduated from Concordia Seminary's EIIT program and was installed as the new pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Also thank God for Pastor Dan Wallis who also graduated from EIIT and will be installed as the new pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf in St. Louis in October.
- ✦ Pray for our leaders, that they will do good for our country and follow God's ways.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with health: Susan Green, Barbara Zimmerman, 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

God gives us lots of different responsibilities. Lutherans call these “vocations.” That isn’t vacation, like going on a trip. “Vocation” means work or responsibility that God gives you. That can be your job, being a parent, a friend, a volunteer, etc. We can have lots of different roles and responsibilities. It’s important to remember that God is the one who gives them to you, so we take them seriously. This study is about God giving us vocations (responsibilities). *Answers are on page 4.*

Your work (vocation) is more than just a job. Your work is part of what God plans for you to do with the life He gave you.

1. What was the first vocation (responsibility)? Genesis 1:26-28 (maybe more than one right answer.)
 - a. Computational fluid dynamics engineer
 - b. Husband & wife
 - c. Parents
 - d. Couch potato
 - e. Take care of the earth.
2. After God gave Adam and Eve their first jobs, he made them tougher. Read Genesis 3:9-13, 16-19. Why did God make their work more difficult?
3. Where does the ability to do good work come from? Read Exodus 31:1-6.
 - a. Your own natural talent.
 - b. You inherit ability from your parents.
 - c. Lots of practice.
 - d. From God.
4. T / F Our goal in life should be to work and earn money. See John 6:27.
5. God gives a rule about people who don’t want to work. 2 Thessalonians 3:10
If someone refuses to work, that person should not _____.
6. If God gives you certain abilities and skills, how can you best serve God?
 - a. Drop everything and become a monk or a nun.
 - b. Use those abilities and skills the best you can, also practice and improve.
 - c. Don’t develop your abilities. Just trust God to keep your skills sharp.
 - d. Go on welfare and don’t work.
7. Read Colossians 3:23-25.
When we work at some job, who are we really serving? _____
So how should we do our work? _____

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

1. God gave Adam and Eve several different responsibilities right away.
 - God made them male and female. He created them to be husband and wife. That was their first responsibility.
 - God told them to be fruitful and multiply. That means have lots of children. So next they will be parents. That is also an important responsibility.
 - God told them to rule over the earth and everything on the earth.
2. Adam and Eve sinned, so God made their work more difficult. Notice that when there was no sin, they still had work and responsibilities. They still had to take care of each other, would need to raise their children, and take care of the garden and the earth. That work was good for them and a blessing for them. But after they sinned, God cursed them and their work. Now Eve would have more pain when she gave birth to a baby. Now Adam would need to work harder to grow food. He would need to fight weeds. Those things continue on to today because of sin.
3. God gives us the ability to work. We might think we have natural talent, but God is the one who gives that to us. We might think we worked hard and learned a new skill ourselves, but God is the one who gave us that ability to practice and learn it.
4. False! As Christians, our goal is not money or things in this world. Our goal is eternal life with Jesus.
5. If someone will not work, they should not eat. God gives us the ability to work and He wants us to use it. God told Adam that he had to work for bread (food). If we refuse to work, then we are refusing God and not earning our food.
6. B. Use your abilities and skills and work to improve them.
7. In everything we do, we serve Jesus. Our job, being parents, friends, volunteers, and everything we do can all serve God. Because we are serving Him, we do our best. We don't have an "I don't care" attitude or do a sloppy job. As 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

September

- 1 Lynn Eiben
- 5 Carissa Huffman
- 13 Jim Biber
- 15 Karlene Kischer-Browne
- 26 Kent Kischer
- 28 Jay Oelberg



October

- 12 James Weber
- 17 Kris Baltzer
- 29 April Powell

September 2025

	1	2	3 7:00 WL – Worship	4	5	6 10:00 QC – Worship 1:00 DU – Bible Study
7 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	8	9	10 7:00 WL – Study	11	12	13 10:00 QC – Worship
14 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	15	16	17	18	19	20 No service today
21 No service today	22	23	24	25	26	27 10:00 QC – Worship
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.
 WL – Waterloo/Cedar Falls. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4820 Oster Parkway, Cedar Falls. 1st Wednesday worship at 7:00 p.m., 2nd Wednesday study at 7:00 p.m.
 DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. 1st Saturday Study at 1:00 p.m.

October 2025

			1 7:00 WL – Worship	2	3	4 10:00 QC – Worship
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
19 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	20	21	22	23	24	25 10:00 QC – Worship
26 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	27	28	29	30	31	

BR – Burlington. Concordia Lutheran Church, 2901 Cliff Rd., Burlington. 4th Sunday worship at 3:00 p.m.
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Philemon

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

The New Testament reading for September 7 is from Philemon. This is a short book, only one chapter. Paul's friend, Philemon, had a slave named Onesimus. Onesimus ran away and went to Paul. Paul taught Onesimus and he became a Christian. Then Paul did an amazing thing. He sent Onesimus back to Philemon, but he also sent a letter to Philemon asking him to accept Onesimus as a fellow Christian, not as a slave. This is a great example of how Jesus changes our relationships with each other. The words for the puzzle are from verses 12-21 of Philemon. Find the underlined words.

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

I am sending him back to you. This is like sending you a part of myself. I wanted to keep him here with me. Then he could have served me in your place while I am in prison for spreading the Good News. Yet, I didn't want to do anything without your consent. I want you to do this favor for me out of your own free will without feeling forced to do it.

Maybe Onesimus was gone for a while so that you could have him back forever – no longer as a slave but better than a slave – as a dear brother. He is especially dear to me, but even more so to you, both as a person and as a Christian.

If you think of me as your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, promise to pay it back. I'm writing this with my own hand. I won't even mention that you owe me your life. So, because we're brothers in the Lord, do something for me. Give me some comfort because of Christ. I am confident as I write to you that you will do this. And I know that you will do even more than I ask.



A BIG
Thank
YOU

to Rita Nierling and Bill Bergeson for their outdoor work! Rita pulled weeds around the hostas in front of church, put in some new plants, and put down mulch. Bill has been cutting grass, pruning trees, and is generally cleaning up a lot of things around church. Thank you to both of them for their help!

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