

Sign Post

**September –
October, 2026**

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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

So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?” Hebrews 13:6

Let me ask you some “opposite” questions. I’ll give you a word and you tell me what is the opposite idea. For example, the opposite of love? Most people would say hate.

The opposite of war? Peace.

The opposite of small? Big.

The opposite of fear? Hmm. Maybe courage. I will suggest that the opposite of fear is trust.

We don’t talk much about fear, but fear is a major problem for many people. It seems like more people than ever before have been diagnosed with some kind of mental illness. Depression, anxiety, panic disorder, and others can have a strong connection with fear.

Even if you don’t have a mental illness, people experience many personal fears and worries.

- Fear of being alone
- Fear of not being good enough
- Fear that nobody likes me
- Fear of the future
- Fear of health problems
- Fear I’ll lose my job
- Fear I’ll run out of money
- Fear of relationship problems
- Fear of abuse
- And many more!

On March 4, 1933, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was inaugurated and began his first term as president. In his speech that day, he said these famous words: “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” What did he mean?

The Great Depression began in October 1929. Many people lost their jobs. Almost half of the banks in the U.S. closed. Over one million families lost their farms. There were long lines for soup kitchens. Everywhere people looked, there was bad news.

Continued on p. 2

Don't Be Afraid of Fear (continued from p. 1)

Everyone knew things were bad. But what would happen in the future? Could they get better or would they be worse? When we don't know something, too often we become afraid. That fear can control us and stop us from doing the things we need to do. That is why FDR said don't be afraid of fear.

Jesus said something similar to that. In Matthew 6:25-34, He taught us not to worry about food and clothes or anything that we need. God will take care of us and our needs. Then Jesus said, "So don't worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Do you see that important point? God will take care of us and our needs. That is the answer to fear. Courage is good, but the reason we can have courage is we know God takes care of us. Fear means something bad may happen and it's out of my control. I can't stop it. If it is under my control, then there is no reason to be afraid. As Christians, many things in this world are out of control but we know that all things are under God's control. If it is under His control, we can trust Him and not be afraid.

Don't get me wrong. You should be afraid of some things. You should be afraid of driving drunk, getting in a fight with someone twice as big as you, and eating that chicken that has been in the fridge for a month and is turning green. Use some common sense. But in all of your life, when something starts to make you afraid, stop and remember this: God already sent Jesus to die and rise alive for me. He will also take care of these troubles in life. I can trust in Him and not be afraid.

Pastor Eckert

Prayers

Please remember these in your prayers:

- ✦ Ask God to make us trust in Him to take care of us and everything we need. Then we can bold in faith and not afraid.
- ✦ Pray for people who are suffering from natural disasters – fires in the Western U.S., Canada and Europe, drought in many places, flooding in Indiana and Nepal, the hurricane in Hawaii.
- ✦ Ask God to bless people with health: Norma Jean Mangrich, Kent Kischer, Jay Oelberg, Lisa Oelberg, Delbert and Connie Neely, Janet Weber, James Weber, Curtis Bethurum, Kathy Anderson, JoAnn Mitchell, Rosie Glime, Chris Wrage, Ricky Moore, Paula Slavin, Nancy Griffin, and many family members and friends.
- ✦ Pray for peace and for protection for our military serving around the world.
- ✦ Our country seems to be more confused about what is right and wrong and how to make important decisions. Ask God to give our leaders clear direction and a desire to serve all people in the way that is best for everyone.
- ✦ 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

Psalm 46

Psalm 46 is a Psalm that praises God for how He cares for and protects His people. Truly there is trouble and danger all around us, but we don't need to fear. The danger is real, but God is greater than the danger. Martin Luther wrote a wonderful hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." That hymn celebrates how God protects His church and also how God protects the Gospel, the good news of Jesus. Psalm 46 was the inspiration for Luther to write that hymn. *Answers are on page 4.*

Read Psalm 46:1-3.

1. How does the Psalm writer describe God?
2. Imagine yourself seeing verses 2 and 3 happening around you. Would you be afraid? Would you be calm? Why?

Read Psalm 46:4-7.

3. Verse 4 mentions a river. What river is that? (Think about these passages: John 4:13-14, John 7:37-39, Revelation 22:1-2.)
4. The nations are angry and ready to fight. Where is God?
5. God speaks to judge the earth, and the earth melts. What does that mean for God's enemies? What does that mean for God's people?

Read Psalm 46:8-11.

6. Nations fight for power and control and to prove themselves right. In the end, who has true power and control? Who will prove Himself right? How?
7. When we feel people are attacking us, what do we want to do? What does God tell us to do (verse 10)?
8. How is this Psalm about salvation? Give specific examples.
9. How does this Psalm praise God? Give specific examples.

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

1. God is our refuge. That means He is our safe place where we can go when we are in danger. God is our strength. We are not strong enough ourselves, but we can depend on Him and His strength for us. God is always here to help us when we are in trouble. If God is strong but He is far away, then He is no help. But He is near us and always ready to help.
2. Most of us would be very afraid. Can you imagine mountains being thrown into the ocean? If we were to experience that, it would be very frightening. But this Psalm says even if that happened, we wouldn't be afraid. Why? Because God is our protection and help.
3. These passages (John 4:13-14, John 7:37-39, Revelation 22:1-2) talk about a river of life that Jesus gives us. That river of life means the Holy Spirit. The same as a river gives people the water they need for life, the Holy Spirit gives us life and peace and joy.
4. God is with His people. The "city of God" means all of His people, His church. He lives with us. Because He is with us, our enemies can't defeat us. God will save us.
5. If God's voice of judgment can melt the earth, His enemies cannot win. No matter how angry people are, they cannot go against God. He is the all-powerful judge. When He speaks, that is His judgment. That also means He will save His people and our enemies cannot stop Him from saving us.
6. Right now, it looks like nations have power and control. But in the end, God will prove that only He reigns. He brings His judgment to earth. He has the power to make wars end, breaking the bow and spear and burning the war chariots.
7. When people attack us, insult us, gossip about us, that can make us worried or afraid or angry. Many times we want to fight back to defend ourselves. God tells us to be still. The Hebrew word for "still" means to rest, drop what you are doing, relax. God will do His work as God, so you can trust Him and not worry.
8. When we talk about salvation, we are talking about who God is and what He does to save and help us. Psalm 46 says these things about God and His work: God is our refuge (safe place), He is our strength, He is our help when we are in trouble (verse 1). The river is a picture of the Holy Spirit and how God gives us life (verse 4). God is with us so nothing can move us or hurt us (verse 5). God is our fortress, our protection (verses 7, 11). Finally, God invites us to see His judgment that ends wars and stops our enemies (verses 8-9).
9. One way of praising God is talking about all of His work of salvation (everything we listed in #8). Verse 10 also says that God will be exalted among the nations and in the earth.

September

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



October

- 1 Bill Bergeson
- 12 James Weber
- 17 Kris Baltzer
- 29 April Powell

September 2026

		1	2 7:00 WL – Worship	3	4	5 3:00 QC – Worship
6 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	7	8	9	10	11	12 10:00 DU – Bible Study 3:00 QC – Worship
13 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	14	15	16 7:00 WL – Study	17	18 11:00 Burlington Worship	19 3:00 QC – Worship
20 * See below for worship and Bible study times.	21	22	23	24	25	26 No worship today. Watch online at youtube.com/ deaflutheran
27 No in-person services today. Watch online at youtube.com/ deaflutheran	28	29	30			
BR – Burlington. Concordia Lutheran Church, 2901 Cliff Rd., Burlington. Sept. 18 th worship at 11:00 a.m. CR – Cedar Rapids. Word of God Lutheran Church Deaf, 1515 - 29 th St. NE, Cedar Rapids. Every Sunday except Sept. 27, 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 except Sept. 26, Worship at 3:00 p.m. WL – Waterloo/Cedar Falls. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 4820 Oster Parkway, Cedar Falls. 1 st Wednesday worship at 7:00 p.m., 3 rd Wednesday study at 7:00 p.m. DU – Dubuque. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2145 John F. Kennedy Rd., Dubuque. 2 nd Saturday Study at 10:00 a.m.						

October 2026

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

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 except Oct. 24 meets on Oct. 23, Worship at 3:00 p.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 10:00 a.m.

Reformation

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

The Reformation was a time in the 1500s when people found again the good news that God saves us freely in Jesus Christ. We remember Oct. 31, 1517, as the beginning of the Reformation. For many years, the church taught about Jesus but didn't teach clearly how He saves us. The church taught we must also do good works to earn forgiveness. The Reformation reminded the church that we can't earn forgiveness. That is a free gift because of Jesus' death and resurrection. Find the words in bold.

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

Reformation

Martin Luther – He started the Reformation and the Lutheran church

Philip Melancthon – Luther's friend and an important teacher

Sola Scriptura – only Scripture

Sola Fide – only faith

Sola Gratia – only grace

Wittenberg – where Luther lived

Ninety-Five Theses – 95 statements for debate that started the Reformation

Indulgences – A certificate people could buy that said their sins are forgiven. Luther was against that.

Law – Shows us our sin

Gospel – Good news of Jesus

Bible

Catechism – Luther wrote a small book to teach the Christian faith

Salvation

Word – God's word, the Bible

Sacrament – baptism, Lord's Supper

Justification – God saves us, His free gift

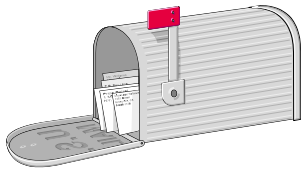
Book of Concord – a book that describes what Lutherans believe



REFORMATION DAY

Word of God Lutheran Church
for the Deaf
1515 29th St. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Postal Carrier: Have a great day!

