



GOODNEWSletter

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe



APRIL 2018

The Greatest Sermon Ever Preached

If you go on the internet and do a search based on the word “greatest,” you can find all sorts of things. One site had the greatest quotes ever made. “Keep your friends close and your enemies closer.” “You are what you eat.” These were near the top of the list. Greatest quarterback? It listed Terry Bradshaw as the greatest. That’s when I knew that these lists were very subjective. Everyone knows that Roger Staubach was the best. Greatest golfer – Jack Nicolas or Tiger Woods? It depends on whom you ask.

I did a search for the greatest sermons ever preached. Google took me to a book being offered for sale by Amazon. (Surprise!) On the cover they listed a few of the names of the writers. I was not surprised to see Billy Graham at the top of the list. Old time preachers like Billy Sunday and John Wesley were also included. Other names included Mother Teresa and Dr. Martin Luther King Sr. My name wasn’t there. While disappointed, I thought I might be included under the phrase at the end of the list. It said, “*and many others.*”

I once told several people that if they wanted to hear the “greatest sermon ever preached” they should come to our church Easter Sunday. (I said that ‘tongue in cheek.’) Yet, if they came, that is what they heard, - “The greatest sermon every preached.” But it was not preached by me. I am not that good; far from it. It was preached by someone long ago. I just read it to the congregation.

The sermon I am referring to was the one given by the angel to the women outside Jesus grave on Easter morn. It is found in Matthew 28 verse 6. It reads, “He is not here. He has risen, just as he said.”

The women had come to the sepulcher of Jesus early Easter morning to finish the job they had started on Good Friday afternoon, the burial of their good friend and Lord, Jesus.

A lot had taken place the last few days. All of it set the stage for the angel’s powerful sermon. Jesus had been arrested on Thursday evening. He was shuttled back and forth early Friday morning between Caiphias, Pilate, and Herod. Pilate found him guilty of nothing yet sentenced him to death by crucifixion.

Friday afternoon, the women had seen Jesus hang on the cross,, suffering a cruel death while innocent of any crimes. What was not seen was that Jesus was being held responsible for the sins of the whole world. God’s wrath. God’s need for justice was being poured out on his Son, Jesus Christ. When Jesus cried out, “It is finished” and gave up his life, our salvation was complete.

The resurrection of the Lord was God’s announcement to the world, and to the women who had come to the grave that the victory had been won. The power of sin, death and the devil had been broken, our salvation secure.

That’s the sermon that was preached to the women. The tomb was empty. The angel proclaimed,, **“He is not here. He has risen just as he said.” It truly was the greatest sermon ever preached.**

Confessional Lutheran Christian Ministry

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Worship Schedule

Northwood, England

April 1st - Sunday No service because of the retreat.

at the Northwood Methodist Church, Oaklands Gate, Northwood, Middlesex H46 3AA
Worship at 1:00 PM followed by Bible study, Sunday School, fellowship & potluck Dinner.

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt area)

April 8 – Sunday

Worship is at 11:00 AM followed by fellowship and Bible study.

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

April 8 – Sunday

Worship is at 4:00 PM (16:00) followed by Bible study, Sunday School, and potluck.

Munich, Germany

April 12 - Thursday

Worship is at 6:30 PM. We worship at the home of Mike Kube. His address is Pressburger Strasse 65, Munich.

Vilseck, Germany

April 14 - Saturday

Worship is at 11:00
Contact WELSchaplain@googlemail.com for location.

Zurich, Switzerland area

March 15 – Sunday

Worship is at 11:00 AM followed by food and Bible study. - at the Bachmann home Waldstrasse 41 Adliswil

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt Area)

April 22 – Sunday

Worship is at 11:00 AM followed by fellowship and Bible study.

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

April 22 - Sunday

Worship is at 4:00 PM (16:00) followed by Bible study, Sunday School, and meal at the Exchange.

Contact WELSchaplain@gmail.com for more information.

Easter Retreat in Magdeburg 29 Mar – 1 Apr

The Easter retreat went well. We did not have our largest crowd but we all enjoyed it. We had 26 in attendance. Since the retreat did not hold us accountable for cancellations, we came out just

fine financially. My thanks again to all who helped with Sunday School, ladies' Bible study, our meal outing, site seeing, etc.

Great Britain Retreat 1 Jun – 4 Jun

The congregation from London will be meeting at the Holly Tree House, Symonds Yat, Wye Valley, Herefordshire. (I hope I have the right Holly Tree House – there are several.) While plans have been made, contact Sandy Parker to confirm location and if it possible to still attend. parkerlings@btinternet.com.

Mother's Day Picnic! – Sunday – May 13th

The annual picnic will be held at Pulaski Park on the Vogelweh base (near Kaiserslautern). Because of the picnic, no services will be held at Ramstein or Wicker. Your help with food, etc will be needed. An email with more information will be sent out.

OFFERINGS

As of March 1st the balance in the church account was €54.061,45. On March 31st our balance was €69.478,57. During January we received worship service offerings of €8.898,25. We also received gifts of €21.197,46 in direct bank deposits. We thank the Lord for moving the hearts of his people to make these generous gifts in support of this ministry.

Offering Statements

If you make your offering through direct deposit or by check and would like an offering statement for 2017, please let me know.

THINGS TO KNOW – SYNOD WEB SITES

MILITARY DEVOTIONS – by Rev. P. Ziemer

<https://wels.net/serving-you/devotions/military-devotions/> -

WELS CHURCH LOCATOR

Use when on vacation, business trips, relocation.

<https://yearbook.wels.net/unitsearch> or go to <https://yearbook.wels.net/>

ONLINE REFERRAL – SPECIAL MINISTRIES

Special Ministries can supply devotions and other spiritual help and teaching tools to members of the military, prison inmates, and special needs individuals. Click on link below to submit an online referral for someone who can benefit from Special Ministries' materials. wels.net/refer