



GOODNEWSletter

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe



NOVEMBER 2018

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT

"Believe it or not!" is a phrase that Jerry Galow utters frequently. At our last Easter retreat in Magdeburg, I asked Jerry whether he had ever attended the famous Oberammergau Passion Play. With a smile on his lips, he quickly replied, "Pastor, believe it or not, we did. While we did not get tickets ahead of time, we got them there for only fifteen marks, or about ten dollars!" In the eighteen months I have known Jerry and Marilyn, I have heard more than one of his fantastic stories. Since he always starts with "Believe it or not...", I have given him the nickname "Ripley."

Jerry and Marilyn first came to Germany in the late 1960's when Jerry served a short military tour here. They returned in the early 70's and welcomed the first WELS European chaplain, Pastor Ed Renz. Believe it or not, they have been here to welcome almost every chaplain since. Believe it or not, they remember every one. They can tell you stories about each one's family and ministry.

Like the other WELS members living in Europe, they have their membership in the States. Almost every year, they return to visit their home church and family and friends.

Even though Jerry has lost most of his vision and is very frail, he and Marilyn faithfully worship and commune twice a month. They travel by train to Flörsheim, where we pick them up for worship at Wicker. They also attend almost every other special activity we offer in Germany. We have had 43 annual Easter retreats since the Galows came to Europe. Believe it or not, they have attended every single one! The bottom line is that every aspect of their lives testifies to their love for the Lord, his Word, and the Wisconsin Synod.

Before I came to Germany, the previous chaplain, Joshua Martin, told me that the members

here make this ministry special. There is no doubt about it. The Galows are just one example of this. While my call is to serve as a civilian chaplain to WELS military in Europe, our fellowship includes military contractors, civilians, students, and others who are also living here. Although our ministry is centered in Germany, it stretches from London to Sicily, from France to Poland. The long distances, however, do not keep us from rejoicing in the close bond of fellowship we share in Jesus Christ with all members of the WELS.

The European Chaplaincy is supported by the prayers and gifts of WELS members here and in the States. The Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors has also been a longtime supporter of this ministry. Please remember us in your prayers and with your gifts.

Visit our website for our worship and retreat schedule at welseurope.net. If you or someone you know is headed to Europe as a student, a member of the military, etc., please fill out the Special Ministries referral form at wels.net/refer. Or send an e-mail to welschaplain@gmail.com.

The above article was written by Pastor Stuppy for the Synod's Special Ministry web site for "Just Hands." Just Hands is a publication that covers many areas of Special Ministries. Follow the link below in find out more.

<https://wels.net/category/newsletter/his-hands/>

FALL RETREAT AT BAD KREUZNACH

We had a wonderful time. A couple days of fellowship, Bible study, worship and site seeing. Our focus was on the work and blessings of the Reformation. We had several first timers and others who were retreat veterans. **Our next retreat will be in Oberwesel for Easter April 18-21, 2019.**

Worship Schedule

November 4th - Sunday

Worship at 1:00 PM followed by Bible study, Sunday School, fellowship & potluck Dinner. Contact Pastor Stuppy for more information.

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt area)

November 11th – Sunday

Worship is at 11:00 AM followed by fellowship and Bible study. Contact Pastor Stuppy for more information.

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

November 11th – Sunday

Worship is at 4:00 PM followed by Bible study, Sunday School, and a meal. Contact Pastor Stuppy for more information.

Munich, Germany

November 15th - Thursday

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

Vilseck, Germany

November 17th- Saturday

Worship is at 11:00. Contact Pastor Stuppy for more information.

Zurich, Switzerland area

November 18th- Sunday

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

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt area)

November 25th – Sunday

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

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

November 25th – Sunday

Worship is at 4:00 PM followed by Bible study, Sunday School, and a meal. Contact Pastor Stuppy for more information.

Northwood, England

December 2nd - Sunday

Worship at 1:00 PM followed by Bible study, Sunday School, fellowship & potluck Dinner. Contact Pastor Stuppy for more information.

Confessional Lutheran Christian Ministry

Pastor Donald Stuppy

Im Holzweg 4a 55288 Spiesheim

Phone: 6732-600-3933 Cell: 173-419-9572

E-mail: welschaplain@gmail.com

Web Page: www.welseurope.net

OFFERINGS

On September 1st our bank account balance was €37.851,90. The balance in the church account on September 30th was €58.486,38. During September, we received worship service offerings of €848,15. We also received gifts of €22,465.80 in direct bank deposits. We praise the Lord for moving the hearts of his people to make these gifts for the work of the church.

The Great Britain Spring Retreat

A retreat is planned this spring in Great Britain from Friday May 31st to Monday, June 3rd. If you are interested, please contact Sandy Parker and let her know so she can be sure we have sufficient space for all. Email Sandy Parker parkerlings@btinternet.com

Direct Deposit Information

Designate: WELS European Chaplaincy

IBAN: DE98 5519 0000 0938 6260 25

BIC: MVBMD55

Sunday School 2017-2018

Sunday School materials are now available ONLY for those who are part of our European church. The copy masters and teacher's guides can be found at the available links at Dropbox. Contact Pastor Stuppy if items are needed.

THINGS TO KNOW – SYNOD WEB SITES

MILITARY DEVOTIONS – by Rev. P. Ziemer

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

WELS CHURCH LOCATOR

On vacation, A business trip, relocation? See <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 to make an online referral or subscribe. wels.net/refer