



# GOODNEWSletter

*Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe*



## DECEMBER 2018

### MAY YOU HAVE A PERFECT CHRISTMAS!

A 5 year-old girl went out shopping with her grandfather. They had traveled to a Christmas tree farm to cut a live tree for their home. Over and over the little girl told Grandpa that she was going to pick out the perfect tree. After they arrived, Grandpa with his experienced eye led his granddaughter to some great looking trees. Once they were inspected, however, the young girl would say, "Not that one. It's not perfect." After several hours of searching, Grandpa began to grow tired and a little impatient. He finally told her that they had to pick one out even if it was not perfect. She agreed and then remarked. "Maybe we'll find a tree, with lights on it, next year." This little girl had her idea of what the perfect Christmas tree should be like. It was one with lights. Something less meant disappointment.

Lots of people approach their Christmas celebration that way. They have their idea of what the perfect Christmas should be like and anything short of that leaves them disappointed. Maybe it is getting the perfect gift, having all the kids home Christmas Eve, having the yard and house decorated to the max, They see these things as essential if one is to have a great Christmas.

No wonder so many are depressed around Christmas time – their expectations for the holidays have not been met. They have no job and have no money for paying the bills let alone buying gifts. They are in the hospital recovering from surgery. Their spouse is deployed. There will be an empty chair at the dinner table this year because Dad past away.

Isn't that the way most of us approach things? We're happy and joyous only when our lives are perfect. When our job goes well, when we feel good, when the kids are doing well in school, then life is good. When these expectations aren't meant, joy & happiness fly out the window.

How can someone be happy who comes back from war without a limb? How can parents not feel anything but despair when their 5 year-old dies from

cancer? What reason is there to smile when we are spending our first Christmas alone since our spouse ran off with the secretary? We've lost our job, our health, a loved one. Don't all these things make it impossible to find joy and happiness especially at Christmas time?

They do if our lives are not centered on the Lord. Knowing Jesus, knowing his love and forgiveness turns things around. When we know HIM, it turns everything around. Trials turn into blessings; the loss of our job or a loved one, while difficult to endure, will lead us to depend more on our Savior. God's primary concern is not how many gifts we have under the tree or how much money we have in the bank or how big our house is. His concern is the welfare of our soul.

We have every reason to rejoice when we believe that the baby born in Bethlehem is our Savior. We have every reason to be happy when we know the peace that comes from knowing that our sins are forgiven. We have every reason to look to the future with hope because God is watching over us and has won for us eternal life.

Our lives may not be easy. In fact, they may be down-right difficult. Yet, our lives can be filled with joy, our Christmas celebration complete, if we know and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Only then will our Christmas celebration be perfect.

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICE IN SPIESHEIM WORSHIP-POTLUCK SUNDAY DEC. 23 – 1 PM**

A Christmas Eve service will be held in the town of Spiesheim (That's where the parsonage is located.). A potluck dinner will follow. NOTE: The drinks, condiments, plates, cups, etc. will be provided.

If arriving by train, Wörrstadt would be the best place to pick you up.

Contact Chaplain Stuppy for details.

## **Jerry Gallow**

Jerry Gallow continues to recover following surgery (removal of his appendix). He hopes to return home on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Please keep him in your prayers. He is weak but hopes to attend the Christmas service on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please keep him in your prayers.

## **Worship Schedule**

### **Northwood, England**

**December 2nd – Sunday**

Contact Chaplain Stuppy for details.

### **Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt area)**

**December 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday**

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

### **Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany**

**December 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday**

Worship is at 4:00 PM followed by a farewell dinner for the Saunders. Contact Chaplain Stuppy for details.

### **Munich, Germany**

**December 13<sup>th</sup> - Thursday**

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

### **Vilseck, Germany**

**December 15<sup>th</sup> - Saturday -Worship is at 11:00.** Contact Chaplain Stuppy for details.

### **Zurich, Switzerland area**

**December 16<sup>th</sup> - Sunday**

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

### **Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt area)**

**December 23<sup>rd</sup> – No base service.** Meeting in Spiesheim. See information above.

### **Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany**

**December 23<sup>rd</sup> – No base service.** Meeting in Spiesheim. See information above.

### **Northwood, England**

**January 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday** Worship at 1:00 PM  
Contact Chaplain Stuppy for details.

## **OFFERINGS**

On November 1st our bank account balance was €67.608,99. The balance in the church account on November 30th was €16.396,96. During November, we received worship service offerings of €996.91. We also received gifts of €1.519,75 in direct bank deposits. Fifty-thousand Euros were wired to Synod for support of the European Chaplaincy ministry. 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 31<sup>st</sup> to Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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](mailto:parkerlings@btinternet.com)

### **Confessional Lutheran Christian Ministry**

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### **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**

### **ONLINE REFERRAL – SPECIAL MINISTRIES**

**Special Ministries** can supply devotions and other spiritual help to members of the military, prison inmates, and special needs individuals. Click on link to make an online referral or subscribe. [wels.net/refer](http://wels.net/refer)

**WELS CHURCH LOCATOR** On vacation, relocation? <https://yearbook.wels.net/unitsearch> or go to <https://yearbook.wels.net/>

**MILITARY DEVOTIONS** – by Rev. P. Ziemer  
<https://wels.net/serving-you/devotions/military-devotions/> -