



GOODNEWSletter

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe



FEBRUARY 2019

How are Christians motivated to live as Christians?

How do we get someone to change? Isn't this something we deal with all the time? It may be a husband or wife who wishes to get their spouse to make some change in the way they do things. We may have a friend who is always late and it frustrates us to no end. How do we get them to change?

So how do we do it? How do we motivate someone to change their lives; to give up bad habits for new ones? How do we encourage a family member or friend to be more dedicated to God and his Word? How do Christian parents get their children to listen and do what is right? What do we use to motivate Christian behavior?

Laying down the law is the usual method people use to produce change. For example, to increase church offerings, a congregation may try shaming its members into giving more. In such a case the law reads something like this: "A good Christian would give "x" amount of income to the church." In a troubled marriage, a spouse may lay down the law like this, "I'm taking the children and leaving unless you clean up your act." Parents do the same thing with children. "If you don't behave, there will be no TV tonight."

The law, however, often incites our sinful nature to do just the opposite of what it commands. God's Word tells us this. "When the commandment came, sin sprang to life..." (Ro 7:9) Not only does the law make us aware of sin, it can motivate our sinful nature to do just that the law forbids. An example: Mom says to her two year old, "Don't touch that glass vase!" Two seconds later the child's hand is reaching out to touch the vase or to see how close they can come without touching. Laying down the

law often moves us to disobedience. Even if the law's threats stop us from committing the sin, it can never motivate anyone to want to do the right thing for the right reason.

The key to real change is Christ. The only way to move a Christian to do the right thing for the right reason is moving them to act in response to God's love. Paul put it this way, "We love him because he first loved us."

So why don't we use the Gospel to motive and encourage each other? Perhaps it is because we want to see instantaneous results. From our impatient human point of view, the Gospel doesn't seem to work fast enough. The law may get results but only the gospel can bring forth results that please God.

A Lutheran pastor named Herman Gockel gave an illustration of the Gospel's power to compel Christians to do the right thing. He wrote, "A mother was upset when she saw several suggestive pictures on her son's dorm room wall. She didn't say anything at the time, but sent him a picture of Jesus. He put it on his wall. In a matter of days, the other pictures were gone. The mother never once badgered him. Jesus' love, as called to mind by the picture, worked in his heart what laying down the law could never do.

"For Christ's love compels us...and he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for him who died for them and was raised again." (2 Cor 5:14-15)

Easter Retreat 2019 - Oberwesel

Our Easter retreat is planned for April 18th to 21st (Maunday Thursday evening through Easter Sunday noon.) Please respond by February 17th (Sunday) if possible. Rooms may be available after if needed.

Contact Pastor Stuppy for more Information

Oberwesel - things to do!

Plenty of castles, fortresses, historic sights, churches, winery tours, zoo, gorgeous scenery, and more. See the following for a glimpse of the area.

<https://www.tripadvisor.com.au/Attractions-g198501->

ActivitiesOberwesel_Rhineland_Palatinat.html

Cost

120 Euros per person

6yrs to 15 yrs half price)

Children under 5 – free.

IF COST IS A CONCERN, LET ME KNOW. WE DON'T WANT ANYONE NOT COMING BECAUSE OF COSTS!

TENTATIVE 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

Worship Schedule

Contact Pastor Stuppy for more Information

Northwood, England

February 3rd – Sunday

Worship at 1:00 PM followed by Bible study, Sunday School, fellowship & potluck Dinner.

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt area)

February 10th – Sunday

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

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

February 10th Sunday

Worship is at 4:00 PM followed by Bible Class, Sunday School and potluck dinner.

Munich, Germany

February 14th - Thursday

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

Contact Pastor Stuppy for more Information

Vilseck, Germany -

February 16th - Saturday -Worship is at 11:00.

Zurich, Switzerland area

February 17th - Sunday

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

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt area)

February 24th – Sunday

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

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

February 24th – Sunday

Worship is at 4:00 PM followed by Bible Class, Sunday School and meal.

Northwood, England

March 3rd - Sunday

Worship 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.

OFFERINGS

On January 1st our bank account balance was €13.003,81. The balance in the church account on January 31st was €12.244,81. During January, we received worship service offerings of €1.234,20. We also received gifts of €1,005,14 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.

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

WELS CHURCH LOCATOR, LIVE STREAMING

Use the following link to obtain information on WELS workers, congregations, schools, and the live streaming of worship services.

<https://yearbook.wels.net/>

- **People** - All active and retired WELS called workers and synod employees
- **Organizations** - All WELS churches, schools, and related organizations
- **Livestreaming** - All WELS churches who offer live internet broadcasts of their worship service

MILITARY DEVOTIONS – by Rev. P. Ziemer

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO DEVOTIONS, INF, AND MORE!

If you don't receive any emails, devotions, etc., from WELS, go to wels.net/subscribe and choose all the communications that interest you.

If you already get those emails, choose "[Update your subscription preferences.](#)"

Here are three communications I strongly recommend:

Together - *The official WELS email newsletter and video featuring synod news and ministry updates. Twice a month*

His Hands - *A email newsletter from the WELS Commission on Special Ministries, highlighting several areas of compassion ministries. This site includes information on the chaplaincy work done in the US and in Europe.*

E-Bulletin Board *A monthly email update detailing available WELS resources and events.*

WELS SPECIAL MINISTRIES (INC. MILITARY)

Check out the Special Ministries area of the WELS website – wels.net/special-ministries. If you scroll down to "Who We Serve" you will

see a host of links that take you to many different WELS ministries.

COMFORTER MINISTRY

Susanne Hanson, mother of Brenda Hanson, oversees a ministry of Christian love for women who have been diagnosed with cancer. It is a quilt ministry. Please notify her if you know of someone in that situation. Like to help? Go to the web site:

www.comforterministry.com