



GOODNEWSletter

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe



NOVEMBER - 2019

Perfection – God demands it. So what's the problem?

One day an English duke was out hunting in the forest with his men when they came across a tree. On the tree had been painted an archery target and smack in the center of the bull's eye was an arrow embedded deeply into the tree. It was a perfect shot. They continued on only to find more targets just like the first. A circle target with an arrow embedded right in the center of the bull's eye. There must have been a dozen of them. The duke was amazed. Never before had he seen an archer who had such accuracy.

As they went on, they soon came across a young lad with a bow and arrows. The duke asked the boy if he knew who had shot the arrows they had just seen. The boy acknowledged that he had. Much surprised, duke asked, 'You didn't simply take a rock and set the arrow into the targets did you?' The boy said he hadn't. In fact, he swore that he had shot all the arrows from a hundred paces. Immediately the duke asked the boy if he would serve as one of his archers and the boy agreed. Then the duke said, 'You must tell me how you became such an expert shot.' 'Well,' said the boy, 'first I shot the arrow into the tree and then I painted the target around it.'

This is how many people achieve morality – at least in their eyes. They shoot a moral arrow into the air and where it hits, they draw a target around it and call it perfection. I'm a faithful spouse. I go to church. I live a good life. I don't curse. I'm honest. I'm a good parent. You get the idea. For many, morality is a target or goal they set up for themselves. Almost always, something achievable.

What is left off their list are all the offenses or sins that they commit. These sins are conveniently ignored. The focus is on their virtues. With the rest they rationalize. "I get

drunk. I lose my temper from time to time. I fudge the figures on my taxes. I know that I'm not perfect but who is?"

Feeling good about yourself is easy when you compare yourself to others. You can always find someone to look down upon, someone no one respects. They make us look good. Yet, that is not how God works. He compares us to perfection. He demands it. Perfection is what he expects of each one of us.

We see God's standard for goodness or morality when we read Scripture. There God says, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt 5:48). It's clear from God's Word that his standards for goodness are much higher than ours. In James (2:10), God says, "For whoever keeps the whole law, yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it." In other words, if we commit just one sin, we miss the bull's eye. We miss God's demand for perfection.

There is only one way to become good in God's eyes. There is only one way we can ever hope to be good enough to spend eternity with God in heaven. It is through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only one who has kept the law perfectly. Never once did he miss the bull's eye. Then, in love he took our sins and their guilt upon himself and took it to the cross. There he endured his Father's wrath, the pain and torment of hell, in our place. In 2 Corinthians 5:21 Paul writes, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." Good took our sins and put them on Christ. He took Christ's righteousness and gave it to us. It is simple as that.

When we confess our sins, God assures us our sins are forgiven. Through faith in Christ, we are perfect in God's eyes. The target of perfection has been hit for us by Jesus Christ. In grace, God gives what he demands.

WORSHIP INFORMATION

Northwood, England

November 3rd - Sunday

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

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt area)

November 10th – No service

Retreat held in Wittenberg

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

November 10th – No service

Retreat held in Wittenberg

Munich, Germany

November 14th – Thursday

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

Vilseck, Germany

November 16th - Saturday

Worship is at 11:00.

Contact Pastor Stuppy for more information.

Zurich, Switzerland area

November 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)

November 24th Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting in at the Evangelische Gemeindehaus
(Friedenstraße 13, Flörsheim am Main, Wicker).
Worship is at 11:00 a.m. followed by fellowship
and Bible study.

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

November 24th - Worship is at 4:00 p.m..

Contact Pastor Stuppy for more information.

Northwood, England

December 1st - Sunday

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

LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS!

Our annual Christmas service will be held again in
Spiesheim on December 22nd. More information to
come. Note - NO SERVICES will be held at
Ramstein or Wicker on that day.

LOOKING AHEAD - RETREAT SCHEDULE

9-12 April – 2020 - Würzburg

6-08 November- 2020 – Augsburg

1-4 April – 2021 – Nürnberg???

OFFERINGS

On November 1st our bank account balance was
€52.094,76. The balance in the church account
on November 30th was €49.375,19. During
November, we received worship service offerings
of €932,24. We also received gifts of €1.280,63
in direct bank deposits. We praise the Lord for
moving the hearts of his people to make these
generous gifts for the work of the church.

Wittenberg Retreat Wrap Up

What an amazing weekend! On the
second. weekend of November almost forty of us
gathered in historic Wittenberg for our annual fall
retreat.

On Friday evening we gathered for a meal,
devotion and fellowship. After breakfast on
Saturday, we spent time in God's Word as we
joined for a devotion and two Bible studies led by
Pastor Stuppy. Marge Stuppy taught the Sunday
School classes. After lunch, Anna Thiele, a native
of Leipzig and a member of our sister German
church (ELFK), led us on a wonderful tour through
Wittenberg. The tour began with a visit to the
Castle Church where Luther posted the 95
Theses, often preached, and was later buried.
What a thrill to spend time in this historic city!

In the evening we had supper at the
Luther-Hotel and then enjoyed another evening
where we had time to get to know each other
better. It is hard to describe the joy and bond of
fellowship we felt being united in Christ and (for
most who attended) as a member of the
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. You had
to be there! We hope someday you can be to
share this wonderful experience with us.

Things wrapped up on Sunday with a
communion service put together by Kurt
Wittmershaus who also served as accompanist
and choir director. The Sunday School children
sang "I Am Trusting You Lord Jesus!" The choir
sang three numbers in praise to God. After the
service we took our traditional group picture;
packed up and headed in all directions to our
homes looking forward to our next retreat which
will be in Würzburg over Easter weekend.

Most of those in attendance are those served by our European chaplain, Pastor Donald Stuppy. Many are members of the U.S. military serving at bases across Germany. Some are WELS members who live and work in Germany. Students, civilian contractors, visitors from the US, WELS members who live and work in Germany, etc. all came together for these retreats. These retreats have been held in Europe since 1973 and are an important part of our ministry and a blessing to all.

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

Direct Deposit Information

Designate: WELS European Chaplaincy
IBAN: DE98 5519 0000 0938 6260 25
BIC: MVBMD55

Sunday School 2018-2019

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO DEVOTIONS, INF, AND MORE! **SEE NEXT PAGE!**

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.

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/> -

COMFORTER MINISTRY

Susanne Hanson, mother of Reid 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