



GOODNEWSletter

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe



DECEMBER - 2019

"He knows if you've been naughty or nice."

"You'd better be good or Santa won't bring you anything for Christmas!" Many a parent has used these words to warn a child that Santa sees all and knows all. It's usually used by parents to get their excited children to behave in the days and weeks prior to Santa's arrival. According to the Christmas song, Santa "knows if you are sleeping. He knows when you're awake. He knows if you've been bad or good; so be good for goodness sake."

How would you feel if someone really knew everything about you? What if they knew your strengths and weaknesses; your doubts; your most private thoughts? That might trouble you if the one who knew all of this was not our friend. What if the person who knew everything about us was someone who loved you with all their heart; someone who cared about you deeply and could help you in any way needed?

Christmas announces the arrival of someone who can do all this and more. Christmas is about the birth of Jesus, God's dear Son. Because Jesus is God, he knows when you've been "bad or good" – "naughty or nice." Jesus knows when you're tired and frustrated, excited or disappointed. He knows and understands everything that is going on in your life. He knows you better than you know yourself.

Are you facing problems? Jesus understands. He was born in poverty and had to flee from King Herod who was trying to kill him. Are you being treated unfairly? Is a friend turning against you? Jesus was

betrayed and forsaken by his own disciples. He was denied by Peter and betrayed by Judas. He was beaten and put to death by those whom he came to save. God is not oblivious to our problems. Jesus knows what is going on in the world and more importantly what's going on in each of our lives.

"Santa knows." These words might bring fear to the heart of a naughty child hoping to get gifts at Christmas. "Jesus knows." These words bring comfort and courage to those who believe in him. They bring comfort because God loves us whether we have been naughty or nice. He doesn't like it when we do wrong. He hates the sins we commit. But, God loves the sinner. He showed that at the cross.

God knows and has the ability to do something about our situations. He can remove our problems, or he can help us cope with them. Even sin and death are no match for Jesus.

Merry Christmas! Through Christ that's more than a hollow wish. We can have a merry Christmas because God is on the job. He gives us the best of presents also, his own Son. Along with him, forgiveness, life, and salvation. Merry Christmas!



WORSHIP 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.

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt area)

December 8th –

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

December 8th –

Munich,

December 12th – – 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

December 14th – Saturday

Contact Pastor for more details.

Zurich, Switzerland area

December 15th - Sunday

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

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt area)

December 22nd Sunday

No Service – Christmas Service at Spiesheim.

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

December 22nd Sunday

No Service – Christmas Service at Spiesheim.

Christmas Service in Spiesheim

December 22nd Sunday 1:00 p.m.

Contact Pastor for more details.

A Potluck dinner will be held after the service.

PLEASE REPLY IF YOU WILL ATTEND SO

PLANS CAN BE MADE. A potluck dinner website
will be sent out. Coming by train, let us know. We
can pick you up,

Northwood, England

January 5th - 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 - RETREAT SCHEDULE

9-12 April – 2020 - Würzburg

6-08 November- 2020 – Augsburg

1-4 April – 2021 –Heidelberg???

OFFERINGS

On November 1st our bank account balance was
€49.375,19. The balance in the church account
on November 30th was €53.258,71. During
November, we received worship service offerings
of €1.239,00. We also received gifts of
€1.040,45 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.

RETIREMENT

My wife, Marge and I, have served in Europe for
close to three years Family obligations and other
factors have led me to announce my retirement as
of this coming summer. It has been a privilege to
serve God's people in this unique ministry. What a
joy it has been to serve here. My plans are to
serve until summer and then return to the States.

If you know of any names of those who
might be interested in serving here as a full-time
chaplain or in serving during the vacancy (if
needed), please contact Pastor Stuppy.

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 Wurzburg 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

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Sunday School

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!

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/serve-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