



GOODNEWSletter

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe



February – 2020

Ants teach us many lessons about work – something pleasing to God.

Have you ever heard of a myrmecologist? I hadn't until I did a little research on ants. A myrmecologist is someone who studies ants. When I was a kid, I was a myrmecologist and didn't know it. I was always fascinated by ants. I loved to watch them work. I also had a bit of a sadistic streak so I would drop stones on the opening of their tunnels or twigs in their path and see how long it would take them to fix the problem.

Ants are amazing creatures. I read that there are 1,000's of species. In Melbourne, Australia a colony of Argentine ants has been found that stretches 62 miles across. Ants are able to lift 10 to 20 times their own weight. That means if I had their strength, I could pick up about 3,000 pounds. Their strength, however, is offset by their short life expectancy of about 45-60 days (shorter if they chose to live near a sidewalk.)

Ants are one of God's creatures. He made them along with the all the other creatures of the world. I know there are times when they are pests. We hate it when they invade our kitchen cabinets or become uninvited guests at our picnic. But, they still serve a good purpose as part of God's creation.

So why talk about ants? Ants are used by God to teach us a valuable lesson. In Proverbs we read (Chapter 6:1) that God is pleased with the industriousness and blesses our labors. **“Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.”**

The words he writes are addressed to “The sluggard.” The sluggard is used as a picture of laziness. It accomplishes little. Its life

seems to consist of eating and resting. The laziness of slugs is contrasted with the ant's industriousness. Go find an old log and turn it over. You likely find a slug underneath just sleeping or eating. Find an ant hill and watch it carefully. See, if you can find an ant, just standing around doing nothing.

Solomon points out that no task master makes the ant work or checks its progress. The ant simply goes about its job. It does what needs to be done while it has the opportunity to do it. Ants love to work!

From the time of creation, when God set Adam and Eve to work in the Garden, work was given as a blessing from God. Through our labors we receive countless blessings. Keeping busy keeps us out of trouble. There is a sense of satisfaction when we have worked hard and accomplished a task. Work is a way that God provides for our needs, helps us to put food on our table, a roof over our heads, support the work of spreading the gospel and provide for future needs. There is an old German proverb that says, God give birds their food, but he does not throw it into their nests! Rest is a blessing from God, so, don't just sit there. Get to work!

Just think! If Jesus hadn't done his job and done it well, where would we be? If Jesus hadn't accomplished the work of our salvation, we would still be in our sins, lost and condemned. But, Jesus did his job. He carried out the work of our salvation by carrying the load of our sins to the cross, by enduring the wrath and punishment we deserved. When he cried out on the cross, “It is finished!”- he proclaimed to the world that the work of salvation was complete. His empty grave and resurrection testify to it.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.” (Colossians 3: 17)

WORSHIP INFORMATION

Northwood, England

February 2nd - 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)

February 9th – Sunday

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

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

February 9th – Sunday

Worship, Bible Study and Sunday School.
Contact Pastor Stuppy for more information.

Munich, Germany

February 13th – 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

February 15th – Saturday

Contact Pastor Stuppy for more information.

Zurich, Switzerland area

February 16th - Sunday

Worship time and place to be determined.

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt area)

February 23rd – Sunday

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

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

February 23rd - Sunday

Worship, Bible Study and Sunday School.
Contact Pastor Stuppy for more information.

Northwood, England

March 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 - RETREAT SCHEDULE

9-12 April – 2020 - Würzburg

6-08 November- 2020 – Augsburg

1-4 April – 2021 –Heidelberg

Easter Retreat – Würzburg - April 9-12

What a blessing these retreats are to the spiritual growth of our members and the WELS fellowship we enjoy here in Europe. Talk to anyone who has been there. We plan a good balance between Bible study, worship, fellowship and time to see sites in the area. We pray you will be able to come.

The retreat is a bit more expensive than our Wittenberg retreat since this one is three days rather than two. The cost will be 180€ for adults. Children 3 and under are free. Four through fifteen will run 60€.

Please note!!!! Monday – February 10th – is the deadline for registration. We lock into our contract a couple days later. That means we must pay for the rooms and meals we sign up for. Refunds can only be given if they can rent the room. Money for rooms will be collected at the retreat as usual. If cost is a problem, please contact Pastor Stuppy.

CALL TO PASTOR HARTWIG

Earlier this month, Pastor-Professor John Hartwig received the divine call to serve as the next European Chaplain. He and his wife, Helen, live in Mequon, Wisconsin. Prof. Hartwig had announced his retirement as of June, 2020. He currently serves as a professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. He plans to make a decision on his call shortly. Please remember him in your prayers.

England Retreat

A spring retreat is scheduled for May 8-10th in Bude, Cornwall, England. If interested, speak with Pastor as soon as possible. This event means making changes to our services in Ramstein and Wickers that weekend.

OFFERINGS

On January 1st our bank account balance was €53.942,02 The balance in the church account on January 31st was €52.720,38. During last month, we received worship service offerings of €652,52. We also received gifts of €1.044,96 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.

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

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/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