



GOODNEWSletter

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe



JUNE 2019

The New Normal

What are things going to be like after the Coronavirus pandemic is over? Will things go back to the way they were before? Will people shake hands? Hug? Attend concerts and sporting events? Travel freely and safely on crowded planes and trains?

Most tend to think that when this crisis is over we will be living in what is now called 'a **new normal**.' We will do the same things we did before the crisis hit but we will do them differently. We will do the things we normally did before but in a new way.

Imagine how the Jewish believers felt two thousand years ago after the events that took place on Pentecost Sunday. Thousands had gathered in Jerusalem, from all over the world, for the celebration of the Passover and the harvest festival that followed which was called Pentecost.

On that day, Jesus' promise to send His Holy Spirit was fulfilled. From that point on, life could be easily summed up with the words, 'a new normal.' Life, the world, would never be the same.

Up until this point, every aspect of the Jewish believer's life was governed by the civil and ceremonial laws God used these laws to teach the Jews spiritual truths about sin and its consequences, about the need for a sacrifice for sin, and atonement. The Sabbath laws and year of Jubilee, the Passover with its sacrificial lamb, all helped the Old Testament believer gain a clearer

picture of the coming Messiah and the work He would do.

Now that Jesus, the Passover Lamb, had come, now that His work as the Messiah was complete, life for the Old Testament believer would never be the same. Oh, they would still worship God, sing hymns, and pray. But so much of what they were used to would no longer be needed. There would be a new normal.

The Old Testament sacrifices, Sabbath laws, priesthood, festivals like the Passover and Day of Atonement, circumcision, would all become things of the past. All the things which pointed ahead to the coming Messiah had served their purpose now that Christ had come.

The new normal, ushered in by Pentecost, is now normal for us. We sacrifice no animals, pour no blood on the altar, nor need a priest to intercede for us. We have the freedom to worship when we want, to give our freewill offerings, and personally lay our prayers before God's throne of grace.

Most significant of all is the good news of the Savior, once preserved by God's grace among the descendants of Abraham, is now preached joyfully at God's direction to the ends of the earth; proclaimed to Jew and gentile alike.

While much has changed because of a virus, the work of the Holy Spirit remains the same. Through Word and Sacrament, He alone changes hearts, bringing people to faith. He alone turns those who stubbornly reject Him

and His will for their lives into ones who believe and joyfully serve him. By grace, He takes those who are children of wrath and adopts them God's children and heirs of salvation. He alone brings us to repentance and then comforts us with the precious message of God's forgiveness.

Even when this crisis ends and we are living a new normal, the work and message of the church will remain the same as it was before the pandemic. Repent and believe in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life! We will continue to proclaim Christ and Him crucified! Even if, for a while, we may not be sitting so closely together and wearing a facemask, we will still praise and worship the Lord, baptize and commune. We will continue to rejoice in the mercy, grace, and blessings the Lord has shown to us. Thanks be to the Lord!

The Latest

Light at the end of the tunnel!!!

This week we received word that we can resume our worship at Ramstein AFB. We plan to begin worship on June 14th at 1600. There are, however, many restrictions. Be sure to read through them and bring a mask!! I will copy the information I received at the end of this document. We will also hold our service at Wicker at 1100.

This morning, June 1st, I received word that we can also start worship at Rose Barracks in Vilseck. Munich worship is planned for June 18th. On June 14th, we hope to find out that we are free to cross the border (both ways) for worship in Zurich. London, unfortunately, is still on hold. On Sunday, a zoom video call has been planned with our London members, Pastor and Marge together on line.

European Chaplaincy Website

Please go to our website for the latest newsletter, information, and calendar. www.welseurope.net I will also be posing pictures from Hartwig's commissioning.

Confirmation!

On June 14th at 1630 Henry Kassebaum will be joining his class at Living Hope Lutheran Church (via streaming) to be examined, and confirmed. I had hoped that we would be able to join them via the internet as we worshiped at the chapel. With this being our first service back, it did not seem practical to make this work out. Nevertheless, what a special day for Henry! We rejoice with you, Henry, on this important milestone in your life of faith.

Bachmann Wedding

In January, God brought Florian and Jessica together in holy matrimony. Marge and I were privileged to meet Jessica a few weeks after the wedding. May God richly bless their new lives together.

Another blessing from God! -Rylie Ann Young

A new family member was added to the home of Rob and Amber. Rylie was born on April 15th. We rejoice with them over this beautiful gift from God! Give thanks to the Lord for He is good!

A memorial service for Jerry Galow

We are trying to set up a memorial service for Jerry. It is possible, a short service, will be held on June 14th following our regular worship service. I was told that, at present, our maximum attendance would be twenty. That may change. If not, we will likely have that many persons in attendance between the Wicker congregation and fiends from Jerry and Marilyn's German-American club they attended. I will let you know if there is a change in this.

Pastor John & Helen Hartwig

In the May 31st Pentecost service at Christ Alone Lutheran Church in Thiensville, John Hartwig was commissioned by Special Ministries Director Jim Behringer as the next WELS European Civilian Chaplain. Also present, representing the Military Services Committee was member Mr. Paul Wolfram. The Hartwigs hope to arrive in Germany this June.

The Hefti family

Michael, Katie, Titus, Zeke, Gideon, and Sonora Should be in the US by now. They were part of our group at Vilseck. We wish them the Lord's blessing. They will be missed.

Worship Information

Services in Munich - June 18th at 6:30 pm.
We worship at the home of Mike Kube. His address is Pressburger Strasse 65, Munich.

Services in Rose Barracks – June 20th.

Zurich – Switzerland – at the Bachmann's
We are waiting to see. If we meet, it would be on June 21st at 11 a.m. at the home of the Bachmanns at Waldistrasse 41 Adliswil.

Service at Ramstein & Wicker June 14th & 28th

We meet at the Evangelische Gemeindehaus in Wicker at 11:00 AM. When allowed, worship will be followed by fellowship and Bible study. No Bible Study is planned for June. The Ramstein service is held at the base chapel.

Services in London – July 5th – doubtful.
Hopefully, we can resume services in August. We worship at the Northwood Methodist Church, Oaklands Gate, Northwood, Middlesex H46 3AA. Worship is at 1:00 PM. The service will be followed by Bible study, Sunday School, fellowship & potluck dinner if restrictions have been lifted.

Worship Information received from Ramstein about May 23rd.

SMITH, KRAIG A Maj USAF USAFE 86 AW/HC

Greetings!

First of all, we do not yet have permission to open up services within our buildings. We hope to hear this week. Second, what I am about to write is what I know RIGHT NOW. This is all subject to change, and I will try to keep you updated. However, I want you to be thinking through these things with your people now.

Possible Guidelines for Opening up Worship Services at Ramstein Air Base.

1. In order to keep a record for 21 days in case an outbreak occurs, all participants will be

registered (name, number of people, and date/time of service attended) and assigned a place to sit. (means the pews have to be numbered—services which utilize the same building need to cooperate with each other on this). CE is supposed to come in and measure our spaces and provide us with a map, so to speak.

2. Ushers will help congregants maintain spacing for both entering and exiting the worship space to ensure there is no bunching up of people.
3. Family units will sit with a 1.5 meter spacing between each unit.
4. Place lines for entering the building to ensure spacing between arrivals.
5. Each congregant will wear a mask. Worship leaders are not required to wear a mask.
6. No passing of offering plates or other stuff within the service.
7. Provide all means possible to make Communion as “hands off” as possible.
8. Singing out loud is discouraged. However, participants may be encouraged to lip sync! It worked for Milli Vanilli . . .
9. Children must be contained in order that they not run around, etc. Children's Church, etc., is canceled until further notice.
10. Family units will sanitize their spots (Chapel to provide supplies) before leaving, and will be dismissed by rows.
11. Also, continue to livestream.

Many thanks to you and your congregations for their patience in all of this. I'm looking forward to the day we can all get back together! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

OFFERINGS

On April 30th our church account balance was €73.981,99. The balance on May 31st was €74.845,50. During May, we did not receive any worship service offerings. We did receive gifts of €1.520,57 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