



GOODNEWSletter

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe



June – 2020

Rejoice in tribulation!

I once read a story, I'm not sure where I saw it, about a farmer who owned an old mule. The mule fell into the farmer's well. The farmer heard the mule 'braying', or whatever mules do when they fall into wells. After carefully assessing the situation, the farmer sympathized with the mule, but decided that neither the mule nor the well were worth the trouble of saving. Instead, he called his neighbors together and told them what had happened and enlisted them to help haul dirt to bury the old mule in the well and put him out of his misery.

Initially, the old mule was hysterical! But, as the farmer and his neighbors continued shoveling and the dirt hit his back, he would shake it off. The mule realized something. As he shook the dirt off, he kept getting closer and closer to the opening of the well. That's what he did, shovel-full after shovel-full. "Shake it off and step up . . . shake it off and step up . . . shake it off and step up!" No matter how painful the blows, or distressing the situation seemed to be, the old mule fought "panic" and just kept right on shaking it off and stepping up! It wasn't long before the old mule, battered and exhausted, stepped triumphantly over the wall of that well! What seemed like that which would bury him, turned out to be blessing. It saved his life. It worked because of the way he handled his adversity.

That's what character is all about. If we face our problems and respond to them positively, and refuse to give in to panic, bitterness, or self-pity . . . the adversities that come along to bury us have, within them, the potential to benefit and bless us! Our Lord

tells us through the Apostle Paul, "...rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit..." (Romans 5:4-5).

When adversities strike our lives, when we face a troubled marriage, when we are told that we have cancer, when we find out we have lost our job, we can give up or persevere. We can ask the Lord for help and strength or try to do it alone.

Recognize the fact that trials and difficulties, while difficult, often make us stronger. They are a blessing in the hand of our Lord. James puts it this way, "Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy! For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow!" (James 1:2,3).

This is good advice during these troubled times. The dangers we face from the Corona virus are frightening. The loss of jobs, businesses going bankrupt, the death of loved ones, are hard to deal with. The protests, which have sprung up around the world, which often put lives and property in danger, the personal ordeals we face every day add to our troubles.

Don't give up. Don't face them alone because you are not alone. The Lord who loves you, the Lord who sacrificed His Son on the cross, who saved you from your sin, is by your side. He is there to help you endure them and to bless you through them. And in the end, he will free you from them. He will take you, His child, to spend eternity with Him in the glory and bliss of heaven. – Pastor Stuppy

WORSHIP INFORMATION

Northwood, England

Services still on hold

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt area)

July 12th – 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

July 12th – Sunday

Worship is held at 4:00 p.m. Bible Study, Sunday School and a potluck dinner will follow the service. Contact Pastor Hartwig for more information.

Munich, Germany

July 16th – 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

July 17th – Saturday Worship is at 11:00. Contact Pastor Hartwig for more information.

Zurich, Switzerland area

Services still on hold

We will meet the third Sunday of the month.

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt area)

July 26th – 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

July 26th - Sunday

Worship is held at 4:00 p.m. Bible Study, Sunday School and a meal follow. Contact Pastor Stuppy for more information.

Northwood, England

August 2nd – Sunday **NOT YET CONFIRMED**

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

6-08 November- 2020 – Augsburg

1-4 April – 2021 –Heidelberg

Not quite back to normal.

Things are opening up. Things are improving. While worship services in most places have resumed, we still have not been able to resume services in London or in Switzerland. A short term problem, we hope, Pastor Hartwig has had to deal with is a delay in getting his residency permit which restricts his travel outside of Germany. He is unable to begin the residency process until July 9th. It will be several weeks after that before his residency pass will arrive. That makes travel to London and Switzerland for the next service doubtful. Watch the calendar on our web page for the latest information on services.

We rejoice over the arrival of Pastor John and Helen Hartwig. They arrived safely and on time. We've had a week to work on making the transfer from one chaplain to the next. We ask God to bless their work here in Europe.

PASTOR & MARGE SAY FAREWELL

Marge and I leave for the States on Saturday if things remain as is. Our departure is bitter-sweet. We look forward to seeing family and friends in the USA but we will dearly miss everyone here. You have all made our stay here a journey we will never forget. We thank God for every one of you! We hope to see you again. God bless you!

GIFTS TO THE LORD

On May 4th our checking account balance was **€75.427,46**. The balance on June 30th was 1st our bank account balance was **€16.533,27**. We transferred €60,000 to the Wisconsin Synod Special Ministry for the military. We received on line donations of €3.483,20. We thank the Lord for opening hearts to make these generous gifts for his work.

Confessional Lutheran Christian Ministry

Pastor Donald Stuppy

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Web Page: www.welseurope.net

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/>

- [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

- [People](#) - All active and retired WELS called workers and synod employees