



# GOODNEWSletter

*Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe  
December 2015*

## Spiritual Vision



John 9:35-41

<sup>35</sup> *Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"*

<sup>36</sup> *"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."*

<sup>37</sup> *Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."*

<sup>38</sup> *Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.*

<sup>39</sup> *Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."*

<sup>40</sup> *Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"*

<sup>41</sup> *Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."*

If you were at worship with us on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, you would have seen something that no one has ever seen before. For the first time in public I was wearing my reading glasses. I'm not going blind. At least I don't think so. I guess it was more a matter of age, decay, and bad lighting in the living room where we were having worship.

The minor annoyance of not being able to read eleven point font as easily as I once did pales in comparison to the blindness being talked about by Jesus in the text.

The Pharisees were spiritually blind. They had no faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior. They were not able to see that God was putting the full extent of his love on display by sending his Son to be the Lamb who would be sacrificed for the sins of the world. They were spiritually blind.

That you know Jesus at all is a wonderful blessing. That you believe in him as your Lord and Savior is grace heaped upon grace. You can see. You have spiritual vision. The Holy Spirit did this. He opened your eyes so that you could see and believe in every good thing God has done for you in Jesus.

Without the Spirit and his gracious work, we would be lost. We would be stuck in the spiritual blindness that will land so many in hell. Thank God that you have eyes that see. Like the man in the text who was blind, your eyes were opened and you too can say, "Lord, I believe."

As we approach Christmas and think of how the light of Jesus has come into the darkness of this sinful world, may we be mindful of the great gift of faith and the Holy Spirit who works that faith. We praise him and thank him for the spiritual sight he has given to us and the salvation that we now know is ours in Jesus. We can see. We can see the light of the Gospel. We can see the light of our forgiveness in Jesus.

Have a wonderful December!

### December Worship Schedule

Northwood, England – contact Pastor for  
worship location

#### December 6

Worship at 13:00 followed by Bible study  
and fellowship.

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt Area) –  
contact Pastor for worship location

#### December 13 and 27

Worship is at 11:00 followed by fellowship,  
Bible study and Sunday school.

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany–  
at the Southside Chapel

#### December 13 and 27

Worship is at 16:00 followed by Bible study,  
Sunday school, and fellowship.

Vilseck, Germany – in the small chapel next to  
building #205 on the Vilseck Army Base

#### December 19

Worship is at 10:30 followed by Bible study,  
Sunday school, and fellowship.

Zurich, Switzerland area– contact Pastor for  
worship location

#### December 20

Worship is at 11:00 followed by fellowship  
and Bible study.

Munich – contact Pastor for worship location

#### December 10

Worship is at 18:30 followed by going out to  
eat.

Ede, Netherlands – contact Pastor for worship  
location

#### December 17

Worship is at 18:00.

### Thanksgiving Day Worship

Thank you to everyone who cooked and  
helped out with the meal after worship on  
Thanksgiving Day. It was a wonderful time.

Thank you most importantly to our good  
and gracious Lord for all he has lavished on  
us in Jesus.

### Offerings

Local offerings for the month were €2,164.  
Thank you for your offerings. God bless the  
generous and humble gifts of his people.

### Women's Bible Study

The next study is planned for 10:00 on  
November 20<sup>th</sup>. The location will be a  
restaurant yet to be determined.

### Future Retreats

When: March 24-27, 2016

Where: Walchensee, Germany

Sample Schedule:

#### Thursday, March 24

Check in after 16:00

18:00 -Dinner at youth hostel

19:00 -Maundy Thursday worship

#### Friday, March 25

6:30 Breakfast at youth hostel

9:00 Bible study for children and adults

10:30 Choir practice

12:15 Lunch at youth hostel

13:00 Women's Bible study

14:00 Free time

17:30 Dinner at the youth hostel

18:30 Choir practice

19:15 Good Friday worship

20:30 Free time, Fellowship

#### Saturday, March 26

6:30 Breakfast at youth hostel

9:00 Bible study for children and adults

10:30 Choir practice

12:15 Lunch at youth hostel

13:00 free time

17:30 Out to eat for dinner (optional)

19:00 Free time, Fellowship

#### Sunday, March 27

6:30 Breakfast at youth hostel, room check-out

8:30 Choir practice  
9:00 Easter Sunday worship  
10:00 Group picture and Easter egg hunt

### **Women's Bible Study**

Women's Bible study will resume in January.

### **Reformation Retreat**

October 21-23, 2016 - Bad Homburg, Germany

### **Contact Us**

If you have need of pastoral assistance or just want to talk, please make contact. Your e-mails, phone calls, & letters are welcomed.

Pastor Joshua and Katie Martin  
Telephone: (+49) 6732-600-3933  
Pastor's handy: (+49) 173-4199572  
Katie's handy: (+49) 173-4199580  
Email: [WELSchaplain@gmail.com](mailto:WELSchaplain@gmail.com)  
[www.welseurope.net](http://www.welseurope.net)

### **WELS Civilian Chaplaincy on Facebook**

Check out our new page on Facebook. Like the WELS Civilian Chaplaincy page and stay connected to the ministry's events here in Europe.

### **Prayer Chain**

*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened unto you. (Matthew 7:7)*

God in His Word encourages Christians to pray continually. It is such an important gift that our loving God has given us in which we can communicate with him and he blesses us. As a Christian congregation that is spread out across an entire continent, we may often find it difficult to know what is going on in the lives of our brother and sisters in Christ in order that we may offer prayers of thanksgiving and supplication for each other. In an effort to keep us united in prayer to our loving God, we have a weekly prayer chain. At the beginning of each week, you will be sent an email asking if you have any special prayer requests for yourself or a loved one. At the end of the week, the prayers received will be sent out to all those who subscribed to the email list. Please feel free to submit all prayer requests to Pastor Martin or directly to Melinda Gribble at [rmgribble@aol.com](mailto:rmgribble@aol.com). If you do not have an email address but would like to add a prayer request, please don't hesitate to call Pastor Martin directly.

### **Sermons on the Web**

Video of the sermons is available at the church web site ([www.welseurope.net](http://www.welseurope.net)). I pray this can be another tool for you to use to feed yourself with the Word. If there are any problems, please let me know. Thank you to the volunteers who take the time out of their busy schedules to make this possible.