



# GOODNEWSletter

*Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe*

*June 2017*

## **MEMORIAL DAY**

### **A DAY TO HONOR THOSE**

### **WHO DIED FOR US**

Memorial Day has always been a big deal for me. Growing up in Michigan, Memorial Day marked the unofficial start of summer. Back yard cook-outs began in earnest. Trips to the beach or to the cottage at the lake were planned. Schools would soon let their students out for summer. There were Memorial Day parades, US flags were flown from every corner of town, on graves of loved ones, and on most houses.

The origins of Memorial Day are greatly debated. It's most likely that the practice of remembering those who had fallen in the service of our country was observed, in an unofficial way, all over the country. The focus on those who died while serving our nation began in the 1860's. In 1868 General John Logan ordered that flowers be placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers who were buried in Arlington National Cemetery. These memorial decorations gave birth to the name Decoration Day – the other name for this holiday. While states did not take up this observance right away, it is observed nationwide today.

The problem is that many Americans have forgotten or left behind the meaning and traditions of Memorial Day. The graves of fallen veterans are often ignored and neglected. Many communities line the street with flags, but Memorial Day parades are rare. Many see the day as simply another day off work. Others have come to treat this day as one on which we honor all who have died.

This day, however, was really set aside to honor those who have sacrificed their life in the service of our country.

As the war against terrorism continues in Iraq, Syria and in other parts of the world, the number of those fallen continues to grow. Yet, no matter where one stands on these conflicts, we all mourn the loss of the men and women who have laid down their lives for our nation.

This Memorial Day, remember in your prayers those who have lost loved ones in all the wars and conflicts our nation has fought. Thank the Lord that, over the years, he has given us men and women who are ready to defend to the death the liberties and freedoms we enjoy in the United States. Pray that the Lord would bring peace to our troubled world so that no more blood need be shed.

Thank those who serve us in the armed forces – especially those who put their life in harm's way. "Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). Pray for their safety.

Remember also that through God's Son, Jesus Christ, who sacrificed his life for ours, has won the greatest freedom of all. He has freed us from the consequences of sin, the power of the grave, and the eternal pain and torment of hell. Through him, we will someday enjoy the perfect joy and bliss of heaven where death, wars, sorrow and pain will be things of the past.

## **June Worship Schedule**

*Northwood, England -*

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

June 4

Worship at 13:00 followed by Bible study, Sunday School, fellowship and potluck dinner.

*Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt Area) -*

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

June 11 and June 25

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

*Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany -*  
at the Southside Chapel

June 11 and June 25

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

*Munich, Germany -*

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

June 15

Worship is at 18:30.

*Vilseck, Germany -*

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

Jun 17

Worship is at 10:30.

*Zurich (Switzerland Area) -*

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

Jun 18

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

## **Mother's Day Picnic**

Our annual "picnic", on May 14 th , turned out to be a dinner and worship service at the parsonage in Spiesheim. We had a beautiful day. The neighbors got to hear some hymns sung "auf Englisch." The fellowship and conversation was most enjoyable – not to mention the delicious food.

## **Fall Retreat – Nurnburg**

Many hours have gone in to searching for a site for this October. With the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, prices are high and things in Luther Land hard to get. We've ended up back in Nurnburg and back on the last weekend of October. Oct 27-29. Friday night through Sunday morning. We have two meetings rooms but they're smaller than what we had in Rothenburg ODT.

## **Military Services Committee (MSC)**

The WELS Synod MSC oversees and shares in the financial support of the work of all the chaplains in the United States and our ministry in Europe. This board serves at the direction of the Synod's Commission on Special Ministries. The director is Pastor Jim Behringer. The chairman of the MSC is Pastor Paul Horn. He serves as pastor of Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church in Hiram, GA.

Pastor Horn and his wife, Rebecca, will be coming to Germany from June 15-27. Part of their visit will be for personal travel. The rest is part of a field visit to become more familiar with the work being done in Europe. Pastor Horn plans to attend worship in Munich, Vilseck, and Zurich. He will also be preaching at our services in Wicker and Ramstein (June 25 th).

## **Offerings**

As of May 30, 2017 the balance in the church account is € 42.242,45. During May we received \$1,105.00 through offerings at worship, and € 949,41 in direct bank deposits. We thank the Lord for moving the hearts of his people to make these generous gifts in support of this ministry.

## **Things to Know – Synod Web Sites**

**MILITARY DEVOTIONS** – by Rev. P. Ziemer  
<https://wels.net/serving-you/devotions/military-devotions/>

### **WELS CHURCH LOCATOR**

Use when on vacation, business trips, relocation.

<http://welslocator.locatorsearch.com/>

### **ONLINE REFERRAL – SPECIAL MINISTRIES**

Special Ministries can supply devotions and other spiritual help and teaching tools to

military members, inmates, special needs individuals. Click on link below to submit an online referral for someone who can benefit from Special Ministries' materials.

<https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/special-ministries/online-referral/>

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