



GOOD NEWSletter

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe

September 2017

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 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. You won't find one 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, and support the work of spreading the gospel. There is an old German proverb that says, God gives 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)

September Worship Schedule

Northwood, England -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

September 3

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

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt Area) -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

September 10 and September 24

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

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany -
at the Southside Chapel

September 10 and September 24

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

Munich, Germany -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

September 14

Worship is at 18:30.

Vilseck, Germany -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

September 16

Worship is at 11:00.

Zurich (Switzerland Area) -

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

September 17

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

Fall Retreat – Nuernburg

Brief overview of hostel and setting

Ancient vaults, thick walls - sleep in a real castle and enjoy the best Youth Hostel standards at Nuremberg Youth Hostel! You can look forward to staying in a fully refurbished Hostel in the imperial stables (Kaiserstallung) of the 500 year-old castle. At the heart of Nuremberg's landmark, in the city centre and centre of Franconia. Excellent amenities and audio-visual systems, 93 ultra-modern rooms,

all with en-suite shower and toilet, bar, bistro and state-of-the art equipment in the conference rooms.

Nuernberg: Friday Oct 27-Sunday Oct 29

- If arriving after 1800 hours (6 p.m.) you must call the hostel between 0800-1800 hours at 0911 2309 360 on Sunday. Their e-mail is: nuernberg@jugendherberge.de.
- Check in after 1530 on Friday.
- Come celebrate Reformation 500 with Service, Bible Class, Sunday School and Christian Fellowship.
- Rooms: We ended up with 60 signed up to attend. We are at full capacity. We need one room for two people. If you are willing to give up your room and stay at a local hotel instead of the hostel, please let Pastor know.
- The cost for lodging and meals will be out soon.

Sunday School 2017-2018

Starting in September, Sunday School material will be placed on a shared computer drive for members of WELS European Chaplaincy. This will ensure access for teachers and parents to the Teacher's Guide (CD) for 3 semesters of stories. The individual student lessons (hard copy) would be ordered as needed.

This decision was made after much discussion with Becky Horn, MLC graduate and WELS teacher (Pastor Horn's wife) expertise and discussing with Northwestern Publishing Company. The material should be here in a week or two.

Please contact Pastor with ages of your children and request for grade level material.

Women's Bible Class Ramstein Area

Marge Stuppy is willing to lead a women's Bible class this Fall in the Ramstein area. Topic: Mirror, Mirror (Susan Senechal), a focus on looking at ourselves as God sees us. Interested? If so what time and day would work for you?

Fall Retreat – London
(from Sandy Parker)

A low number of participants and other factors will make it difficult to hold the retreat as planned. If you are still interested in having the retreat, possibly on another date, please speak with Sandy Parker or Pastor.

Offerings

As of August 30, 2017 the balance in the church account was €41.743,93 . During July we received direct offering equivalent of \$1,854.70. We also received gifts of € 1.238,52 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 members of the military, prison inmates, special needs individuals. Click on the 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/>

Confessional Lutheran Christian Ministry

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