



# GOOD NEWSletter

*Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe*  
*November 2017*

## **NOW HEAR THIS – OCTOBER 29, 2017**

***For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8, 9***

If you have survived boot camp, you have learned all about the giving and taking of orders. You have also become familiar with the chain-of-command. Contradicting a drill instructor is not a good idea. Changing a message that has come down from the captain is a sure way to get into a heap of trouble.

When the ship's loudspeakers blare the words, "Now hear this!" the sailor better be listening.

How strange then, when the Captain of Salvation issues a message of eternal life and death, many people pay no attention to what he says. Some, brazenly contradict him.

From Genesis to Revelation, the Almighty makes it clear that the human race is spiritually dead and hopelessly lost. If there will be any life, it must come from the Lord of Life. Body or soul, he alone can make alive. Like physical life, spiritual life is a gift, not something that can be earned. The Bible serves as God's loudspeaker to the world. Every verse could be introduced with the command: "Now hear this!"

The Lutheran Reformation, which began 500 years ago, asked the question, "What did God say?"

All the noise rising from human voices had started to drown out the only voice that mattered. People were asking, "What do the church leaders say?" "What do most people believe?" "What makes the most sense to me?" Finally, that ends up with the question, "What do I say?"

How can I escape the penalty that my rebellion against God has earned me? Trying

harder to not sin won't do it. It will not undo the crime. Paying more money to the church will not do it. God will not be bribed. Starving myself, shutting myself off from the rest of the world, and praying to the dead will not bring me an inch closer to heaven.

To the frantic question, "What must I do to be saved?" The thunderous voice from heaven says, "NOW HEAR THIS!"

And then he tells us. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." He announces, "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." To those who have put their trust in him as their Savior, he assures them on their deathbed, "Today you will be with me in paradise."

No need to fear. No need to worry. No basis for boasting. It is all the work of God. Salvation is a gift from God.

And anytime we begin to doubt that, may we be brought back to our senses with the call of Scripture: "NOW HEAR THIS!"

**Prayer:** Sovereign Lord who desires that everyone would come to the knowledge of the truth and turn to Jesus as the one who gained salvation for us—and then offered it to us free of charge. By nature, we are prone to reject that. We would rather listen to what our minds say, or what other people tell us than to listen to you. Forgive us for that. Continue to call out to us with the words of your Law and Gospel. You offer forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. You tell us that. Make us listen. Amen.

Written by Pastor Paul Ziemer, WELS National Civilian Chaplain and Liaison to the Military, Cape Coral, Florida. To read, subscribe, or receive audio versions of Pastor Ziemer's weekly devotion go to <https://wels.net/serving-you/devotions/military-devotions/>

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## **November Worship Schedule**

*Northwood, England -*

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

November 5

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

*Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt Area) -*

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

November 12 and November 26

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

*Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany -*

at the Southside Chapel

November 12 and November 26

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

*Munich, Germany -*

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

November 16

Worship is at 18:30.

*Vilseck, Germany -*

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

November 18

Worship is at 11:00.

*Zurich (Switzerland Area) -*

contact Pastor Stuppy for location details

November 19

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

## **Thanksgiving Service**

Based on comments I received, I am evaluating the Thanksgiving service at Ramstein. I will be sending out a separate email for your feedback. I believe the service was held at 4 p.m. at the South Chapel with a Thanksgiving Potluck to follow. Another option would be to meet on Wednesday evening at 7 pm (1900 hrs) for worship with a pie social to follow. I will ask if you plan to attend and which

you would prefer.

## **Fall Retreat – Nuernburg**

The retreat is over but not the memories. Fond memories will live on of worship, Bible study, singing, fellowship, and site seeing. I believe we had 16 new attendees. Five were visitors from the States; the rest new to our European mission. In all, 60 attended. We had 40 adults and 20 children participate.

We celebrated the 500 th anniversary of the Reformation with Word and song. We also watched the new Luther video entitled – “A Return to Grace – Luther’s Life and Legacy.” Our sincere thanks to all those who helped with teaching, choir, music, site-seeing, food, and more. God bless you all!

## **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.

### **GRADE 1-2**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/sfguf1u8ewmkv2d/AABpsGCrFPqPGWgOkW5IIS1Ca?dl=0>

### **GRADE 3-4**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/epp5vo3q74vb55j/AADAYGHjIJ3sAum-F7AUPOYHa?dl=0>

### **GRADE PreK-K**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e579x1q1k9fln0e/A AAWGks9slN5PRzKhl9wHr\\_Ha?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e579x1q1k9fln0e/A AAWGks9slN5PRzKhl9wHr_Ha?dl=0)

### **GRADE 5-6**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zxkpskflbmtos7/A AAdk6VtoViaO-JeMDeoadGqa?dl=0>

Student lessons will be ordered as needed. Contact Pastor Stuppy or Marge Stuppy (mastuppy@gmail.com) if you need anything or have questions.

## **Offerings**

As of October 1 st the balance in the church account was €35,102.15 . On October 31st our balance was €50,959.30. During October we received direct worship service offering equivalent of \$2,453.20. We also received gifts of €21,527.52 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.

### **Confessional Lutheran Christian Ministry**

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## **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/>