



GOODNEWSletter

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe



OCTOBER 2018

LEARNING FROM THE PAST.

Every year, when October 31st rolls around, we Lutherans who remember our religious heritage look back to the reformation movement which took place in Germany during the 1500's. Hopefully, we will remember this event with thankful appreciation for the Lord causing the glorious light of the gospel message to once again shine in all its splendor.

That gospel message is clearly revealed in the Bible. For example, consider Romans 3:24, 28. "(All) are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus... We maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law." Simply put, we sinful human beings have been forgiven of all our sins and eternally saved by God's undeserved love ALONE, through the redeeming works of Jesus Christ ALONE, and we receive it by trusting in Jesus as our Savior ALONE. It's good news indeed.

In spite of the wonderful clearness of the Bible's teaching, during the years leading up to the Reformation period the gospel message was largely obscured by false ideas and teachings. Instead of looking ALONE to the Bible for direction, the church looked outside the Scripture to human traditions, and to the pronouncements and decrees of the church councils and popes.

As a result of this flawed human reasoning, all kinds of teachings developed. People began to look at their own good works of the past or the works of the past saints in order to gain God's forgiveness and the assurance of salvation. These teachings directed people away from Christ as if Jesus' saving work was not enough. Such teachings drained away God's peace and comfort from souls of people and lead many people, including Martin Luther, into spiritual despair.

But God opened Martin Luther's eyes to see the good news of the Gospel. When Luther saw it, he said that "it was as if the gates of heaven had been opened." God opened Luther's eyes of faith to see the truth that our place in God's family is no based upon our own performance or works but rather upon the work of Jesus. Jesus lived the perfect life and died an innocent death as our substitute so that we could be sure that we are forgiven and going to heaven. When Luther discovered this good news, he wanted to restore the church so that others could know of it. Thus began the "reformation" a time in church history when the church was "reformed" back to the simple truth of the gospel.

One of the great blessings that came out of the Lutheran Reformation is that Martin Luther put the Scriptures into the hands of the people. Up until that time, the Bible had been translated into Latin, a language most common people could not read. Luther translated the Bible into the language of the people.

Today, we have the Bible readily available. Make use of it. Let's not make the same mistake so many past generations have made. Let's keep our ears turned to God's Word – so that we may keep the wonderful blessings of the Gospel that God wants to give us.

FALL RETREAT – OCT 26-28 – BAD KREUZNACH
Make your plans now for our Fall Reformation Retreat at Bad Kreuznach (South of Bingen). We will meet from Friday evening through Sunday. What a joy to gather for worship, Word, and fellowship!! A separate email will go out for the retreat this coming week.

Contact WELSchaplain@gmail.com for more information.

Worship Schedule

Northwood, England

October 7th – Sunday

Worship at 1:00 PM followed by Bible study, Sunday School, fellowship & potluck Dinner. Contact WELSchaplain@gmail.com for more information.

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt area)

October 14th – Sunday

at the Evangelische Gemeindehaus
Worship is at 11:00 AM followed by fellowship and Bible study.

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

October 14th – Sunday

Worship is at 4:00 PM followed by Bible study, Sunday School, and a meal. Contact WELSchaplain@gmail.com for more information.

Munich, Germany

October 18th - Thursday

Worship is at 6:30 PM. We worship at the home of Mike Kube. His address is Pressburger Strasse 65, Munich.

Vilseck, Germany

October 20th - Saturday

Worship is at 11:00. Contact WELSchaplain@gmail.com for information.

Zurich, Switzerland area

October 21st - Sunday

Worship is at 11:00 AM followed by food and Bible study. - at the Bachmann home
Waldstrasse 41 Adliswil

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt area)

October 28th – Sunday

NO SERVICE – RETREAT WEEKEND

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

October 28th – Sunday

NO SERVICE – RETREAT WEEKEND

Northwood, England

November 4th - Sunday

Worship at the Northwood Methodist Church, Oaklands Gate, Northwood, Middlesex H46 3AA
Worship at 1:00 PM followed by Bible study, Sunday School, fellowship & potluck Dinner.

Confessional Lutheran Christian Ministry

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OFFERINGS

On September 1st our bank account balance was €37.851,90. The balance in the church account on September 30th was €58.541,37. During September, we received worship service offerings of €848,15. We also received gifts of €22,465.80 in direct bank deposits. We praise the Lord for moving the hearts of his people to make these gifts for the work of the church.

The Evangelical Heritage Version

The Synod has been working on its own Bible translation over the last two years or more. The New Testament and the Psalms have been published. The translation has been named the Evangelical Heritage Version or the EHV. You may purchase a copy for twelve dollars or euros. I have 12 copies available.

Direct Deposit Information

Designate: WELS European Chaplaincy

IBAN: DE98 5519 0000 0938 6260 25

BIC: MVBMD55

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. Contact Pastor Stuppy if items are needed.

THINGS TO KNOW – SYNOD WEB SITES

MILITARY DEVOTIONS – by Rev. P. Ziemer

<https://wels.net/serving-you/devotions/military-devotions/> -

WELS CHURCH LOCATOR

On vacation, A business trip, relocation? See

<https://yearbook.wels.net/unitsearch> or go to <https://yearbook.wels.net/>

ONLINE REFERRAL – SPECIAL MINISTRIES

Special Ministries can supply devotions and other spiritual help and teaching tools to members of the military, prison inmates, and special needs individuals. Click on link to make an online referral or subscribe.

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