



GOODNEWSletter

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe



SEPTEMBER 2018

Why live in darkness when you can live in the light?

Not long ago I read a story about a woman who had been blind for fifty years. Following surgery, when the bandages were removed her vision had been restored. It is hard to imagine the joy she must have felt when able to see for the first time in her life. That's the good news. The sad part of the story is that advances in the field of medicine made it possible for her to have had this surgery 20 years earlier. She just didn't know that it was available. As a result, she spent 20 years living in darkness instead of light. Given the choice, who would want to live in darkness?

The thought of living in darkness is not a pleasant thought. Oh, we may enjoy brief periods of darkness when we want to sleep or don't feel well. But the thought of permanent darkness, complete darkness is depressing at best. The medical community reports that, when the shortened days of winter come, the number of suicides and cases of severe depression increase dramatically.

Darkness, despair, and gloom seem to go hand in hand. If you are closer to getting your social security check than your driver's license, you will remember the television show *Hee Haw!* Every week, Buck Owens and Roy Clark would sing a song which started with the words, "*Gloom, despair, and agony on me, deep dark depression, excessive misery....*" These are all the types of expressions the Bible uses to describe those who are living in sin and unbelief. Words which we use in a physical way are merged with the spiritual.

We find an example of this in John 3:19 where we are told "men loved darkness instead of light." And in verse 20 of the same chapter, "men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil." Darkness and sin, death, and hell, go hand in hand. Jesus says the people cast into hell will be thrown into "the darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Mt 25:30).

On the other hand, light, brightness, brilliance, are good things. The light causes things to grow. It enables us to see, work, and function in life. Those who are blind and live in darkness know firsthand what a blessing light is.

The Bible picks up on this as well. Jesus calls himself the "Light of the world" (Jn 8:12). In the opening chapter of the book of John Jesus is described this way: "In him (Jesus) was life, and that life was the light of men." Isaiah says that Jesus, the promised Messiah, was to be a "Light for the Gentiles" (Isaiah 42:6).

These thoughts are summed up well in I John 1:5ff, "God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie...But if we walk in the light, as he is light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

Do you want to live in the light or the darkness? Darkness, sin, and unbelief lead to gloom, despair, and hell. Walking with Jesus Christ, trusting in him as your Savior, means walking in the light and having life, eternal life to boot. Walk in Christ! Walk in the Light!

Confessional Lutheran Christian Ministry

Pastor Donald Stuppy

Im Holzweg 4a 55288 Spiesheim

Phone: 6732-600-3933 Cell: 173-419-9572

E-mail: welschaplain@gmail.com

Web Page: www.welseurope.net

FALL RETREAT – OCT 26-28 – BAD KREUZNACH

Make your plans now for our Fall Reformation Retreat at Bad Kreuznach (South of Bingen). <https://www.diejugendherbergen.de/jugendherbergen/bad-kreuznach/portrait/>

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.

Worship Schedule

Contact WELSchaplain@gmail.com for more information.

Northwood, England

September 2nd – Sunday

Worship at 1:00 PM followed by Bible study, Sunday School, fellowship & potluck Dinner.

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt area)

September 9th – Sunday

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

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

September 9th – Sunday

Worship is at 4:00 PM followed by Bible study, Sunday School, and a meal.

Munich, Germany

September 13th - Thursday

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

Vilseck, Germany

September 15th - Saturday

Worship is at 11:00. We meet at the Rose Chapel.

Zurich, Switzerland area

NO SERVICE IN SEPTEMBER

Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt area)

August 26th – Sunday

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

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

September 23RD – Sunday

Worship is at 4:00 PM (16:00) followed by Bible study, Sunday School, and meal.

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.

OFFERINGS

On August 1st our bank account balance was €40,517.69. The balance in the church account on August 31st was €37,851.90. During August, we received worship service offerings of €698.05. We also received gifts of €1,465.00 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.

Help Needed for Face Book.

I am not much for posting on Face Book. I have done it a few times. It would be great to have someone oversee our European Face Book site and remind me to send pictures, etc for posting. Can you help? **I have one person who offered to help. It would be nice to have two.** Speak with Pastor.

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

Use when on vacation, business trips, relocation.

<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 below to submit an online referral for someone who can benefit from Special Ministries' materials.
wels.net/refer