

# GOODNEWS LETTER

WELS Europe

*For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. Hebrews 13:14-15*

The pandemic is a vivid and all too enduring reminder that we are awaiting a better home. Germany has announced a month-long “lockdown lite” for November. Alert levels remain high in the UK and they too are facing a partial lockdown. After all these months it is easy to become discouraged, frustrated, and afraid. Although we don’t understand why God has allowed the Coronavirus to come into our world, we do firmly trust that everything he does is for our ultimate good. And so we ask that this burden be made a blessing for us and for many.

In November we approach a new season in the church year. The first Sundays, the end of the Pentecost season, focus on the end times – the last judgement, the triumph of the saints, and Christ as our King. Then we begin Advent when we focus on preparing our hearts for Christ’s coming. It is a time to reflect on the reason Jesus came. He came to rescue us from this sin-filled world and to bring us into ‘the city that is to come.’ The author of the book of Hebrews reminds us that our life here is not enduring.

We have been enjoying an especially colorful fall this year. As the foliage changed we were surprised to discover that grape leaves change



## November Worship

### November 8

Wicker 11:00  
Ramstein 16:00

### November 12

Munich 18:30

### November 14

Vilseck 11:00

### November 15

Switzerland 11:00

### November 22

Wicker 11:00  
Ramstein 16:00

Please contact Pastor Hartwig for specific locations of and directions to our worship services.

into many different fall colors, depending on the variety of grape. The vineyards around Spiesheim now look like a beautiful patchwork quilt. The colorful autumn leaves are another reminder that we live in a changing world. But our Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever! Therefore, we can 'continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise.'

May the Lord Jesus keep us all in his loving care and grant us renewed spirits as we offer him our continual praise.



## Our Offerings

### October

€3,772.00 were received as direct deposits. €40.00 and US\$60.00 were received in the basket offering.

### Direct Deposit Information

Please consider direct deposit of your offerings to WELS Europe. And note the new banking details.

Designate: John Paul Hartwig  
IBAN: DE21 5519 0000 0106 6260  
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## Other News

**Coronavirus and worship.** Germany has declared a "lockdown lite" for the month of November. At this time I do not feel it will affect our immediate worship plans. At Wicker and Ramstein we will continue as we have been, wearing masks and distancing. Helen and I plan to make the Munich/Vilseck/Zurich trip as scheduled. Since it is a business trip we should be able to stay in hotels and we can eat from the grocery store. At this time the chaplain at Rose Barracks has okayed our plan for worship there. Munich

friends, I am very sensitive to the possibility that because of the number of unrelated people meeting in a small room, you may want to reconsider our worship this month. Please don't hesitate to let me know your thoughts. And Zurich friends, I am not aware of restrictions Switzerland might have in place, so please let me know if there would be problems – otherwise we will come as planned.

It's difficult to see what the future holds, but it is possible our **December worship plans may need to change**. Here's the schedule as it now stands:

6/12/2020: London via Zoom
10/12/2020: Munich
12/12/2020: Vilseck
13/12/2020: Switzerland
20/12/2020: Spiesheim Christmas service
27/12/2020: Wicker & Ramstein

The potential difficulty is for the Christmas service in Spiesheim. I am meeting with the Bürgermeister on Wednesday to discuss this further. There are three possible outcomes: 1. Everything (worship and meal) is allowed as planned. 2. No gathering is allowed. 3. The worship service is allowed (with masks and social distancing), but the potluck is not.

It is very difficult for everyone to plan when things are up in the air. If we cannot go ahead as planned it seems to make sense to revert

to the regular schedule (6/12 London Zoom, 13/12 Wicker & Ramstein, 17/12 Munich, 19/12 Vilseck, 20/12 Zurich, 27/12 Wicker & Ramstein). Please do not hesitate to share your thoughts with me about our December schedule. We can be very flexible and I appreciate that because of our varying circumstances (military, civilian, expat, German, etc.) some of you may have considerations and perspectives that are not obvious to me. I would like to be able to announce a firm worship schedule for December before Thanksgiving. So please share your thoughts.

### **Our London Group**

We enjoyed meeting members of our London group in a Zoom meeting on All Saints Day. With heightened Coronavirus restrictions in force in the UK we will not be able to meet face-to-face for some time. But we will meet via Zoom the first Sunday of the month at 10:00 GMT. Our next meeting will be on December 6. I will send out a Zoom invitation via e-mail. And we hope many of you can participate.

### **Newsletter photos**

The photos I have been putting in the newsletters are random photos of places we have recently been. Do you recognize the places? Can you guess where we've been?



## Online worship and devotional resources.

- WELS military devotions: <https://wels.net/dev-military/>
- General daily devotions from WELS: <https://wels.net/dev-daily/>
- Seminary chapel: <https://www.wisluthsem.org/wls-chapel/>

Many congregations have gone on-line with worship because of the Corona virus and some continue their on-line programming even after face-to-face worship has resumed. Here are a few:

- Christ Alone in Thiensville, WI <https://vimeo.com/user74314848>  
<https://www.christalnewels.org/> has links to sermon podcasts and other video devotions.
- Our Redeemer in Madison, WI <https://www.orlmadison.org/sermons/>
- Grace in Milwaukee, WI  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/gracedowntownorg/videos>
- Faith Lutheran, Tallahassee: Bible study and worship services on their YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOZg5cxpvHojC-5mHT7ZFzA>
- Grace in Tucson, AZ has online worship and Bible study:  
<https://www.gracelutheransaz.org/>
- Pastor Paul Horn, chairman of the Military Services Committee, has links to worship and Bible study on: <https://lambogodlafayette.com/>

### WELS European Chaplaincy

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### Comforter Ministry

Susanne Hanson, mother of Reid Hanson (Ramstein), oversees a quilt ministry of Christian love for women who have been diagnosed with cancer. Please contact her if you know of someone in that situation. Go to the web site: [www.comforterministry.com](http://www.comforterministry.com)

### Help Us Reach Many More

**WELS Military Services** uses referrals to maintain contact and offer spiritual resources to the men and women who are serving their country. It's estimated that more than 1,500 WELS members are in the U.S. military, at U.S. installations and overseas, though only about 20 percent of them are referred for ministry at this crucial time in life.

You can find more information on this at <https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/special-ministries/online-referral/>

If you know of any WELS people in Europe please let Pastor Hartwig know. They don't need to be in the military. Students, people working jobs here, retirees, all are welcome.