



# GOODNEWSletter

*Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Europe  
September 2009*

## He Controls the Wind

*Jesus saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed (Mark 6:48-51).*



It's not that hard to put ourselves in the disciples' place as they strained at the oars fighting against the wind, is it? They had been rowing hard since evening, and now it was in the morning hours just before sunrise. Their muscles were aching. They must have been exhausted, but they still hadn't managed to get across the lake. All that work with so little to show for it.

Here we are at the end of summer. For many of us, summers bring a little bit of rest and relaxation. It's time for vacations and family, home projects, and summer fun. But now that's over. Back to school and back to deadlines. How often doesn't it feel like we too are just straining against the oars, getting nowhere

because the wind is against us? We finish our daily lists of things to do, only to discover a whole new list for tomorrow. We finish one assignment and the teacher gives us another. We strain at the oars with the wind against us.

Now, we'll never know how long the disciples in that boat could have kept rowing or if they would have reached their destination on their own. They didn't have to. Jesus saw them hopelessly working and getting nowhere. He walked right across the water, comforted their fears, stepped into the boat, and the wind completely faded away. Jesus had the power to do the impossible and help his friends.

It reminds me of my faith. There I was in the middle of a stormy life, trying to "get things right" and always being knocked back by sin and temptation. Then Jesus came in his Word and in baptism, stepped into my life, and my sin just faded away. He removed it by his work and his love.

And that amazes me, just as it amazed the disciples. I may fight against the wind every day at work or at school, but I know that with God I've got smooth sailing. Smooth because Jesus has the miraculous power not just to control the

wind or walk on water, but also to save my soul.  
And that's completely amazing.

## September Schedule

*Northwood, England –  
Northwood Methodist Church*

October 4 \*  
Worship at 13:00  
Bible class at 14:00 with fellowship  
and meal to follow

**\*Please note that on September 6  
there will be no worship at  
Northwood Methodist Church. We  
have a worship service at the  
retreat.**

*Savior of the Nations Lutheran Church  
Wicker, Germany (Frankfurt Area) –  
At the Evangelische Gemeindehaus*

September 13 and 27  
Worship at 11:00  
Fellowship, Bible Class & Sunday  
School following the service

*Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany–  
At the Southside Chapel*

September 13 and 27  
Worship at 16:00  
Bible study, Sunday school and  
fellowship to follow

*Vilseck, Germany – Main Chapel on  
Vilseck Army Base*

Saturday, September 19  
Worship at 10:00  
Bible Study at 11:00  
Out to eat after the service

*Switzerland – The Bachmann or the  
Geissendoerfer Home*

Sunday, September 20- Location to  
be announced  
Worship at 11:00  
Fellowship to follow

## Drop Us a Line



If you have need of  
pastoral assistance  
or just want to talk,  
please contact us.  
Your e-mails, phone  
calls, & letters are  
welcomed.

Pastor Joshua and Katie Martin  
Im Holzweg 4a  
55288 Spiesheim  
Telephone: (+49) 6732-965-9813  
Handy: (+49) 172 615 2939  
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[www.welseurope.net](http://www.welseurope.net)

## England Retreat

It is finally time for the England retreat! We  
will be meeting from Friday, September 4, –  
Monday, September 7, 2009. The location  
is a beautiful countryside house called Dee  
Side House in the Yorkshire Dales which is  
approximately 4.5 hours northwest of  
London. All participants please note the  
following information regarding location,  
what to bring, and schedule. We look  
forward to this weekend of getting into the  
Word and getting together for fun and  
fellowship.

**Theme:** Building God's House

**Location:** Deeside House, Dent, North Yorkshire Dales, England

**Tentative Schedule:**

Friday 9/4-

4:30- start arriving

6-6:45 – Dinner

7- Opening Devotion with fellowship following

Saturday 9/5-

7:30- Breakfast

8:15 – Choir practice

9- Bible study and Sunday School

10- Break/games

11- Bible study and Sunday School

12-Lunch

2- Choir Practice/Free Time

6- Dinner/Free Time

Sunday 9/6

7:30 – Breakfast

9:30 – Worship with Holy Communion

10:30- Free time

Monday 9/7

7:30 – Breakfast

9- Bible class and Sunday school with closing devotion

10:30 – Depart for home

**Driving Directions:**

Directions from M6:

-At junction 34 of the M6, take the A683 exit 0.2 mi

-Turn left at A683 (signs for A683/Kirkby Lonsdale/Hornby/Caton/Bentham)

-Go through 1 roundabout 6.1 mi

-Slight right at B6480 3.9 mi

-Continue on Ravensclose Rd 0.2 mi

-Continue on Ravens Close Brow 2.6 mi

-Turn left at Bentham Rd 1.9 mi

-Turn right at A65/New Rd 0.1 mi

-Turn left at B6255/Croft Rd

-Continue to follow B6255 0.5 mi

-Turn right at B6255/High St

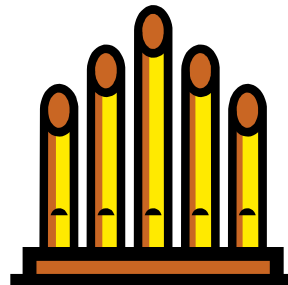
-Continue to follow B6255 9.6 mi

-Turn left 1.9 mi

-Dee Side House (formally the Dent Youth Hostel) is a big white building on the left hand side of the road (the road is unnamed on maps)

**Towels and linens are provided. Please bring your own Bibles and rain/hiking gear.**

**In case you get lost: You can reach Pastor Martin on his cell phone: +49 (0)172 615 2939**



## ***September Outing***

We will have another fellowship outing in September. The tentative plan is to meet at the Mainzer Dom at 11:45 on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. There is a half-hour organ and choir concert from 12-12:30 and then we would have lunch and (weather permitting) a stroll down the Rhine afterwards. The concert in the Dom is free. If anyone has any other ideas of something we can do together in Mainz after lunch, let Pastor Martin know.

## ***Prayer Chain***

*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened unto you. (Matthew 7:7)*

God in His Word encourages Christians to pray continually. It is an important gift that our loving God has given us in which we can communicate with him and he blesses us. As a Christian congregation that is spread out across an entire continent, we may often find it difficult to know what is going on in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ. In an effort to keep us united in prayer to our loving God, we are

beginning a prayer chain. Melinda Gribble has volunteered to help put this together on a weekly basis. At the beginning of each week, you will be sent an email asking if you have any special prayer requests for yourself or a loved one. At the end of the week, the prayer will be sent out to all members with email addresses. Please feel free to submit all prayer requests to Pastor Martin or directly to Melinda Gribble at [rmgribble@aol.com](mailto:rmgribble@aol.com). If you do not have an email address but would like to add a prayer request, please don't hesitate to call Pastor Martin directly.

### ***Our Gift of Thanks***

***"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above ... Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."*** (Colossians 3:1 – 2)

The amount of offerings gathered in Europe in the months of July and August was the equivalent of €4,062. Since the beginning of 2009, we have collected the equivalent of €21,645. Thanks for supporting the Lord's work in Europe!

### ***September Bible Readings***

Attached to this newsletter, you will find a calendar that contains Bible readings for each day of September as well as questions for each text. Please give Pastor Martin any feedback that you have on such a Bible study program or offer any suggestions on how the church can offer you more spiritual growth resources throughout the year.

### ***Fall Reformation Retreat 2009***

The location for the fall reformation retreat has been set. We will be getting together for our annual retreat the weekend of October 23-25 in Lindau, Germany. Lindau is a beautiful city on Lake Constance. The youth hostel is family friendly and is situated only 250 m from the lake shore and only a 15 minute walk from the picturesque old town. The web site for the youth hostel is [www.lindau.jugendherberge.de](http://www.lindau.jugendherberge.de).

If you have never attended a retreat before, we would love to have you join us. A retreat is a great opportunity for adults and children to grow spiritually. We spend the weekend enjoying Bible study, Sunday school, a joint worship service and plenty of fellowship time.

The rate is approximately € 60 per person and includes dinner Friday night, 3 meals on Saturday, and Sunday breakfast. Please contact Pastor Martin if the cost is a hardship for you as assistance is available.

Below is a tentative schedule. A registration form is attached to this newsletter. Please fill out and return to Pastor Martin as soon as possible. **The youth hostel needs our head count by September 1<sup>st</sup> – but there is still space available!**

#### **Friday, October 23**

Dinner at the Youth Hostel  
7- Opening devotion with fellowship to follow

#### **Saturday, October 24**

Breakfast  
Choir practice  
9- Bible study and Sunday school  
10 – Break  
11- Bible study/Sunday school  
Lunch at the Youth Hostel  
12:45 - Choir practice  
2 - Free time to explore the area  
Dinner at the Youth Hostel with fellowship to follow

#### **Sunday, October 25**

Breakfast at the Youth Hostel  
Check-out  
9:30– Worship service

Fall Retreat 2009  
Lindau, Germany  
October 23-25

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of all attending (including infants):  
Please also include the ages of children.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please check the days for which you will be present:

Friday: \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday: \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if there is an area in which you would be willing to serve. I would be willing to:

Teach older kids' Sunday School: \_\_\_\_\_

Teach younger kids' Sunday School: \_\_\_\_\_

Help with Music. I play the following instrument(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DUE DATE IS SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> !!**

## September 2009

		<p><b>1.</b> Lk 12:13-21 <b>Questions:</b> Of what does our life consist if not possessions? How do we become and remain rich toward God?</p>	<p><b>2.</b> Lk 12:22-26 <b>Questions:</b> In what ways has God shown that you are more valuable than the birds? How do Jesus's words help us defeat our worries?</p>	<p><b>3.</b> Lk 12:27-31 <b>Questions:</b> What is the treasure that is most important to you? What promise does Jesus give when we seek his kingdom?</p>	<p><b>4.</b> Lk 12:32-34 <b>Questions:</b> How are you part of a little flock? What does it mean to sell our possessions and give to the poor:?</p>	<p><b>5.</b> Lk 12:35-40 <b>Questions:</b> What are we waiting for as servants of Jesus? How do we remain ready? How do you "keep your lamps burning"?</p>
<p><b>6.</b> Lk 12: 41-46 <b>Questions:</b> What tasks has Jesus given you while you wait? How can you be a "faithful and wise manager" for him?</p>	<p><b>7.</b> Lk 12: 47-48 <b>Questions:</b> Why are those that have much required to do more? Why do some receive more blows than others?</p>	<p><b>8.</b> Lk 12:49-53 <b>Questions:</b> Why did Jesus say he did not bring peace? Has the example Jesus gives happened in your life or your experience?</p>	<p><b>9.</b> Lk 12:54-59 <b>Questions:</b> What was the crowd missing that prevented them from understanding their time? How do we escape God's judgment?</p>	<p><b>10.</b> Lk 13:1-9 <b>Questions:</b> What do you think "repent" means? If we don't produce fruits of faith what does Jesus threaten? How does Jesus encourage fruit?</p>	<p><b>11.</b> Lk 13:10-17 <b>Questions:</b> Why did Jesus tell call some "hypocrites"? What does this miracle tell us about Jesus?</p>	<p><b>12.</b> Lk 13:18-21 <b>Questions:</b> How does God's kingdom seem small but remain so big and important in your life, your future, and the world in which we live?</p>
<p><b>13.</b> Lk 13:22-30 <b>Questions:</b> Why would Jesus close the door on those with whom he ate and drank? How do we enter the narrow door?</p>	<p><b>14.</b> Lk 13:31-35 <b>Questions:</b> Why do you think Jesus was not worried about Herod? Why did Jerusalem refuse the love Jesus offered?</p>	<p><b>15.</b> Lk 14:1-6 <b>Questions:</b> Another miracle on the Sabbath! What was the tension between Jesus and the Pharisees? How did he defuse it?</p>	<p><b>16.</b> Lk 14:7-11 <b>Questions:</b> What lesson does Jesus teach in this parable? How can you put the point of the lesson into practice in your own life?</p>	<p><b>17.</b> Lk 14:12-14 <b>Questions:</b> What's the difference between kindness to friends and kindness to others? How can we demonstrate kindness to others?</p>	<p><b>18.</b> Lk 14:15-24 <b>Questions:</b> What excuses have you heard for refusing to come to Jesus? Have you used some of them? What are some blessings of his banquet?</p>	<p><b>19.</b> Lk 14:25-27 <b>Questions:</b> What cross does Jesus ask you to carry? Why is being a disciple of Jesus more important and valuable than even your own life?</p>
<p><b>20.</b> Lk 14:28-35 <b>Questions:</b> Is it really necessary to give up everything for Jesus? What do you think that means for you?</p>	<p><b>21.</b> Lk 15:1-7 <b>Questions:</b> What comfort do you find in God's love for sinners? How can you cause heaven to rejoice?</p>	<p><b>22.</b> Lk 15:8-10 <b>Questions:</b> What does this parable teach us? What does the parable tell us about God's desire to save the lost?</p>	<p><b>23.</b> Lk 15:11-24 <b>Questions:</b> How does the parable teach the meaning of repentance? What does it say about the love of God?</p>	<p><b>24.</b> Lk 15:25-32 <b>Questions:</b> What is wrong with the attitude of the older son? Do we resent "sinners" who repent? Why shouldn't we?</p>	<p><b>25.</b> Lk 16:1-12 <b>Questions:</b> How are unbelievers shrewder than believers? How can you use "worldly wealth"?</p>	<p><b>26.</b> Lk 16:13-18 <b>Questions:</b> How do we make money our god? What is highly valued by God but not in the eyes of men?</p>
<p><b>27.</b> Lk 16:19-31 <b>Questions:</b> How does this parable teach the same lesson as yesterday's reading? Why didn't God send the poor beggar back?</p>	<p><b>28.</b> Lk 17:1-2 <b>Questions:</b> What should happen to those who cause others to sin? How can we watch ourselves so we don't cause others to sin?</p>	<p><b>29.</b> Lk 17:3-6 <b>Questions:</b> Why should we listen when a believer tries to rebuke us? What limits should we place on your forgiveness? How can you increase your faith?</p>	<p><b>30.</b> Lk 17:7-10 <b>Questions:</b> Why are we unworthy servants even after we have done so much for our Lord? What lessons does the story teach us about our service to Jesus?</p>			

