

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

Finding "A Purpose Driven Life" — Almena Congregational Church

The most basic question everyone faces in life is, Why am I here? What is my purpose? Self-help books suggest that people should look within, at their own desires and dreams, but Rick Warren says the starting place must be with God and his eternal purposes for each life. Real meaning and significance comes from understanding and fulfilling God's purposes for putting us on earth.

Almena Congregational Church will engage in a six-week lecture series based on the book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, by Rick Warren. Sunday School lessons will follow the nationwide 40 Days of Purpose campaign and participants will read through the book through the course of the campaign.

The Purpose-Driven Life helps readers understand God's incredible plan for their lives. Warren enables them to see the big picture of what life is all about and begin to live the life God created them to live.

The Purpose-Driven Life is a manifesto for Christian living in the 21st century, a lifestyle based on eternal purposes, not cultural values. Using biblical stories and letting the Bible speak for itself, Warren clearly explains God's five purposes for each man:

Man was intended for God's pleasure, so the first purpose is to offer real worship.

Man was formed for God's family so the second purpose is to enjoy real fellowship.

Men were created to become like Christ, so the third purpose is to learn real discipleship.

Man is shaped for

serving God, so the fourth purpose is to practice real ministry.

Men were made for a mission, so the fifth purpose is to live out real evangelism.

This long anticipated book is the life-message of Rick Warren, founding pastor of Saddleback Church. Written in a captivity devotional style, the book is divided into 40 short chapters that can be

read as a daily devotional, studied by small groups, and used by churches participating in the nationwide 40 Days of Purpose campaign this Spring, 2004.

Pastor Kirk Kasson will preach using the following sermon titles at Almena Congregational Church, beginning the week of April 24 will be:

Week 1-What On Earth Am I Here For?

Week 2-You Were Planned For God's Pleasure

Week 3-You Were Formed For God's Family

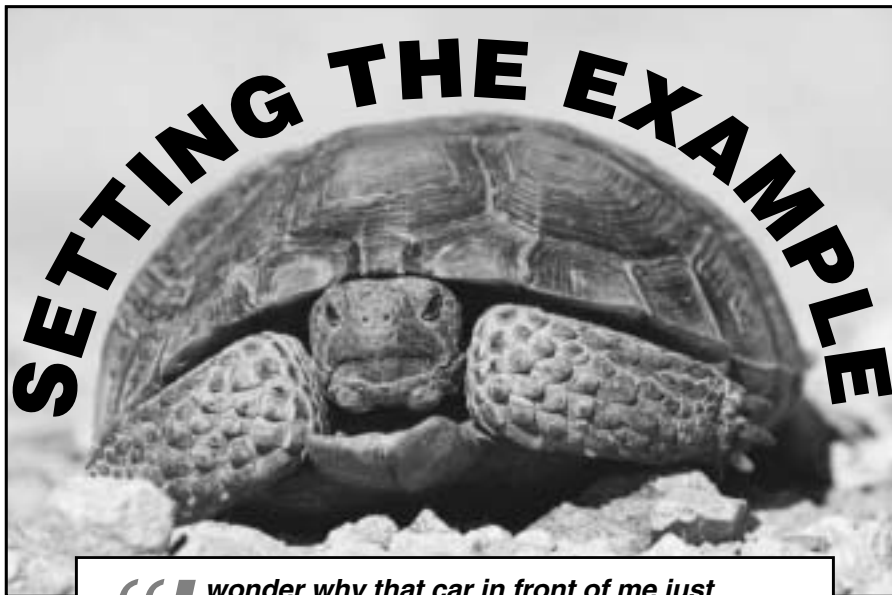
Week 4-You Were Created to Become Like Christ

Week 5-You Were Shaped For Serving God

Week 6-You Were Made For a Mission

The public is encouraged to attend and to participate. Sunday School for all ages is at 9:30 a.m., and worship services are at 10:30 a.m. Nursery care is provided for pre-school age children.

For more information, call the Almena Congregational Church at 669-2501, or go online to www.purposedrivenlife.com.



"I wonder why that car in front of me just swerved in the road. Let me see! Could there be something, oh, a turtle! I'm glad I didn't hit the poor little thing. I would have felt so sad."

In some instances a good example can make a great difference. As children, we learn by the example of those closest to us. As we grow, we live and interact with our peers according to those observations. Our future is already greatly influenced while we are still young children.

We read in John 13:15 and 13:34 as the Lord instructs, "For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you...love one another; even as I have loved you."

Wouldn't you like to ensure a better life for yourselves, your children, and the next generation? Titus 2:7 instructs "Show yourself in all respects a model of good deeds." You can begin setting the example now. Worship as a family this week.

SUNDAY
Galatians
3:1-18

MONDAY
Galatians
3:19-29

TUESDAY
Galatians
4:1-20

WEDNESDAY
Galatians
4:21-31

THURSDAY
Colossians
1:1-14

FRIDAY
Colossians
1:15-23

SATURDAY
Deuteronomy
7:1-11

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society

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PRAIRIE VIEW

By VIVIAN JANSONIUS

The Phillips County Historical Society, Inc., met April 6 at the home of Chet and Darlene Rumbaugh. Attending were Eva Marie Hansen, Virgil Whitsitt, Lyle Rose and Margaret Lemon, all of Phillipsburg; Lucille Hofaker of Logan; and Vivian Jansonius of Prairie View. A report on progress at Fort Bissell Museum was given by Ms. Hansen.

Jeff and Nicki Nesvara of North Platte, Neb., are visiting at the home of her parents, Bill and Diana Greving.

Priscilla Van Der Weele, a student at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, spent Easter vacation at the home of her parents, the Rev. Jeffrey and Linda Van Der Weele and Philip.

Beau Van Loenen who attends Kansas State University, Manhattan, spent Easter vacation with his parents, Rodger and Shirley Van Loenen, Lee and Shaley.

Jill Erickson of Orange City, came to spend Easter with her parents, Keith and Delores Erickson.

John and Sallie Jansonius, Jordan Kreller, Fairie Gaines and

Opal Philbrick all of Phillipsburg and Vivian Jansonius of Prairie View, shared Easter dinner at the Pizza Hut in Phillipsburg. Later they visited at the home of Ms. Philbrick.

Burdett and Belva Leydig hosted a carry-in dinner on Easter Sunday at the Prairie View Senior/Community Center in Prairie View. Attending were: Gene, Tammy, Sydney and Collin Tillotson; Mike, Lisa, Courtney and Megan Leydig; Brandon Jacques and Betty Wieck of Kearney; Harley Jerby, Logan Tom and Lela Morgan; Carl Dennis and Jacob McClelland, Glade; Brian and Brenda Chance; Alice Chance; Curtis Chance; Gladys Pfost all of Phillipsburg; Jeff, Diana, Lexi and D.J. Gross of McCook; Gail and Doreen Harbers; Bob and Donna McClelland of Almena; Rhonda and Blake Jacques, Norton; McKenzie Becker, Plainville; and Darline Brown of Prairie View.

Coming later for the Easter egg hunt were Eric, Susan, Malorie, Kyle and Macey Witmer.

NORCATUR NEWS

By NORCATUR NEWS VOLUNTEERS

Birthdays and anniversaries: Frank and Velda Ward - April 14; Brad and Shanna Long - April 16; Laurie Milnes, Claire and Mary Leslie - April 18; Anthony Marshall - April 19.

Marguerite Clark was a guest of the LaVerne Rippe family for a wonderful Easter dinner. Gregg and Ryan won the egg toss contest; Colleen was the first victim. Of course, the women won the egg hunt. Allison, 1 1/2-year-old daughter of Gail and Janet, won everyone's heart.

Easter weekend visitors at Carrel and Alice Barnett's place were news anchors and reporters from the NTV (Nebraska Television Network) station out of Kearney, Neb. They were: Marylyn Barnett, their daughter, a news reporter; Sean Biledeau, Omaha, a news and sports reporter, Julie Hong, Denver, a news anchor; Max Thackeray, Louisville, Ky., camera crew, and Jarad Geadke, Wellsfleet, Neb., also from the camera crew. This was not a business visit, so all equipment, except disposable Kodak cameras, had been left at the station. Their first stop was the County Line Café for an oversize hamburger. Jenna, café greeter, enjoyed their new faces. Saturday afternoon and evening were spent enjoying the farm—cows, open spaces, and 4-wheeler and motorcycle riding. Sunday morning all attended Easter church services in Norcatatur, except Max, who is a late sleeper. Bob and Kay Strevey joined the group for Easter dinner. The crew's goal was to see calves being worked, and that took place after dinner. Things went "normal", as Julie only missed one with the herd gate. On their way back to Kearney Sunday evening, Marylyn hit a deer and disabled her car. This was a real "low" end to their weekend, but everyone was okay. There really are angels.

The third annual Decatur County Relay for Life (American Cancer Society) will be held June 18-19. We are trying to get teams together to walk. Also, we are selling luminaries. Luminaries are \$10, and can be bought in memory or in honor of someone. Contact person is Chris Dempewolf.

A couple of girls' names were left out of the Decatur Community High School ensemble list in last week's news. Justine Miller and Kelsey Gallentine are members of Chanté, and Justine is a member of the women's ensemble. Both of these ensembles received Iratings.

R.D. Thornton, Dean Thornton, Stan and Carol Miller and Chris Dempewolf attended funeral services for Cody Shephard in Phillipsburg on Friday. Cody is R.D. and Dean's aunt, the late Orval Thornton's sister. Sharee Dempewolf was a weekend guest of Ralph and Lynn Streit and boys in Larned. On her way to Larned, Sharee stopped and visited with Laci Leichliter and Jen and Bryce Thornton.

Easter supper guests at Marian Dempewolf's were: Doug, Chris, Sharee and M.J. Dempewolf; Dave, Patty, Kaitlyn and Sam Stapp; Amber Dempewolf, Bob Dempewolf and Rose, and Dave and Linda Schliep.

Judy Menges sent word that Velma Rogers of Colby remains in Citizens Medical Center there. Some days she feels pretty good, sometimes fair. She would enjoy hearing from friends.

Rodney and Lisa Leichliter, Siebert, Colo., were guests of Lora Linn Leichliter over Easter weekend. They visited with Lisa's dad, R.D. Thornton, and other family, too. Granddaughter Laci Leichliter, Hays, came late Saturday evening and spent Sunday, also. Lora Linn, Rodney and Lisa, and grandparents Dorothy and Kenneth Ward had dinner at the County Line Café that Saturday evening.

Dorothy and Kenneth Ward drove to Colby after church on Easter Sunday, where they met the Mark Ward family, from Hugo, Colo. They enjoyed lunch together and visited, after which everyone returned to their homes.

NORTON MANOR

By DORIS MIZELL

Mr. and Mrs. Arval Cogdill and son James and daughter Shania of Little Rock, Ark., and Opal Cogdill of Goodland were Monday afternoon visitors of Marie Engelhardt. Opal is Marie's sister and Arval's mother. Marie served apple pie and ice cream.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Klee of Baltimore, were recent guests of her parents Mr. and Mrs. Sam Manning and other relatives. They were Thursday luncheon guests of their aunt Claudia Bridges.

The Silver and Gold dinner was held at the Manor on Tuesday. After the dinner, Ann Gallentine of Clayton brought some of her knitting projects to show and tell about. Doris Mizell was unable to attend as she was helping on the election board.

Julia Cutting went to Hays

Wednesday to visit her daughter Gladys (Liz) Wilkins at the hospital. She went with her daughter, Lea Adams.

Sunday Mary Keith had a pre-Easter dinner for family. Present were Linda and Ed Keith and Tegan Schmidt, Diana and Bill Greving, Colby and Cher Greving and family, Ryan and Karman Keith, and Josephine and Jo Murphy. Ed Keith visited Wednesday with Mary Keith.

On Monday Doris Mizell had the help of her daughters Roberta McAllister, Clayton; Patty Foster, Jennings; and Connie Lillich, Atwood to get ready for the new counter tops and sinks that are being put in. As it was also her birthday they took her out to lunch at the Chinese restaurant where they were joined by Ray and Ruth Mizell.