

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"His Name is Jesus", By Rick Rostek, Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church

The angel said to Joseph, "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21).

The name Jesus comes from a Hebrew word that means, "He saves." Jesus saves people from their sins. This, of

course, means that our sins must do something that requires us to be saved. This is indeed the case. God's code of conduct, the Ten Commandments, describes how we are to relate to God and to each other. While it may be self-evident to many that we are to worship the One True God and no others, history proves that there are many "gods" in this world. Whether money, political power, false religions, etc., these "gods" compete for our attention and worship and many fall into their traps.

We may also agree that lying, stealing, and murdering are wrong. But "little white lies" are rather popular. The Scriptures equate anger and hatred with murder. Thus we see that the commandments are more than just outward acts, they are matters of the heart and attitude. Not only are we susceptible to such sins,

ONE LITTLE SNOWFLAKE...



"Look, Dad and Mom... a snowflake! Can we ride our sled? Just wait, Mark and Meghan, let's see how many snowflakes come down. Just a few may melt, but if it continues to snow, they will stick together and the snow will become deeper and form a stronger surface for your sled. Maybe we can make a snowman, too." It takes millions of snowflakes to make enough snow to play in.

We have often heard that "there is strength in numbers". As this applies to snowflakes, it also applies to us, God's children. "From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." [Ephesians 4:16]

Yes, when we worship God as a group or a congregation, we grow in strength. This increases our ability to perform a variety of functions to help others as we glorify Him. In the words of Andrew Marvell...

*"Let us roll all our strength and all
Our sweetness up into one ball,
And tear our pleasures with rough strife
Through the iron gates of life."*

Many together can accomplish more than one person alone. Won't you worship with your friends and neighbors at your local church or synagogue this Sabbath?

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Colossians 1:15-23	Colossians 1:24 - 2:5	Colossians 2:6-23	Colossians 3:1-17	Matthew 2:1-15	Matthew 2:16-23	Matthew 4:12-25

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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we often commit them. Yet, God demands perfect obedience and promises eternal condemnation for those who violate his commands. Thus, we need to be saved, because we can't save ourselves. Jesus saves his people from their sins. His name says what he does. His people are those who believe that what Jesus does will indeed save them from their sins. And what Jesus does is incredibly profound. This Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, would grow up to suffer death on our behalf, as a perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world — your sins and my sins. By faith in what he has done, Jesus promises forgiveness and eternal life.

Salvation is the true message of Christmas. Jesus comes into the world in order to save! Therefore, salvation is what is offered at Christmas. Christmas is much more than a tender story of a miraculous birth. The first Christmas marked the coming of salvation into the world, for there is no other name in heaven or on earth by which we are saved. We are saved by Jesus, just as his name says. Believe that, and you will have eternal life.

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NORCATUR NEWS

By NORCATUR NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

L. Edward Temple Jr. writes that he and Fu Sing plan to come back to the area during the Memorial Day holiday in 2005. He hopes to see many friends and relatives at that time, and looks forward to the Norcat Rural High School reunion.

The first pool tournament held at the Cardinal Bar and Grill was a big hit. First place went to Norcat's own "Minnesota Fats", R.D. Thornton; second place went to Keith Alstrom, Oberlin; and third place to Melanie Kier, Clayton. The next tournament will be held Monday, Jan. 10, at 7 p.m. Future tournaments will be the second Monday of each month.

Christmas was celebrated early, on Dec. 18 and 19, at Holcomb for the Wayne McCallisters. They visited Rob and Dodie McCallister, Matt McCallister and Scott Nading of Holcomb. Mike McCallister of Hays; Cindy, Clayton and Emily Braun of Mungler; and Mildred Schwab of Norton were also present.

ALUMNI BANQUET 2005

The Norcat Rural High School Alumni Banquet will be held Saturday, May 28, 2005. All alumni, spouses of deceased alumni, and attendees are invited, including anybody that attended the grade school or high school. A dance will follow the banquet.

Contact Von Johnson, treasurer of the Norcat Alumni Association, at 117 West Legend Drive, Pueblo West, Colo., 81007-1714, for your tickets. Tickets will need to be purchased by May 1, 2005, so the caterers will know how much food to prepare.

Katherine Sevens, Norton, sent in a poem that was printed in the *Norcat News*. She sent copies of the poem to families who have loved ones that won't be home for Christmas, and they really appreciated it. She has also written a gospel song, "Glory to God," and sent it to a production company in Nashville. They accepted it, and it will be published in a gospel album that will be out around Christmas.

Birthdays and anniversaries: Jim Bob Beachel, Frank Ward, Sandy Gade, Carissa Wentz - Dec. 22; Ronald Anderson - Dec. 25; Fred Molzahn, Lynn Ward - Dec. 26; Bill and Bee Nelson - Dec. 28; Beth Sebaugh, Galen and Jamie

Wentz - Dec. 31; Darrel Barnett, Megan Wentz - Jan. 2; Chris Dempewolf, Jeff and Lorie Roe - Jan. 3.

A New Year's Eve party will be held Friday, Dec. 31, at the Cardinal Bar and Grill, beginning at 6 p.m., featuring an all-you-can-eat bull fry and glazed ham with old-fashioned baked beans and potato salad.

Senior Citizens met Friday, Dec. 17, with thirteen members in attendance. Winners were Clent Hatfield, June Joly and Esther Miller. Next meeting will be Friday, Dec. 31, with a potluck supper at the Educational Building at 6 p.m. Cards will follow at 7 p.m.

On Wednesday, Dec. 15, Oran and LaVerne Milner drove to Phillipsburg where they met Bob and Beanie Fiser of Belleville at the Branding Iron for lunch. They enjoyed a couple of hours of visiting before leaving for their homes.

Bee Nelson and Gwynn Ward of Clayton, and Joy and Sam Chapman of Liberty, Mo., flew from Kansas City, Mo., to Long Beach, Calif., on Wednesday, Dec. 15. They attended the funeral there of a first cousin, Aloha (Deimer) Reese, held on Thursday, Dec. 16. The weather was beautiful in California, although the plane ride back to Kansas City on Dec. 18 was slightly behind schedule and the air was a little rough.

Exhibitors in a display of rug hooking at the Norton Library include Betsy Jakowski, Norcat; Carolyn Burtis, Oberlin; and Mary Ewing, Cedar Bluffs.

The Norcat Christmas Drawing was held on Dec. 18, with 55 families attending. The winner of the Pre-school giveaway basket was Beth Sebaugh, and Matthew Helm won the custom wood furniture giveaway. Virgil and Joyce Price won the lighting contest in Norcat, with Jim and Carolyn Plotts receiving second place, and third going to Tad and Rebecca Hartsough.

Esther Miller had Monday Bridge Club at her home Dec. 13.

Virgil and Joyce Price took Kenneth to Hays on Friday, Dec. 17, for a checkup with his surgeon. He had some fluid removed from his lower lung caused by the cold he came home with. Everything else checked out okay.

The *Norcat News* will not be published again until Tuesday, Jan. 4.

PRAIRIE VIEW

By VIVIAN JANSONIUS

Several attended the carry-in dinner Dec. 15 at the Prairie View Senior Citizen/Community Center. They were: Charlie Schwindamann, Seneca; Marvin and June Harbers, Stanley and Maxine Harbers, Glen and Linda Hultgren, Wilmer and Marie Hogan, Burdett and Belva Leydig, Rodney Jansonius, JoAnn Rupke, Vivian Jansonius, Julianna Lasniewski, Hazel Jansonius, Goldie Barker, Harlan Van De Wege, Gertrude Erickson and Erma Jean Nyland, Prairie View; John and Darren Hoffman, Logan.

The Gleaner's Circle of the Prairie View Reformed Church met Dec. 16 at the home of Linda Van Der Weele. Darline Brown con-

ducted the meeting. Eight members answered roll call. Mrs. Brown, Goldie Barker and Vivian Jansonius presented a program called, "Christmas Is". The Rev. Jeffrey Van Der Weele sang a Christmas song. Later, members revealed their Secret Pals and had a gift exchange. Names were drawn for next year's Secret Pals. Others attending were Wauneta Schemper, Long Island; Julianna Lasniewski, Linda Hultgren and Hazel Jansonius.

Priscilla Van Der Weele, a college student in Salina, is spending the Christmas holidays at the home of her parents, the Rev. Jeffrey and Linda Van Der Weele and Philip.

ALMENA NEWS

By ESTHER MARBLE

Christmas Day dinner guests at the home of Grace Reeves were Bill Eckhart, Norton; David Eckhart and Jennie Danne of Kansas City; Rose Eckhart, Hill City and Aaron and Christy Taylor and children, Brett, Hailey and Andrew of Grainfield. They all enjoyed the cooperative meal, gifts and fun on a beautiful day. They all spent the evening at the home of Rose Eckhart. Grace Reeves stayed at home to rest. They had a visit in the evening via telephone from nieces March Hall and Leslie Bell, Austin, Texas.

Bud, Lila and Dan Engelhardt and Ailene Houghton drove to Holdrege, Neb., to the home of Laverne and Carlene Schemper on Christmas Day. Those attending were Ben and Julie Sharp and new

baby Alyssa Linn of Sioux City, Iowa; Jamie Schemper and Janel Schemper, Jared and Dawn Schemper with their children, Sierra, Samantha and 11 day old Sebrina, and Lonnie Schemper, all from Holdrege. A bountiful dinner was had by all. Ailene Houghton returned to her home in Almena.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Dole picked Laverne Shields up Christmas day and spent the day with Karen Washburn and son, Ryan.

The day after Christmas, Dan Engelhardt and Tracy visited with Bud and Lila Engelhardt. Gifts were exchanged. Dale and Zachery Stiffler of Meriden, and Jeff Lambeth of Las Vegas are here this week to hunt pheasants with Blaine, Chance and Bryce Marble.



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