# Life needs hope

Rev. John Schmidt

Trinity Lutheran Church

As we are moving ever closer to the Christmas celebration, I would like to have you consider what make us "go" as Christians.

Life gives us many learning opportunities. For example, I have owned over 130 automobiles in my life and have a life-long addiction the boxes of transportation we call automobiles. From lowly VW Bugs (my first car) to beautiful Mercedes-Benz sedans — at one time or the other, I have pretty well dabbled in them all.

From this lifetime addiction to the automobile, I have learned two things. First of all, I should have joined Automobiles Anonymous years ago. Second and more importantly, is that all of the cars I have owned require some sort of fuel to work.

It seems to me some of the best lessons given to us in Holy Scripture really come to fruition in our hearts when they are reinforced by the truth hitting us in our life experiences. Taking this thought to our text makes us ask the question, "What is the fuel of our faith? What keeps us going when the going gets tough?'

What kept Stephen looking to Heaven when he was being stoned to death? What kept Richard Wurmbrand alive while he was tortured for Christ for 14 years in Communist Rumania? What kept his confession of Christ strong in the face of the execution of his children for his refusal to deny Christ? What keeps our brothers and sisters in the faith in countries where they are literally persecuted by the sword for their faithfulness? Why are we anticipating the Good News of the Child of Bethlehem when many in the world mock or ignore Him? What keeps us going, anyway?

Anyone over the age of 2 or 3 knows that life is not always simple, nor is it easy. So again I ask, "What keeps us going as Christians?" The same thing that kept my 130 plus automobiles going: fuel.

And what is that fuel that keeps us going as Christians? Hope. Hope. Hope.

Like our car's fuel tanks, some days our hope gauge reads nearly empty, and some days it is full to the top. But consider this: the gauge on our personal "hope tank" brings

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us the exact same lesson. Like our cars, we need to be filled up on a regular basis or we run out gas, if you will.

A couple of Sundays ago in our Bible class, the question of hope came up. I shared a memory I have of the first pastor under whom I seriously studied theology. We were considering the eternal options of Heaven and Hell. Discussion was spirited, and I am sure you can imagine some of the remarks that were shared. And then the pastor stopped and said, "Hell is the absence of all

Think about it. Life needs hope. It can come from some interesting places. For example, Tide laundry detergent has a project called Hope it is providing laundry services to hurricane victims. The TV series "Mars Rising" points to hope that there may be evidence of life on other planets. But all this is worldly

Let's think about it again. When people attempt to destroy each other, it all centers on hope. If the enemy's hope can be crushed, defeat is but a moment away. If our hope can be focused, it gives power and purpose to life. Hope is what gives us a reason to live. Hope is the fuel of our Christian life and walk.

The good news, the hope, is that we will soon celebrate the first advent of our Lord. His coming gives us hope. His promised second coming also gives us hope. And the further reality is that all we do, say or think as Christians is fueled by this hope that is within us.

If you own a car, you have to know where to find the gas station. As Christians, we have to know where our gas station is as well. It is in God's Word to us.

St. Paul writes in Romans 15:4 "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

Have what? Hope!

This hope is not simply a cockeyed optimism about life. Life is real, and it is difficult. Hope is much more. Hope connects us to a greater reality. You see, hope takes an object. The Psalmist says in Psalm 39: "And now, O Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in you." That object is Christ. Have a blessed and hopeful Christmas!

## Evidence claims widespread religious freedom violations

freedom foundation has uncovered evidence it says bolsters its federal permitting widespread violations and Fort Jackson, S.C. Examples at of religious freedom at installations across the country, including Fort Riley.

Hall and the Military Religious Freddy J. Welborn and Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

The evidence disclosed Tuesday shows the book "A Politically

TOPEKA (AP) — A religious includes several photos and videos Incorrect Guide to Islam" for sale massive constitutional violations of religious materials and activities at Fort Riley, the Air Force Acadlawsuit claiming that the military is emy in Colorado Springs, Colo., Fort Riley, where Hall is stationed, included a display outside his military police battalion's office The evidence is part of a law- with a quote from conservative suit filed by Army Spc. Jeremy columnist Ann Coulter saying, "We should invade their countries, Freedom Foundation against Maj. kill their leaders and convert them to Christianity.'

Another photo from Fort Riley

at the post exchange.

"These astonishing and saddening evidence which our foundation is making public today only further buttress our lawsuit filed in federal district court," said Mike Weinstein, an attorney in Albuquerque, N.M., and president of the foundation who graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1977.

"The theme of that lawsuit, which we will show the federal judiciary, is a pernicious and pervasive pattern and practice of

by the U.S. military command structure of the most basic constitutional religious freedoms guaranteed to our honorable and noble sailors, soldiers, Marines and airmen," Weinstein said.

Fort Riley spokesman Maj. Nathan Bond said the matter was being referred to post commanders for investigation. He said it is the Army's policy to accommodate all religious beliefs to the extent they don't conflict with military missions.

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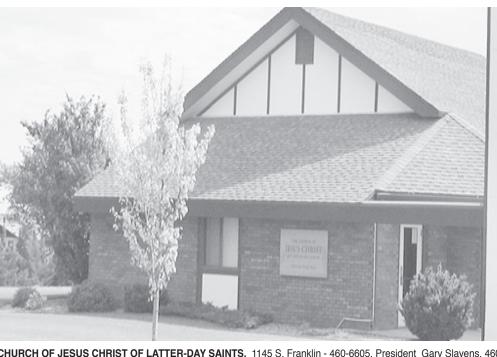
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CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 460-2656; Rocky Robbins, 1st counselor, 460-1101; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History

### Schedule of church services

**COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH, 730 E.** Third (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September

**COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD,** 

Pastor, Jeremy Gundling, 245 W. College Dr. - 462-8234, Early Service - 8:00 a.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 460-2763, www.colbyberean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle & High School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Heartland Christian School Gym

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Carroll H. Morony, Pastor, 615 W. Webster, 462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday evening: 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.; RC Club: 2nd & 4th

COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, Pastor Tom Huffman, 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services,

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Chris Shubert. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Worship, 9:00 a.m.; Adult Sunday school, following worship.; Sept. thru May: Kid's Club for kids age 3-5th grade meets first Wednesday of the month from 5:15-6:45 p.m.; Youth Group for 6th-9th grade meets the first Wednesday of the month 6:30-8:00 p.m., and the second Wednesday 7:00-8:00 p.m.

WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 460-2656; Rocky Robbins, 1st counselor, 460-1101; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 462-3571

**COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James** Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org

REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC., 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 10a.m., Sunday worship, 11a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 5 p.m. Shop online at: http://www.cafepress.com/imakers

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 510 E. 4th, Jay Kelley, minister, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Eve. Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH. (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Bradley L. Herndon, 385 W. 3rd - 460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 11:15 a.m. E-mail: fcccolbv@st-tel.net

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rev. John L. Schmidt, East 5th & Country Club, 462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at www. trinitycolby.com

**OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, Brewster, Sunday** worship 9:00 a.m.: 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Charlie Busch, 694-2242, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Evening service, 6:00 p.m.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15

BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250. Brewster, Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Joan Dingwerth. Director. 687-2565

REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/ Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

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