

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily



WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Stuck in the Mud"

By The Rev. Lew Van Der Wege, First United Methodist Church, Norton

I used to live in the country not too far off of a main highway. There was a good gravel road from our house to the highway that was impervious to rain and snow. However, the road going in the other direction as one turned out the driveway was dirt with no added surface material. This road was seldom traveled by anyone in good weather and only the foolish chose to plow down it after a rain.

I'm not sure why I chose that route one November day. I had a four-wheel-drive. I guess I wanted to try it out. I just wanted to do something exciting, something stimulating, something not everybody could or would do. There had been a slow, soaking rain for two days before it changed to snow. Even so, my knobby mud grips took me grinding down that road motor roaring, mud flying and grinning from ear to ear. Those who loved me stood looking out the window in amazement wondering why any seemingly intelligent human being would make such a choice.

A half of a mile down this road there was a fairly steep hill with a draw at the bottom. The draw was usually dry and only ran water when it rained but with the two-day soaker it had turned into a gushing river. When I topped the hill and saw it I should have stopped. But then, being at the top of that hill in the first place can probably explain my next decision. Reasoning that full-throttle had got me this far, I decided I needed to hit it hard and hope for the best. The engine roared, the old pickup fishtailed, mud flew and down the hill I went grinning from ear to ear.

Looking back, I'm really glad that I didn't make it completely to the bottom of the hill. I would

probably have drowned in the muddy waters of a dry-creek. Instead, my front wheel caught in the deep mud of the worked field on the right side of the road. Once caught in the deep, sticky clay the pickup was steadily pulled out into the field without regard for my wild turning of the steering wheel nor my articulate verbal response to the situation.

If I would have stopped there, things might have been more easily corrected. But, reasoning that full-throttle had brought me this far, I decided that the only way out of this miry bog was full speed ahead. You bet, engine roaring, and mud flying I went ripping out through that field grinning from ear to ear.

I stopped, not by choice but because the old pickup wouldn't

go another inch. I raced my motor and spun my wheels in one place until the pickup was overheated and sitting high-centered in the middle of that field, steam rolling out from under the hood with a foot of soft mud beneath and a foot of wet snow all around.

The certain demand for an explanation of my behavior really hadn't been a part of my mental processes until now. "Whose field is this anyway?" I believe there's wheat planted here!" "Sure is getting colder." And, it did get colder. So cold that it eventually froze the old pickup down into that mud like a big fly caught in super flypaper.

One thing was for certain. Nobody was going to come driving by. So, I started walking through the mud (lost my shoe) back home. The hope I had, as I pondered different scenarios, was that I could find some way to pull the pickup out before anyone found out what had happened. It didn't work that way. In fact, it was three weeks before I retrieved my wheels.

Some people couldn't understand how I ended up where I did that day and either scorned my stupidity or offered a smirky little laugh at my expense. But there were others who seemed to understand my blunder fairly well. A couple of the later helped me get the old pickup out after things dried up some.

I learned a lot that day. I learned even more everyday that I had to look at that pickup mired down in my neighbor's wheat field. I never did that again. I saw a young man the other day in a four-wheel-drive. I could tell by the look on his face that he was bound to get stuck in the mud. I wonder if I told him, would he understand? I guess I can always help him pull it out.

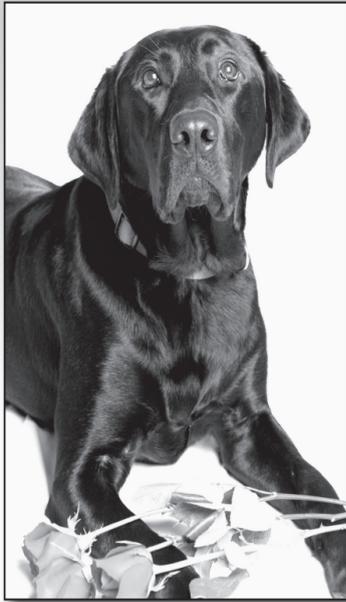
Love is an Action

Isn't it wonderful that love is limitless! It seems that the more we give, the more we are able to give.

1 John 4:8 tells us, "God is love." This is the way God manifests Himself on earth. Because God's love for us is boundless, our love for others can be abundant. When we learn to love unconditionally, our heart becomes full of joy, for then God dwells within our soul.

If we love those whose lives we touch each day, they will know love and they will pass it on. Love has a way of ever increasing. Once the cycle begins, it will continue, spilling endlessly on our lives like sunlight from the sky.

Give yourself a valentine this year. Worship God each week. You will learn to give love...and you will receive love that knows no bounds.



Sunday Matthew 4:1-11	Monday Psalm 91	Tuesday Psalm 102	Wednesday Psalm 106	Thursday Psalm 108	Friday Psalm 116	Saturday Psalm 121
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Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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LYLE NEWS

By VEDA WOOD

Everyone noticed that last week's paper was a day late because of blowing and drifting snow on Tuesday. It was a good day to stay inside, although many workers can't. It reminded me of days on the farm, when it seemed that the worse the weather, the more we had to be out chasing cows, fixing fence, etc. Br-r-r-r-r.

Kathy Van Meter attended the Special Olympics basketball game on Feb. 4 to watch her niece, Janie Engleman, Atwood, play. She also visited Eileen Laird at Cedar Living Center.

Thursday morning, June Jolly called and asked, "Do you want to go to Norton for pancakes?"

It sounded good to me, so in a little while Rhonda Jolly, June, Toots Magers and Kathy Van Meter came by and we went to the Chris Cakes Customer Appreciation breakfast. The meal was sponsored by several Norton businesses.

Norcatur's Senior Citizens met Feb. 8 as it had been postponed

from last week. It was attended by people from Lyle, Norton and Clayton as well as Norcatur. The more the merrier.

Friday was my sister, Bonnie Klein's birthday. I called and talked to her and nieces, Dena and Shelly in Cocoa, Fla.

John Paulson, Oberlin, brought a very good message to the Lyle Church congregation on Feb. 10. We are so glad to have him bring us the word. After church, someone remembered it was June Jolly's birthday, so we got to sing, "Happy Birthday" to her.

Gary and Cathy Anthony went to Kearney, Neb., to celebrate Cathy's birthday.

Dixie Wood called to say her husband, Elvin Wood, was air lifted to a hospital in Tulsa, Okla., where the doctors said he had had a heart attack. He is better and she promises to keep in touch. He will be in our prayers.

Tracey Pershing, Douglas, Wyo., daughter of Carol Moye, Oberlin, brought her daughter, Brooke Glosser for a week's visit.

Have a story idea? Call 877-3361 and let us know ... we'd love to hear about it!

•PUBLIC NOTICE•

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES AND INDEBTEDNESS FOR ALMENA

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, February 15, 2008. (17)

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES AND INDEBTEDNESS

of Almena Township, Norton County, Kansas

for the year ending December 31, 2007

	General Fund	Road Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund
Total RECEIPTS	7,538.89				
Total EXPENDITURES	6,137.96				
Total INDEBTEDNESS	0				

Detailed Statement of such receipts, expenditures and liabilities is available for public inspection at the county clerk's office.

I Do Solemnly Swear, that the foregoing is a summary of all moneys received by me and expended together with the indebtedness of said Township, during the year ending December 31, A.D. 2007. So help me God.

Signed: *L. Roy Swade*
Township Treasurer

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5 day of Jan, A.D. 2008

Peggy Davis
Township Trustee

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<p>Felton's Ace Building Center "For All Your Building Needs" -Home Owned and Operated- Joe and Janet Felton 415 E. Holme - 877-3070 - Norton</p>	<p>Engel's Sales & Service Complete Auto Repair Small Engines & Lawn Care Equip. Toro * Lawnboy * Stihl Chain Saws 209 W. Lincoln - 877-3391 - Norton</p>	<p>Bridges Group Inc. "Serving the Norton Area Since 1894" 117 N. Kansas * Norton, Kan. 785-877-4016</p>
<p>Moffet Drug Store "Prescription Specialists" Hallmark Cards and Russell Stover Candies 102 S. State - 877-2721 - Norton</p>	<p>Whitney Construction and Farms Dry Fertilizer Sales and Applications Terracing • Dozer Work • Ponds Route 1 - 877-3745 - Norton</p>	<p>Nelson Bros. Construction, Inc. <i>Gen. Contractors * Butler Bldg. Equipment Rental</i> Route 3 - 877-2554 - Norton</p>
<p>Ag Valley Co-operative <i>Elevator-Service Station</i> 877-5131 or 877-5188 - Norton 693-4522 - Clayton Branch</p>	<p>Sander Furniture & Gifts Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. <i>Bradley and Kim Sander</i> 301 W. Holme • 874-4974</p>	<p>First State Bank "Your Progressive Community Bank" Member FDIC 105 W. Main - 877-3341 - Norton</p>
<p>Norton Shop & Save "Your Local Affiliated Full Service Grocer" 313 W. Main • Norton, Kan. 785-877-2422</p>		<p>Norton Telegram <i>Your Local Newspaper</i> 215 S. Kansas • Norton, Kan. 785-877-3361</p>
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<p>American Family Insurance <i>Curt Wahlmeier, Agent</i> Auto * Home * Health * Life * Commercial "All Your Protection Under One Roof" 111 W. Washington • 877-5802</p>	<p>Don's Floor Covering <i>Residential & Commercial</i> Carpet * Sheet Vinyl * Tile Levolor Blinds * Panasonic Vacuums 113 W. Washington - Norton 877-3002 - Don Kaus - FREE Estimates</p>	<p>Countryside Veterinary Clinic of Oberlin, P.A. N. Hwy. 83, Oberlin, KS (North of Sale Barn) 785-475-3808 • 1-800-953-3808 Mark R. Olson, D.V.M. • Travis A. Hissong, D.V.M. 24-Hour Emergency Service</p>

VICTORIOUSLY LIVING OVER THE FLESH

UNDERSTANDING MORTIFICATION

Romans 8:13 says, "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall die." (King James)

Mortification is the special ministry that enables the child of God to overcome those evil desires that could destroy the Christian's relationship with the Lord: Jesus gives a clear teaching that will pave the way of putting to death the sinful nature. He said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness." (Matthew 6:22-23)

There is such a simple truth here that is so powerful and yet many walk blindly to it. Corporations spend millions of dollars on advertising because of the principle Jesus is talking about here. They know what goes in the eyes and ears will have an effect on the human heart and thus goes his life. Movie theaters have promotional ads come up before the movie pointing people's attention to the snack bar. They know once it goes through the eyes and supported with the right music it will have their desired effect on their victims causing pop and candy sales to go up. The snack bar is right in front of you when you walk in to catch the attention of the eye.

The Christian who walks in victory over lust of the flesh is the one who does not feed it through the eyes and ears. He does not feed himself pornography, watch TV commercials, or pay much attention to ads that use sex to sell products. The one who walks in victory over the sin full nature is the one who does not feed it. He overcomes improper language because he does not feed that sin by what he watches or reads. The Christian who lives in victory over bitterness, worldliness, and the pride of life is one who does not feed those sins by what he allows to influence his life.

Every moment of the day we are feeding. What we feed on will grow in our minds and hearts. That is what is going to flow out of our lives. Just as our bodies reflect what and how much we eat, our lives will reflect what we feed the mind, spirit and soul.

What are feeding Yourself?

CrossRoads Church, 313 W. Lincoln, Norton, KS (785) 877-2416
www.standatthecrossroads.com - e-mail crossroads@uraltel.net