

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE



"The Time to Work Together is Now"

By Rev. Lyn Linde, Norton First United Methodist Church

Faith in God is supposed to bring new life, peace, understanding, and healing to creation. So why does it so often seem to bring the opposite? Why does faith in God so often lead to division and hatred? Why has the church, for most of its existence, been a battleground for nasty fights and bitter quarrels?

There was originally one Christian church. Now we have roughly 41,000 denominations, many of them the result of church wars. Occasionally, over history, this kind of stuff has blown up into persecution, oppression, religious wars, crusades, and jihads. Do you ever wonder why is it that the people we have to fear most in this world are those who have the most intense religious faith? What is it with people of faith anyway?

If you are not asking these kinds of questions, the public is. The witness of angry, fighting, hate-filled Christians often draws out the witness of the Gospel and makes a mockery of everything Jesus stood for.

The first major church fight, described in Acts 15, was over circumcision. Viewed from a detached perspective, the argument seems incredibly petty. As do most of the fights that split churches. Really? With all of the problems and challenges in the world, this is what the Creator of the Universe cares about? But the real issue, as in most church battles, was identity. As Christians, who are we?

Paul knew first-hand what happens when your identity is in the law. He stood by and nodded approvingly when his associates invoked the law to stone Stephen to death. He had to live with that on his conscience for the rest of his life. Rules and laws are good and necessary for keeping order. They are disastrous for establishing Christian identity.

Paul had come to see that Christian identity is tied up in one thing: the life and teaching and death and resurrection of Jesus. Focusing our identity on being the people who follow Jesus will not solve every issue in the church, much less society. We can't always agree on what it means, in every instance, to be a follower of Jesus. There will always be disagreements and even conflict in

the church. How do we, who claim our identity as disciples of Jesus, prevent differences of opinion from exploding into anger, hatred, and division that negates all that Jesus stands for?

I think there are four key Bible verses that help us be faithful witnesses to Christ in any situation:

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

In church wars, people are more concerned with winning than with fairness. You rarely see civility, much less kindness, in religious disagreements. You never see humility. When people cannot do any of the most basic things that God asks of us, disaster is guaranteed. If we can do all of those, we will prosper in spite of our differences.

Titus 3:9

Avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissension, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.

Paul's advice to modern churches: "Don't waste your energy on arguments over the

rules." That will kill the faith and accomplish nothing good. It will split churches into warring factions whose antics convince others that what the church preaches is a joke. Save your energy for proclaiming the Gospel and serving those in need.

1 Corinthians 13:2

If I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

If people heeded this, there would be no such thing as holy war. Paul says that acting in love is more important than being faithful. He says it doesn't even matter if I am right on doctrine -- if I don't act in love toward others, then God wants no part of what I'm doing.

John 13:35

Jesus said, "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

He did not say, "By this all will know you are my disciples, if you protect the purity of church laws and tradition, or believe the right doctrine." We are the people who love as Christ loved us. That is what Jesus said gives us our identity. That's what a Christian disciple is.

The long, sad history of church wars teaches us that the Christian church does not need more members. It needs more disciples: those who stand out clearly for all to see, as the people who love one another as God first loved us.

The following words were written in 1866 by Samuel J. Stone to the music by Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1864) as a familiar hymn of the church. "The church is one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord. We are His new creation by water and the Word. From heaven He came and sought us that we might ever be His living servant people, by His own death set free." I am honored to be an active member of Norton County Ministerial Alliance because together great things continue to be accomplished for the glory of God.

May the peace of God, that unfortunately so often eludes human understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



Expanding Your God-Capacity

It's only a matter of time before this "aquanaut" has to come up for air—her lung capacity is limited. Yet, as she grows and practices, she will be able to remain underwater for a longer span of time. We possess what might be considered "God capacity". Spiritual development that results from time spent with Him, our "God Capacity" can be limitless. We will not drown in defeat; instead we will deal with life as it comes, not with panic, but drawing on our expanded capacity of patience and trust in God. Expand your "God Capacity" this week as you visit His house.

Weekly Scripture Reading						
Leviticus 16:1-19	Leviticus 16:20-34	2 Samuel 9:1-13	1 Kings 17:1-24	2 Kings 5:1-27	Joel 2:1-27	Jeremiah 31:1-22
Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society						
©2013, Keister-Williams Newspaper Services, P.O. Box 8187, Charlottesville, VA 22906, www.kwnews.com						

KANSAS CLASSIFIEDS AD NETWORK

Adoption
ADOPTION Young, happily married couple wishing for newborn. Love, affection, security and opportunities await your baby. Expenses paid. Please call Jillian/David anytime 800-571-3763

Trainer. (877) 369-7885 www.centraltruckingdrivingjobs.com

Health/Beauty
IF YOU USED THE MIRENA IUD between 2001-present and suffered perforation or embedment in the uterus requiring surgical removal, or had a child born with birth defects you may be entitled to compensation. Call Johnson Law and speak with female staff members 1-800-535-5727

Help Wanted/Truck Driver
Exp. Flatbed Drivers: Regional opportunities now open with plenty of freight & great pay! 800-277-0212 or primeinc.com

Help Wanted
Heavy Equipment Operator Career! 3 Week Hands On Training School. Bulldozers, Backhoes, Excavators. National Certifications. Lifetime Job Placement Assistance. VA Benefits Eligible! 1-866-362-6497

Misc.
AIRLINES CAREERS - Become an Aviation Maintenance Tech. FAA approved training. Financial aid if qualified - Housing available. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 888-248-7449.

Help Wanted
"Partners In Excellence" OTR Drivers APU Equipped Pre-Pass EZ-pass passenger policy. 2012 & Newer equipment. 100% NO touch. Butler Transport 1-800-528-7825

Help Wanted/Truck Driver
Drivers: Training, Class A-CDL. Train and work for us! Professional and focused training for your Class A-CDL. You choose between Company Driver, Owner Operator, Lease Operator or Lease

Misc.
ATTEND COLLEGE ONLINE from Home. *Medical, *Business, *Criminal Justice, *Hospitality. Job placement assistance. Computer and Financial Aid if qualified. SCHEV authorized. Call 888-220-3977 www.CenturaOnline.com

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Call 785-877-3361 to place your classified

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Building a Legacy

MACHINE STORAGE | FARM SHOP | LIVESTOCK

For the Generations

For over 100 years, Morton Buildings has provided quality products and exceptional service to our customers. Whether you are thinking about a new machine storage building, farm shop or livestock facility, with Morton you get a functional, dependable structure.

Eight offices serving Kansas
800-447-7436
mortonbuildings.com

©2012 Morton Buildings, Inc. Morton Buildings is a registered trademark of Morton Buildings, Inc. All rights reserved. A listing of GC licenses available at mortonbuildings.com/licenses.aspx. REF CODE 043.

800-447-7436 • mortonbuildings.com

Sudoku Solution #2922-M

1	2	8	7	3	9	4	5	6
9	5	4	2	8	6	3	1	7
6	7	3	5	1	4	2	8	9
2	8	9	1	5	3	6	7	4
4	6	1	9	7	8	5	3	2
7	3	5	4	6	2	8	9	1
3	1	7	6	2	5	9	4	8
5	4	2	8	9	1	7	6	3
8	9	6	3	4	7	1	2	5

© 2009 Hometown Content

Group Theory

H	A	Z	E	D	S	H	A	M	L	A	Y		
A	S	I	D	E	P	E	R	U	G	O	R	E	
R	I	N	G	B	E	A	R	E	R	A	B	E	L
P	A	G	E	A	N	T	S	A	N	N	E	A	L
O	N	S	T	I	E	S	L	A	G	O	N	S	
		B	E	D	S	T	I	P	P	L	E	D	
M	E	S	A	S	H	O	R	S	L	O	V	E	
E	C	O	N	S	A	D	A	T	A	R	I	A	
S	H	O	D	O	D	A	Y	K	N	E	L	L	
H	O	T	W	I	R	E	S	N	I	K			
		I	V	E	S	Y	A	W	T	I	P		
S	H	A	D	E	S	S	O	N	A	T	I	N	A
T	O	R	T	P	A	C	K	A	N	I	M	A	L
E	A	C	H	O	B	O	E	I	R	E	N	E	
P	R	O	T	A	T	S	S	E	X	E	S		

6/2/2013



Edward Jones Philip J. Iserhagen
Financial Advisor
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
418 E. Holme, Suite B, Norton, Kansas
Bus. 785-877-3373 • TF 855-877-3373
philip.isernhagen@edwardjones.com
Fax: 877-479-6130 • www.edwardjones.com

Abel Tree Service
- ROY ABEL -
Fully Insured • Bucket Truck
• FREE ESTIMATES •
Stump Grinder
Phone 785-871-7275 - Norton, Kansas

Moffet Drug Store
"Prescription Specialists"
Hallmark Cards and
Russell Stover Candies
102 S. State - Norton, Kansas
Phone 785-877-2721

Norton Animal Health Center
Complete Large and Small Animal Service
801 W. Holme - Norton - Phone 877-2411
Aaron R. White, DVM
Sarah Ketterl White, DVM
Monday thru Friday: 8-5; Saturday: 9-11 a.m.

Engel's Sales and Service
Complete Auto Repair
Small Engines and
Lawn Care Equipment
• Toro • Lawnboy • Stihl Chain Saws
209 W. Lincoln - Norton - Phone 877-3391

Bridges Group Inc.
"Serving the Norton
Area Since 1894"
117 N. Kansas
Norton, Kansas
Phone 785-877-4016

Las Canteras Mexican Restaurant
DAILY SPECIALS
Monday-Thursday: 11:00 a.m.-9:30 p.m.
Friday-Sunday: 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
A Family Owned Business - One in a Chain of Eleven
203 W. Washington, Norton - 785-874-4074

Whitney Construction and Farms
• Terracing
• Dozer Work
• Ponds
9499 Rd E3 - Norton - Phone 785-877-3745

Nelson Bros. Construction, Inc.
General Contractors
Equipment Rental
12862 Lower Dam Road - Norton, Kansas
Phone (785) 877-2554

Ag Valley Co-operative
Elevator • Service Station
877-5131 or 877-5188 - Norton
Clayton Branch -
Phone 785-693-4522

Pizza Hut/Taco Bell
Come Join Us for Our
"SUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET"
Pizza, Pasta, Salad and Dessert
FREE COFFEE or TEA
W. Hwy. 36 - Norton - Phone 877-3359

First State Bank
"Your Progressive
Community Bank"
MEMBER FDIC
105 W. Main - Norton, Kansas
Phone 785-877-3341

Mainstreet IGA
"Your Local Affiliated
Full Service Grocer"
313 W. Main - Norton, Kansas
Phone 785-877-2422

Security Abstract Company
Abstracters Title Insurance Agents
Prompt - Efficient - Confidential
214 E. Washington - Norton
Phone 785-877-2141
Jolene L. Weiser, Owner

Bailey Electric
Serving Norton and Decatur County
Residential and Commercial
Licensed and Insured
Bucket Truck Service
785-871-1967 - Mark Bailey

Lee Hardy Construction LLC
New Construction • Concrete
Roofing • Remodeling • Decks
— Electrical • Rental Service —
874-4315 or 871-0832-1120 N. State, Norton

McMullen Real Estate
Donald McMullen, Broker; Robert Wyatt
McMullen & Wyatt Auctions
Auctioneers - Realtors
• Farm • Estate • Antiques • Households
113 N. State - Norton - Phone 877-3299

Don's Floor Covering
Residential and Commercial
• Carpet • Sheet Vinyl • Tile
Levolor Blinds - Panasonic Vacuums
113 W. Washington - Norton, Kansas
877-3002 - Don Kaus - FREE ESTIMATES

Countryside Veterinary Clinic of Oberlin, P.A.
N. Hwy. 83, Oberlin, Kansas (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

American Family Insurance
Curt Wahlmeier, Agent
• Auto • Home • Health • Life • Commercial
"All Your Protection Under One Roof"
111. W. Washington, Norton - 877-5802

Town and Country Kitchen
Daily Lunch Buffet and Evening Specials
Party and Banquet Facilities Available
Open 6:00 A.M.-8:30 P.M.
Brenda Sanders, Owner and Staff
East Hwy. 36 - 877-3511 - Norton, Kansas

