

# Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

BY KIRK KASSON, ALMENA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH — "YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!"

Summer has arrived, and for some of you it will be class reunion time. If you are like me, you come to class reunions with some amount of reluctance. It's not that I don't want to see my old friends, and it isn't that I'm bored with big crowds (I kind of like those things). It's just this immature anxiety I have over how people are going to judge me based on one afternoon at the park.

I'm not the same person I was in high school. Nor do I wish I were. In fact, you couldn't pay me enough money to go back to high school, if I had to give up what I have now.

I think what I fear is expectations. Am I as successful as everyone thought I would be? Am I good looking enough? Is my family respectable?

I'm not proud of these feelings. I want to become a person who is less self-centered, more Christ-centered.

Speaking of Jesus. Now, there was a guy with self-esteem. It's hard to picture Jesus worrying about his hair, his weight, his car, -er, donkey. Jesus was cool with who he was, and he didn't worry about living up to other people's faulty ex-

pectations of who he was supposed to be.

Our church has been trying to memorize scripture lately, and our scripture this past week has been "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus", Phillipians 2.5.

What do you want to be when you grow up? I want to be more like Jesus. Jesus was the coolest. Jesus was obedient to God. I want to be more obedient to God. Jesus trusted God with everything. I want to trust God with everything. Jesus was able to forgive everyone. I want to be able to forgive everyone. Jesus knew his father. I want to know his father.

I don't want to be the same person I was. I don't even want to be the same person I am. I won't mind if people say "He's not like he used to be," if when they say it, they mean I've become a little more like Jesus.

How does a person get to be more like Jesus? As near as I can figure, it starts with getting to know him. So I read my Bible, and I pray a lot. Next, I ask the Holy Spirit to help me with what I can't do myself. Lastly, I depend on the church, my Christian brothers and sisters, to help me learn to obey, trust, and forgive.

I am a work in progress, but I refuse to stay where I am. God wants to make me more like his son. That's what he wants for all of us.



**SUNDAY**  
Jeremiah 30:12-24

**MONDAY**  
Jeremiah 31:1-14

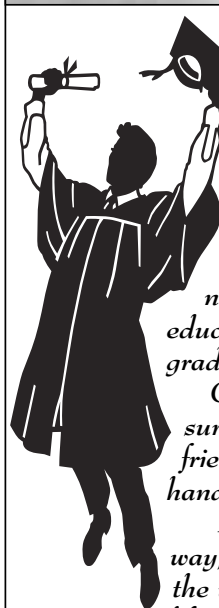
**TUESDAY**  
Jeremiah 31:15-30

**WEDNESDAY**  
Jeremiah 31:31-40

**THURSDAY**  
Jeremiah 33:1-13

**FRIDAY**  
Jeremiah 33:14-26

**SATURDAY**  
Joel 2:28 - 3:8



## Reflections

*Graduation...is it a beginning, an ending, or possibly a stop along the way?  
Graduation is a beginning of life as a young adult charting an unfamiliar course; a beginning of new friendships and fresh concepts, of higher education or a fulfilling occupation. Certainly, graduation is a beginning.*

*Graduation may also bring endings...to familiar surroundings and comfortable routines, to old friendships, a setting aside of childlike fears and second hand ideas. Yes, graduation may signify endings.*

*Perhaps, graduation is a significant stop along the way, a preparatory pause, a fork in the road. Indeed, the word itself means a gradual transition, a step on life's ladder...a time to remember the past, to ponder the present, and to dream of the future.*

*Whatever graduation means to you, feel proud of your accomplishments, and praise God for providing you with strength and guidance. Worship Him regularly, so that you may continue to receive His direction during this most meaningful time in your life.*

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society  
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# NORCATUR NEWS

By NORCATUR NEWS-LETTER VOLUNTEERS

Virgil Price and neighbors helped Kenneth and Pansy Price get ready for their sale April 30, and the neighbors helped again Saturday at the sale. Vern Drieling of Hays and Gerald Minkler of Phillipsburg also helped the Prices that Friday, then helped the auctioneers on Saturday.

Kenneth and Pansy Price were very much surprised Friday evening, April 30, when their son, Freeman and Carrie Price, drove in from Branson, Mo. A half-hour later granddaughter Kathy McAllister and two sons arrived from near Tulsa, Okla. Charles and Carolyn Kelley, and Kenneth's sister, Bula, from Lamar, Colo., also came. They all had supper with the Prices. On Saturday, May 1, Ron and Marlene Wolf and two sons arrived from Kensington. Granddaughter Erica was sick, and wasn't able to come. After the sale on Saturday, the whole family again enjoyed supper at the Price's.

States represented at the Price auction were Washington, Florida, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, South Dakota and Kansas.

Lloyd and Mary Waldo brought a noontime dinner to Rea and Dee Magers on April 27. The food was delicious and all enjoyed a great visit.

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, which may be purchased for \$10, in honor of or in memory of someone. Deadline for luminaries is June 7. Please contact Chris Dempewolf.

R.D. Thornton, Naomi and Sharee Dempewolf went to Larned on Sunday to visit with Ralph, Lynn, Jesse and Jacob Striet. On their way home they stopped by to visit Ray, Jen, and Bryce Thornton and Phyllis Castle in Hays.

After a three-day trip from Bend, Ore., in a Budget rental truck and towing a trailer Jeff Magers and girlfriend, Joy, arrived on May 1 at his parent's, Rea and Dee Magers of Norcat. The following day with the help of friends Tom and Betty Jakowski, and Bill Craig, all of Norcat, and Terry from the Bureau of Reclamation in McCook, they unloaded at their newly purchased property near Cedar Bluffs. Jeff has recently transferred to the Bureau of Reclamation in McCook. Rea and Dee seem to be on Cloud Nine.

Butch and Barbara (Alexander) Marvin of Alma, Neb., write in answer to Linda (Bolliger) Broyles' letter (published earlier), that Butch lost his mother, Leola Marvin, on Aug. 23, 2000. His father, Leslie Marvin, also of Alma, Neb., is still alive and 84 years young. After having two blockages, and three stents put in his arteries, he still looks and acts like a "spring chicken". The Marvins write that they enjoyed Linda's letter about the class of 1965.

Company at the Gerald and Judy Jackson home recently has included John and Carol New, who arrived on Tuesday, April 27, with their motorhome. The Jacksons and News had a great visit, playing a lot of cards and board games. John went to senior cards on Friday night, April 30, joining Gerald and Judy as well as Carole (Jackson) Salter and Arnold Jackson. On Saturday, May 1, two of Gerald's brothers, Brooks and Dallas Jackson, both of Colby, joined them for the garage sale and more cards. The group said it's hard to believe they are all senior citizens, but they sure have a lot of fun being seniors.

If you play an instrument and would like to play in the Norcat Memorial Day Band, please contact Deb Marshall at 693-4344. The band will meet in the Norcat Pre-school Room in the old schoolhouse Sunday, May 30, at 1 p.m. to practice. Bring your instrument.

Congratulations to Andrea Marshall for receiving the Thespians of the Year award at Decatur Community High School. This is given each year to the senior the Drama Club votes as best actor or actress. She received the award at the end of the Variety Show held at the school on April 28.

Andrea Marshall invites you to

the Senior Recital she and Amber Reynolds are holding Saturday, May 22, at 7 p.m. at the Gateway. There will be vocal solos, duets, flute, saxophone and more. A reception will follow for both of the girls.

The Decatur Community High School band went on their band trip to Denver on May 8. They enjoyed all the exciting rides at Six Flags Elich Gardens, then had fun at the Fat City Family Fun Center where they played lazer tag, cosmo bowling, bumper cars and many other things. Local students who went were: Andrea and Anthony Marshall, Sharee Dempewolf, Katrina Wentz, Kaitlyn Stapp, Destrly Jackson, Denton Bailey and Marci Matchett.

Bryce Thornton would like to announce the birth of his baby sister, Abigail Mae. Abbey was born on May 5 and tipped the scales at 8 lbs., 3 oz., and was 21 in. long. Proud parents are Ray and Jen Thornton of Hays. Grandparents are R.D. Thornton and the late Eunice Thornton and Rita Weeks. Abigail was named for her Grandmother Eunice.

R.D. Thornton and Naomi went to Hays on Saturday to welcome home Abigail. Sunday visitors were Doug, Chris and Sharee Dempewolf and Laci Leichter.

On Sunday Donnee, Adam and Seth and Goldie drove to Red Cloud, Neb., where all enjoyed plane rides from a friend, Chuck Stokes. They also visited Berniece Selvage (Dwayne's mother), and on the way home stopped in Franklin to visit Richard Selvage and Betty Rubendall at the nursing home. Donna, Donnee and sons returned to their homes Monday.

Cathy Claussen and Beth Johnson spent May 1 with Mr. and Mrs. David Johnson, Brittany and Kaitlin and Zoie in Great Bend.

David Wood brought his brother Dwight home from the Lincoln, Neb., hospital. While here he helped his mom move to Norcat, and did some moving and other jobs. Other helpers were Carol and John Maye, Dwight and Teresa (who were moving to McCook at the same time), Ona Van Gundy and others.

Carol Maye, Ona Van Gundy and Veda Wood attended the Grinnell graduation on Saturday, May 8. Veda's grandson, Neal McHamis, was a graduate.

Overnight company at Rea and Dee Magers' on Friday, May 7, were Jeff Magers and his girlfriend, Joy Luoto. The next day, they attended the Marguerite Clark and Betty Reid auction in Norton, then later returned to Norcat for a barbecue.

Judy and Gerald Jackson spent Friday, May 7, at the Butch and Barb (Alexander) Marvin home in Alma, Neb. The Marvins' son, Scott and Ronda, her daughter Amber, and Scott's son Troy, all visited and played dominoes all evening. The Marvins enjoyed the company and look forward to seeing them all summer.

Company the weekend of May 7 in the Gerald Jackson home was daughter Charlotte Jackson, husband Ken Fisher and son Shawn Fisher. Lora Linn Leachier had Mother's Day dinner with the group, cooked by Ken. Other company was Randy and Patty Galley of Kearney, Neb. Ken and Shawn helped Gerald do some remodeling in the family kitchen.

Lee Arnold is now a resident of the Good Samaritan Center in Oberlin, where he is taking therapy since his fall at home on April 28. He would love to hear from you. Mail will reach him at the Good Samaritan Center, 108 E. Ash, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

Ralph, Lynn, Jesse and Jacob Streit went to Galveston, Texas, on May 7 for a few days. Lynn was the keynote speaker at the Shrine Burn Center on Monday, May 10. Lynn, a former patient of the burn center, gave away a handmade crocheted afghan to a nurse working there at the center. The afghan has two angels on it, with a heart connecting them. Lynn also wrote a poem that was quilted onto the back of the afghan.

Nila Winchell writes to say she noticed she had made it into the 60-year section recently. She said it "makes me feel good, since I drive every day and volunteer all the time. Still in my house (37 years this month). Saw my doctor last month. He and all his aides said, 'You're doing great—we'll see you in six months.' "