

# Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

**"Our Advantage", By Jerry Cummings, pastor of Living Hope Fellowship in Norton**

In football it may be size and speed. In basketball, it may be height and quickness. In war it maybe night vision or "smart" weapons. It is what we call "an advantage." In the gospel of John 16:7, Jesus tell his disciples that it is to their advantage that He go away, so that the Holy Spirit could come to them. They could not possibly imagine how Jesus leaving them could have any advantage in it. Even from our present day perspective it is often hard to see how what we have now, could be better than having Jesus with us in his physical body. But Jesus is the one who told them this and He certainly knew what was best. Maybe this shows how little advantage we have taken of the One who is our advantage.... the Holy Spirit.

In the book of Ephesians chapter 3 we read about how we need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit if we are to begin to get a grasp on the greatness of the love of Christ for us. In the books of Romans and Galatians we read about how the Holy Spirit is the very Spirit of the Son of God, and when He comes inside of us, He cries out to God as a son. So

the Holy Spirit brings with Him the very relationship which Jesus had with the Father. We also read that by the Spirit we have the mind of Christ. Just think, the Holy Spirit brings the very thoughts of Jesus inside of us. Jesus also taught us that the Holy Spirit convinces us of things. Whether it is our

sonship, or our sin, or the truths of God's word, the Holy Spirit within us takes true ideas, and makes them inner convictions which we can live by. Furthermore, Jesus told his disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Jesus certainly knew, because it was the power of the Holy Spirit by which He himself did the great works of his ministry. Imagine, not just being with Jesus physically, but instead having Jesus in and upon us through the Holy Spirit. We can see how Martin Luther rejoiced in his great hymn, (A Mighty Fortress) "...the Spirit and his gifts are ours."

Jesus himself taught us that the Holy Spirit is our great advantage. Maybe then we should consider praying: "Come Holy Spirit, fill my life afresh today!"

## A Decision for GOD



**Decisions, decisions...our lives are full of them. What is the right way to handle this...should I allow my teenager to do that? Is this the person I should marry? Is a move across country right for my future? Is this the right time to consider a career change?**

**Decisions are stressful; differing opinions can even increase our confusion and weigh our spirit down. What now? Why not pray about it? Include God in your decision. Psalm 16:8-9 says, "I have set the Lord always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth. My flesh shall also rest in hope."**

**With God by our side we have peace and strength as we face the challenges of our lives. Keep God close to your heart as you go through each day. Study His Word and learn of His will for us as you worship this week at your local church or synagogue. Won't you make your decision for God?**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Matthew 8:1-17	Matthew 8:18-34	Matthew 9:1-13	Matthew 9:14-26	Matthew 9:27-38	Matthew 10:1-25	Matthew 10:26-42

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society  
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## PINOCHLE

By JAKE DURHAM

The numbers were small as the Faithful gathered for the December Pinochle Tournament, but understandably so as others were out Christmas caroling as it was the Sunday before Christmas. However there was a goodly amount of Christmas Spirit prevalent as the Grandmothers had brought their jingle bells and were leading some caroling of their own. There was no indication of a white Christmas but for most, that seemed desirable.

It was the final tournament of the year '04 and the goal was not only to capture the final championship of the year but to also win with an eight-hundred point game, of which there have been only two in the history of the games. With that in mind, the first round started as usual with the bidding going out the roof as trump control can obviously be a factor when it comes to winning; however, as the old pros will tell you, there is a time to raise and a time to pass. That having been said, there were more than the usual amount of high scores recorded as the first round came to a close with the team of Dave Sheley and Jack Mechsner capturing first round honors and the initial lead.

High scores were still in the making during the second round also as the team of Billy Keiswetter and Eldon Billips, always a threat, turned in the high round score of the evening and moved into the lead. As usual, leads change quite often in the game of Pinochle, often depending on the amount of meld as well as high cards, as meld counts irregardless of who makes trump. Even though there were an unusually number of high scores, they seemed to be spread out and as the third round came to a close, the team of Arnold and Dorothy Zillinger recorded the honors but it was the team of June Jolly and Margaret Magers, recording solid scores along the way, who moved into the lead and were the only team carrying a one-hundred plus average after three rounds.

The halfway mark was coming fast and as round four got underway, the push to move up was first and foremost on everyone's mind as a solid score at the halfway mark could be a definite advantage. The team of Ron and Sondra Kester took the honors on round four but a close look at the board showed the team of Joyce Sumner and Eleanor Jensen, playing tough along the way, moving into first place five points off of a hundred point average. The team of June Jolly and Margaret Magers were in second, Arnold and Dorothy Zillinger were in third, Billy Keiswetter and Eldon Billips were in fourth and rounding out the top five was the team of Rod Stapp and Bill Glennemeier. From there on down it went in leaps and bounds as high bidding had taken its toll.

There was a lot of fast talking and head nodding during the break as those low on the score board were sizing up the situation. Plus rather than minus scores were a must at this point of the game. The bell sounded to start round five and everyone settled in for the final half of the game. The bidding was more deliberate in nature as hands were evaluated and as the scores were recorded, the team of Jensen and Sumner boosted their cause by

taking the honors and renewed their one hundred point average.

The games seemed to be moving along at a rapid rate, the crucial sixth round was coming up and there was a lot of buzz coming from the pack as those low on the board were needing to take some risks. The team of Larry Smith and Stan Miller captured sixth round honors but it was the team of Arnold and Dorothy Zillinger who moved to the top of the board. By now, every point along the way was a big point with only two rounds left. The all important seventh round was coming up and most were tightening their belts. A high round here could be a huge factor for the final push and as the scores were turned in, everyone hung around the score board to assess the situation.

The lead was moving around and as the final score was posted, the team of Keiswetter and Billips had captured the honors to make it a double for them, but it was the team of Sumner and Jensen who moved back into the lead going into the final round. The team of Keiswetter and Billips were in second, Stan Miller and Larry Smith were in third, Arnold and Dorothy Zillinger were in fourth and rounding out the top five going into the final round was the team of Dave Sheley and Jack Mechsner and all five had the look of confidence on their faces going into the final round.

It was a tight game and no doubt about it, the eighth and final round would determine the winners. A short catch up break was declared and then the bell sounded to start the final round. By the sound of the bidding, there was going to be some changes made and as the scores began to trickle in, as always the lead changed several times and as the final score was recorded, the team of Stan Miller and Larry Smith had taken the honors for a double for them and had also moved to the top of the board for the championship. They had come close on several occasions so it was no surprise that they had finally captured the grand prize. As had become the custom, they accepted their accolades with humor and humility and promised to return to defend their title.

Top ten teams in order were: 1. Stan Miller and Larry Smith; 2. Billy Keiswetter and Eldon Billips; 3. Joyce Sumner and Eleanor Jensen; 4. Doug and Brett Gallentine; 5. Arnold and Dorothy Zillinger; 6. June Jolly and Margaret Magers; 7. Dave Sheley and Jack Mechsner; 8. Dee and Thelma Bushnell; 9. Rod Stapp and Bill Glennemeier; 10. J.D. Daffer and Duane McEwen. Winning score by Miller and Smith was 761 points for an average of 95.2 points per round. Highest single round score of 130 points was by Billy Keiswetter and Eldon Billips.

Other teams not previously mentioned were: Larry Harman and Julia Roeder; Coy Christy and John Hildebrand; Barbara McKie and Donna Millan; Wade Ambrosier and Jerry Darling; Mary Jane Wahlmeier and Norman Walter.

It had been an evening filled with fun and as the calendar on the wall indicated, the next tournament will be the first of the year '05 on January 16th. So come early and sign in to protect yourself a place on the roster.

## LYLE NEWS

By DEANNA SUMNER

Christmas Eve weekend guests at Kathy Van Meter's were; Jack and Sylvia Lovin, Norman and Maria Porter. Christmas Day guests were; Tim and Quinton Nejd, Kip and Danielle Jearde, Sam and Gladys Williams. They attended church with Mrs. Van Meter in Lyle on Sunday and returned to their homes that evening.

New Year's eve, Toots Magers and Kathy went to Norcat and played cards. Afterwards they went to the New Year's Eve party at the school. There they joined Rea, Dee, Jeff and Joy Magers.

Sunday, Jan. 2, was the potluck luncheon at Lyle with 30 people attending.

Sunday evening, Toots, June Jolly, Kathy, Jaunita Eckhart and R. D. Thorton played in the pitch tournament in Norton.

Christmas Day guests for Toots Magers were; Judy and Charlie Easton, son Charlie and his friend Sherry; Jane and Richard Engelhardt, and Kevin Engelhardt.

After New Year's, Darrell Rippe and daughter, Aubrey, from Oklahoma stopped by Toots' for a visit. Christmas eve at the Greg Sumner home was Michelle Sumner, Amy, Mark, Andrew and Gracie Mae Archer, Todd, Deanna, Brooke and Brady and a visit from Santa Claus.

Christmas Day guests at Todd and Deanna Sumner's were Bob and Virginia Underwood, Jackie and Pat Underwood, all of Norton, Jim Underwood from Eudora, Dan and Russchelle, Dillon and Brennan Underwood from Joes, Colo.

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