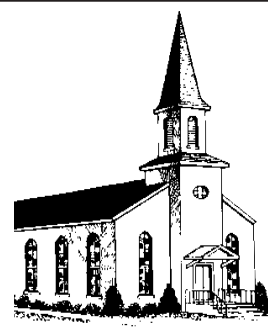


Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily



WEEKLY SERMONETTE

Crucified With Christ — “The Christian’s Passion” From Community Full Gospel Church

Jesus said, “If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.” (Luke 9:23). We have just passed Easter—celebrating what Christ did for us on Calvary and the victory He won over sin and death.

The Bible holds many accurate descriptions of men and women of God who grasped the truths of the cross and Christianity. One such man was the apostle Paul who wrote, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20).

“Take up your cross” (Greek *stauros*) means that portion of affliction which is endured by faithful men and women of God who are willing to allow their trials of life to grow their faith and mold them into the image of Jesus Christ. In his exposition of Luke 9:23-26 D. M. Spence summed up a powerful truth of what Christ was teaching. He said, “No cross, no crown.” It must be remembered that the only way of coming to Christ is at the foot of the cross. That message of truth is no more popular today than it was in the times of the early church.

Jesus warned about how the world will respond to those who serve Him in “spirit and truth.” He said, “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.

If they persecuted Me,

they will persecute you also. They will treat you this way because of My Name, for they do not know the One who sent Me.” (John 15:18-20).

The Apostle Paul paid dearly for his passion for the Lord and His work. He suffered beatings, imprisonment, shipwrecks and riots. He discovered that the servant of the Lord embraces hard work, persecutions, sleepless nights and hunger (2 Corinthians 6:4-5). Paul said, “I die daily...” (1 Corinthians 15:31) meaning he had to die to himself and keep going in the Lord’s work no matter what his circumstances were. To take up your cross

daily was also well understood by men such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer who said, “When Christ calls a man, He bids him to come and die.” This means death to self and to become obedient to God’s calling. Martyred for Christ in the 1950s, the late Jim Elliot said, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

The world will tolerate a church that conducts its meetings and has its programs, but a church that vibrantly loves Jesus Christ, teaches His Word and reaches out in love to address the sins that are destroying our nation, our families and people’s relationship with the Lord will not be popular. When abortion, greed, drunkenness, unbiblical divorce, sex outside of marriage and homosexuality are handled in a true Biblical manner there will be complaints against and criticisms of that church body.

Are you seen as one like the Apostle Paul, living a crucified life, regardless of the cost in the Lord’s work?

Would it not be ideal if each of us was joyful and smiling each day? Since we are imperfect humans living in an imperfect world, this, of course, is not possible. However, here is a thought to ponder...

On the days we are feeling especially happy, perhaps we could challenge ourselves to share a smile with someone who has none. It is easy to smile at a cheerful person, but how much greater the blessing to try to cheer one who is sad or discouraged or even just angry at the world. Paul writes in his letter to the Romans 1:11-12...“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you, that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.”

Won’t you share your joy with others at your local church or synagogue this week? God will smile upon you.



That We May Be Mutually Encouraged...

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Corinthians 15:1-11	1 Corinthians 15:12-34	1 Corinthians 15:35-58	1 Peter 1:1-12	1 Peter 1:13-25	1 Peter 2:1-17	1 Peter 3:8-22

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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NORCATUR NEWS

By NORCATUR NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Jerry Brinkley sent word that they plan to be at the alumni reunion in May.

Lois and Bob McPherson wrote that they are having great weather, and though it seems a little early they love it while it lasts.

Bill and Bee Nelson hosted a birthday supper Friday, March 18, for Bob Sawdon, a March 17 St. Patrick’s lad, and a surprise for Norma McCallister whose special day was Saturday, March 19. (She thought she was going out for pizza, but got a ham and turkey dinner instead.) Marguerite Clark had planned to be there, but developed a bad cold.

Company at Rea and Dee Magers’ the week of March 13 included their niece, Renata Kawcak of Craig, Colo. She visited several days. Later in the week, the Magers enjoyed a visit with Jim and Darlene Werlinger, Rapid City, S.D., and their daughter, Joy, from Cedar Bluffs.

On Sunday, April 3, there will be a potluck luncheon at the Lyle Community Building. Following the dinner, Sharleen Wurm plans to find the unmarked graves at the Lyle Cemetery. Everyone is welcome to stay and discover!

Birthdays: Quentin Wentz - March 24; Lee Arnold - March 26; Teresa Reves-Wood, Rex Knapp - March 27.

There were 22 at Senior Citizens on Friday, March 18. Winners were Bob Strevey, June Jolly, and Lula Hix and Oran Milner tied.

Mike Helm underwent emergency appendectomy surgery on Thursday, March 17. He was in the Norton Hospital and hoped to be home last week.

Connie Chandler is in need of a liver transplant. She went to Kansas City this past week to a transplant specialist. Her son, Justin, was recently diagnosed and hospi-

talized with juvenile diabetes. He was to see a specialist also, in Wichita, last week. Please keep the family in your prayers.

The highway coming into Norcatour will need to be resealed this year. Our share will be about \$7,000-10,000. Also, we will need to gravel a lot of streets in town this spring. If you would like to make a donation, please send it to Jay Locy, RR 1, Norcatour, Kan., 67653.

April is election time. There are two full-term council positions, one unexpired term council position, and a full-term mayor’s position up for election.

The Norcatour Commercial Club and the Cardinal Bar and Grill have partnered together to offer three scholarships this year. Each will be for \$300. Anyone who is planning to attend college next year can apply. Applications may be picked up at The Bank or the Norcatour City Office, and must be returned by May 20.

The Norcatour Commercial Club will be tinning the flag building at the cemetery within the next month. Due to the expense, we will put up the tin ourselves. Donations can be sent to the Norcatour Commercial Club, c/o Linda Hunt, P.O. Box 102, Norcatour, Kan., 67653, or through the Citizen’s Alliance. Please be sure to note that your donation is for the tinning of the flag building.

The Norcatour Commercial Club will be sponsoring the alumni dance on May 28 at the high school gym. The dance will be free. There will be donation jars at the doors for anyone that would like to make a donation to the scholarship fund.

On April 23, we will have a workday at Elden Aufer Park. At this time we plan to separate the day lilies. If you would like some of these, please let Chris know at (785) 693-4461.

JENNINGS NEWS

By LOUISE CRESSLER

Seven members, Rachel Carter, Kathy Nauer, Helen Muirhead, Jean Skubal, Helen Rhodes, Vendla Tacha and Clara Gillum, of the Tuesday Study Club met at the Norton County Hospital Feb. 22 for a tour of the hospital given by Richard Miller. The club members then went to Whitefields Coffee House for refreshments.

Charles Bailey, Bunker Hill, Ind.; Janis McDill, Mankato; Mark Brooks, Hays; Deb and Dave Graham and Kayley, Norton were dinner guests Easter Sunday of Norine and Elwood Bailey.

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Muirhead went to Grapevine, Texas to visit their daughter Michelle and Tom Zodrow and grandson Austin. They enjoyed touring the Gay Lord Hotel, Vetro Glassblowing Studio and shopping at Grapevine Mall. They also celebrated Austin’s ninth birthday. They all enjoyed Easter dinner with their Texas relatives, Brian Muirhead’s family, a nephew and Robert and Shirley Muirhead, a cousin.

Mary Votapka and Sue Long went to Goodland Easter Sunday to join Jean Lee and Rollie Halligan for dinner at a Chinese restaurant.

Larry and Alice Mizer vacationed March 16-27. They toured Eastern Oklahoma on to Galveston, Texas then to the Gulf of Mexico. They visited the Salton Sea in California.

No cards were played at the Center March 19. Vendla Tacha won high March 26.

Sunflower Seniors supper will be April 12 at 6 p.m. at the Center. Don Ammons, Hoxie will have the program at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come join us.

Sharon Gaston, Ames, Iowa came Thursday to visit her parents, Wayne and Louise Cressler. She returned home on Tuesday. Russell Cressler, Bison came Saturday and Sunday to visit.

Those attending the United Methodist Church Sunday at Dresden and Jennings enjoyed country gospel music by Pastor Glenn and Larry Henderson Norton. They are members of the “Bridge Band”, Norton.

Claudine Bennett returned home Sunday after spending the winter with relatives in Florida, Kansas and Arizona.

Jennings City Council meeting met April 7 at the Sunflower Senior Center.

NORTON MANOR

By DORIS MIZELL

A week ago Marie Delimont went to her daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Jay VanDerVeen, rural Prairie View for supper and overnight. The next day Judy took Marie to Lincoln, Neb., for a doctor’s appointment.

Doris Mizell accompanied Ray and Ruth Mizell to Salina on Tuesday to take in a concert that her grandson, Aaron Mizell, was in that evening at Kansas Wesleyan University.

Marie Delimont’s church family (First Baptist) surprised her with refreshments and birthday cards after mid-week church service.

Doris Mizell hosted a pizza party on the patio Friday evening. Those attending were Lester Mizell, Goodyear, Ariz.; Carolyn and Roger Linsenmeyer, Beatrice, Neb.; Cathy and Bill Humston and Adam, Jonesville, Va.; Roberta and Dennis McAllister, Clayton; Patty and Jerry Foster, Jennings;

and Ray Mizell.

On Saturday they celebrated Doris’ 85th birthday with a dinner in the community room and were joined by Judy and Julie Brynds, Steve Albright, and Blake Shamburg of Lawrence; Bob and Diane Mizell, Nickerson; Connie Lillich and Brian Volgmore, Atwood; David and Barbara Altwegg and Judah, Wamego; Arlene and Doyle Foss, Edmond; Jared and Peggy Foster, Manhattan; Harold and Kris Mizell and Ruth Mizell. Eighteen of the group attended church together on Sunday at Clayton and had a picnic out at the lake where the Linsenmeyers had their camper parked.

A smaller group had breakfast at the Town and Country Monday morning and sent Lester and the Linsenmeyers on their way. It had been five years since Doris’ children had all been together at one time.