

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily



WEEKLY SERMONETTE

By Jack J. Kersenbrock, United Parish of Lenora

Years ago, I heard a story that illustrates the meaning of Christmas.

A wife and her children were preparing to go to the Christmas Eve service. After much pleading and begging the husband still refused to go with them. The family, minus the husband, headed for church. They were bundled up as it was a very cold evening.

The husband sat down to watch TV. He noticed a flock of birds on the ground hunting for food and warmth. He knew it was such a cold night the birds would freeze without shelter. He dressed warm and went outside and opened a large shed door, turned on the light, and tried to shoo the birds into the protection of the shed. However, the birds only flew around to avoid his efforts. He thought, if only I could become a bird and tell them, they would know I am trying to help them.

Suddenly he remembered it was Christmas Eve and that was exactly what God did; became a human so he could reveal His love and care.

The man quickly went to church. He was late but his wife and his children were delighted to have him join them in the worship of God who took the form of a human and was born on that first Christmas Day.

That's what Christmas is all about.

Communication is a basic need in our world. The telephone was the first form of instant communication, we could pick up the receiver and hear a friend or loved one speaking! We are more connected than ever before with cell phones and computers; not only can we hear a voice on the phone, we can transmit text and pictures in a flash. Now, whether we phone or e-mail next door or thousands of miles away, we expect to make that instant connection.

The Ultimate Connection



Now, let us consider another invisible, more unearthly form of communication ... prayer. Each time we come to God with faith and the acceptance of His will, we can expect to connect with Him, our source of all that is wise and good. Mark 11:24 confirms this as we read... "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." Keeping in touch with God through prayer can have an incredible impact on our lives each and every day!

As we worship God this week, may we remember to thank Him for the divine communication of prayer, the ultimate connection.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Malachi 3:1-4	Malachi 4:1-6	Zephaniah 3:8-20	Daniel 6:1-28	Daniel 7:1-14	Revelation 19:1-10	Micah 5:2-9

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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NEW ALMELO

By BETTY OTTER

Funeral services were held Nov. 14 for Sophia Otter, 98, at St. Joseph Church, New Almelo. Burial was in the St. Joseph Cemetery. She was born Nov. 26, 1906, to Gerhardt and Mary (Dittlinger) Bruggeman. She attended New Almelo School. She married Albert Otter on Aug. 24, 1927. They lived in the New Almelo area all their married lives. He died in May of 1997. Sophia enjoyed making quilts, crocheting, her flowers and gardening.

Preceding her in death were her husband, two sons, Gerard Otter, Roger Otter, and a daughter, Ursula Otter; two brothers, Ambrose Bruggeman and Leo Bruggeman; and six sisters, Helena Otter, Agnes Otter, Sr. Liqouri, Mary M. Linden, Antoinette Bruggeman and Louise Nible.

She is survived by five sons and their wives: Conrad and Charlotte Otter, McPherson, Alfred and Betty Otter, New Almelo, Francis and Phyllis Otter, Lenora, Gilbert and Carol Otter, Norton and Harold Otter, Flagstaff, Ariz.; two daughters and their husbands, Mary and Mike Schamberger, Hoxie, and Janice and Steve Richards, Scandia Park, N.M.; a daughter-in-law, Julia Otter, Oberlin; two brothers, Fr. Gerald Bruggeman, Colorado Springs, Colo., and Alfred and Carol Bruggeman, Phillipsburg; two sisters, Elizabeth Brinker, Glen Elder, and Regina Riedel, Morland; 39 grandchildren; 85 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were held Nov. 15 for Michael Otter, 44, at St. Joseph Church, New Almelo. Burial was in the St. Joseph Cemetery. He was born March 2, 1960, to Alfred and Betty (Bates) Otter. He attended New Almelo grade school and graduated from Lenora High School. He received a degree in Communication Technology from Northwest Kansas Vocational Technology School in Goodland. He worked for Reed, Veach Wurdeman Company, Irsik and Doll Elevator and Pioneer Telephone.

He enjoyed following sports on television, music, reading, photography, hunting and fishing.

Survivors include his parents, Alfred and Betty Otter, New Almelo; seven brothers and sisters and their spouses, Paul and Sharon Otter, Great Bend, Tina and Will Ritter, Olathe, Tom Otter, DeSoto, Mark and Sheila Otter, Ulysses, Jolene and Jim Moss, Jewell, Karl Otter, Great Bend, and Charles Otter, Salina; grandmother, Sophia Otter, New Almelo; 15 nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Albert Otter and Paul and Helen Bates and a nephew, Marcel Otter.

On Nov. 23, Gilbert and Matilda Bollig received word of the death of their daughter, Rose Lee, 51, of Garden City, Mo., as a result of an automobile and semi-tractor accident. Funeral services were Nov.

28. A former parishioner of St. Joseph Church and area farmer, Leo Mindrup, was buried at the Norton Cemetery, Nov. 23. He and his wife, Anna, lived in the area for many years before moving to Salina. He is survived by his wife, Anna, Salina; three sons, Louis Mindrup, Kansas City, Jerry Mindrup, Windom and Donald Mindrup, Clayton.

Gary and Carolyn Long, Adam and Tracy Long hosted Thanksgiving dinner at Hill City for their family. Those attending were Marion and Lorraine Long, Frank and Letty Long, St. Elizabeth, Mo., Fred and Carol Long and Katie, Independence, Mark and Gerry Baalman, Grinnell. The day after Thanksgiving, Marion's brother, Sam and Alvera Long, Beloit, visited Marion and Lorraine. During the holiday weekend visitors included Ed and Roxie Schuster and family, Milford, Ohio and Jack and Renee Cella and family, Denver, Joe Long, Mike Long, Leawood and Will Long, Naples, Fla., ate supper with Marion and Lorraine while they were doing some pheasant hunting.

Family home for Thanksgiving at Roger and JoAnn Long's home were Jack and Renee Cella and family, Denver, Darin and Joanie Winkel, Bethany and Brooklyn, Norton; Ed and Roxie Schuster and family, Milford, Ohio. On Sunday, Nov. 27, Roger and JoAnn attended the First Communion of their grandson, Luke Kirk in Keller, Texas. Luke is the son of Brian and Stephanie Kirk.

Guests for Thanksgiving at the home of Russ and Marcia Aumiller, and Josh Vahling were Jeremy and Missy Rumbach and girls, Lenora, and Russ's sister, Wanda Spreser and sons, Dusty and Devon and friend, Todd.

Steve Otter, Wichita, spent Thanksgiving with his parents, Marion and Marilyn Otter.

Family coming home for Thanksgiving at Alfred and Betty Otter's home were, Paul and Sharon Otter and girls, Great Bend, Tina and Will Ritter and family, Olathe, Tom Otter, DeSoto, Mark Otter and family, Ulysses, Jolene and Jim Moss and family, Jewell, Karl Otter, great Bend, and Charles Otter, Saige and Cury, Salina. Thanksgiving evening the Otter family joined Bertsie and Gary Bruinekool, Lenora, Art and Karen Bates, Chad and Amy Bates, Peyton and Cole, Edmond, Okla., for a meal and visiting.

Sunday, Nov. 27, Elijah James Hallgren was baptized by Fr. Vincent Thu Laing assisted by Deacon Stan Chapin at St. Joseph Church, New Almelo. Godparents were Dan and Shelly Wahlmeier. Elijah is the son of Tammy and Jim Hallgren of Baxter, Minn.

Josh Otter, son of Frank and Lavonne Otter, has returned from Iraq. He will be spending Christmas with his family.

NORTON MANOR

By DORIS MIZELL

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Greving picked up Mary Keith and went to North Platte, Neb., to Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Nesvaras and Jacobs for Thanksgiving. All the Greving family was there and a good time was enjoyed.

Saturday after Thanksgiving, Mary Keith went to be with Ed and Linda Keith's family for their Thanksgiving feast.

Lena and James Skrdlant visited with Mary Keith on Tuesday afternoon.

In spite of the cold weather, we had 16 come for the Silver and Gold dinner on Dec. 6 After a good dinner we watched an Abbot and Costello film. We had a grab bag drawing of Christmas gifts. It seemed as though everybody was satisfied with what they received.

Eileen Kunz and husband, the Rev. Dr. Robert Kunz of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, were overnight guests of her mother, Marie Delimont, Thanksgiving night. They were joined by Marie's other daughters Leta and John Harpst, Wichita, and Judy and Jay VanDerVeen, Prairie View and the Kunz's daughter, Tammy, and husband Shawn Mousel and twins Jonathon and Isaac of Lincoln, Neb., for Thanksgiving dinner and

supper. Later the VanDerVeen's daughter, Stacie, and husband Shane DeBoer and children Alyssa and Gage of Edmond dropped in for awhile and took the Mousels home with them for the night. Friday the family gathered at the Norton Manor Community room for dinner and supper. Those present were Marie, Judy and Jay, Eileen and Bob, Leta and John, the Mousels, the DeBoers, Steve VanDerVeen, Cory VanDerVeen, and Kristi Jansonius, Prairie View; Kathy Delimont, Rob and Lynn Smith, Aaron, Melissa, their grandson and four foster children of Great Bend. Anna Marie Kauten and Sue Stacy of Texas stopped by for a visit during the afternoon.

Ben and Joshua were here to visit Anetta Knapp. Joshua is the son of Lavonne and Frank Otter of New Almelo. He has been in Iraq for the past year. He says the weather is much different here. It's much colder here.

Doris Mizell went to Clayton Monday for the United Methodist Womens meeting at the church. This was our Christmas meeting so also had a gift exchange. We've been enjoying the carolers that have been walking our halls and singing for us.

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