

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily



WEEKLY SERMONETTE

By Kirk Kasson, Almena Congregational Church
Go to church!
Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)
25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

members it takes a lot of coordination with staff and volunteers, and when large numbers of them are out of town, it makes for difficulties.
But, no church on Sunday? Consider this, not a guilt trip, but an encourager. I'm encouraging you not only to attend church this Sunday, but to take someone with you.

church will be having services this Sunday. Some services will be modified (our church chose to drop Sunday School) but services will be available.
For many, including myself, there is an unwritten tradition that Christmas morning involves not only opening presents, but spending the morning razor free, lounging in pajamas, watching television, and eating a late but delicious Christmas breakfast. Going to church on Christmas

morning puts a pinch on most of that.
But unlike Easter, it is a rare treat to get to celebrate Christ's Birth on a Sunday, with your friends at church. You honor Christ with your presence.
Will you be in church Christmas morning? Here's my Top 10 list reasons of why you should.

Google News has 17 articles posted on the topic of churches who have canceled services for this Sunday, Christmas Day. The articles focus on two camps. The first perspective given is that of the church canceling services. Their take goes something like this:

Christmas is our lowest attended day, and due to staff, volunteers, and attendees who travel or stay home, it is not feasible for us to have services Christmas Day. We will compensate by having extra services prior to Christmas, including Christmas Eve.

The second camp's response goes something like this: **WHAT! NO CHURCH ON CHRISTMAS DAY!! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!! WHAT KIND OF SACRILEGIOUS, WIMPY, WATERED DOWN, WEENIE, NO-GOOD, (gasp) CHURCH DO YOU THINK THIS IS!!! (more gasping) I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU COULD EVER THINK OF SUCH A THING!!!**

Personally, I sympathize a little with both camps. To be fair, most of the churches in the news have been large churches, or as the press calls them, "mega-churches." When you have a church of 1,000

According to an informal poll by Focus on the Family, 95% of pastors responding reported their

A Manger for a King



Guided by the Star of Bethlehem, the shepherds and wise men alike found themselves standing before a lowly stable. Could this be the birthplace of the prophesied King of Kings? Amid the sounds of animals, there was the unmistakable cry of a newborn infant. They slowly entered, still puzzled by the strange scene before them. There they found the baby Jesus wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger filled with straw.

Although He entered the world in a humble setting, this infant would grow to be called the Son of God...the Prince of Peace. Jesus would bring a message of forgiveness and love; His life and teachings would change the world.

As you worship this Christmas season, may the words of the angel of the Lord ring in your heart: "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Isaiah 9:2-7	Luke 1:1-25	Luke 1:26-38	Luke 1:39-56	Luke 1:57-66	Luke 1:67-80	Luke 2:1-20

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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JENNINGS NEWS

By LOUISE CRESSLER
Jennings Emergency Preparedness Plan was implemented Nov. 28 when a blizzard hit Northwestern Kansas. The Senior Center, basement of the Community Hall, had been designated as emergency centers several years ago. They had never been used for this until now. A generator from the firehouse was hooked up.

The City Council and the Mayor thank all who helped by providing food, gas, kerosene, transportation, beds and bedding. It would be impossible to thank each one. We are fortunate to have a wonderful Fire Dept. We were thankful for Mom's Lil Market where we could get supplies. Our electricity was off for four days. We would like surrounding communities to know they are welcome to come to our emergency center anytime.

Mary Votapka was delighted to hear of the birth of a new granddaughter. Brooklan reLee Ivans. Her parents are Josh and Michele Ivans, Shawnee.
Dave Haurly came Wednesday morning to the home of Tom and Mary Votapka bringing a new generator with him. He was coming to deer hunt but also helped with farm work while here.

Stan and Ramona Shaw and Katie Wahlmeier, Colby, spent Thanksgiving week at the home of Danny and Cindy Black, Logan and Bowen in Carlsbad, N. M. Thanksgiving evening they enjoyed "Christmas On The Pecos", a riverboat cruise down the Pecos River, to view the lights along the river and in Carlsbad. Other highlights of their trip included Carlsbad Caverns, Sitting Bull Falls in the Guadalupe Mountains and visiting the U.S. Department of Energy building. On Saturday evening they enjoyed the Christmas Parade in downtown Carlsbad and a fireworks display following. They came home Sunday in the blizzard just in time for the electricity to be off four days.

Visitors at the home of Stan and Ramona Shaw last week were Kyle Austin, Pratt; Tony Anderson, Tonganoxie; Mark Shaw, rural Logan. The men all had a successful first day of deer hunting, each getting a nice buck. They also did some pheasant hunting.

Visitors over the weekend at the home of Violet and Kenny Krizek were her sister and husband, Patrick and Betty Keener, Kansas City, Kan.

Visitors at the home of Stan and Ramona Shaw for the weekend were Jerry Smith, Monticello, Ark.; Drew Wilson and Les Claybrook, Hope, Ark.; Curtis Martin, Batesville, Ark.; Mark and Ethan Shaw, rural Logan. They had a successful weekend of pheasant hunting. Shelley and Erin Shaw came for lunch Saturday and returned home.

Colin and Linsey Bailey, Cooper and Hannah, Norton; Grant Bailey and friend McKencie; Marguerite and Elmo Bailey were guests of Mike and Vicki Bailey Sunday. Marguerite was celebrating a birthday and the congregation of the United Methodist Church sang Happy Birthday to her at worship service Sunday.

Brian Jennings and Westley, Solomon, visited Lawrence and Lila Jennings over the weekend.

Bruce and Peggy Carlton, Bakersfield, Calif., spent two weeks with her mother, Jean Gillespie. They were here during the power outage and blizzard. They also visited with Lawrence and Lila Jennings.

Jennings City Council met Dec. 8 in the Senior Center. Items on the agenda were: annexation, emergency plans, sewer repairs, Christmas street lights and Santa coming to town. Work is being completed on the annexation plans. Tyler Bolt has been making

covers for the sewer boxes in his shop class at school. Midwest Energy will put up the Christmas street lights. Lions will have soup and Santa will be in town on Saturday. The City will pay for half of the cost of candy sacks and put a gift certificate in the drawing. The City is looking for a propane generator to purchase, for emergencies. It needs to be capable of running both furnaces and the lights at the Senior Center.

The Housing Authority met Dec. 15 at Friendship Village.

A large crowd attended the "Seniors" Christmas supper Tuesday evening. Merle Snyder catered the meal. Those attending were: Jim and Wilma Mader; William and Rachel Carter; Ruth and Merle Chance; Kenny and Violet Krizek; Alice and Larry Mizer; Marguerite and Elmo Bailey; Dona and Eugene Mrstik; Larry and Glenda Johnson; Stan and Ramona Shaw; Ray and Virginia LaRue; Bob and Neoma Tacha; Keith Muirhead; Arch Harmon; Vendla Tacha; Eleanor Morel; Imogene Keenan; Alice and Wilferd Wagoner; June Vavroch; Agnes Wahlmeier; Mary Votapka; Jay Kump and Louise Cressler.

Plates were taken to the homes of Emma Sanford; Edith Foster; Pat Hall and Violet Foster.

Members of the Tuesday Study Club met at the Jennings United Methodist Church for the Dec. 13 meeting. A salad and dessert luncheon was held at noon. Roll call was answered by Ruth Chance; Wilma Mader; Joan McKenna; Kathy Nauert; Rachel Carter; Naomi Carter; Helen Rhodes; Mildred Tacha; Vendla Tacha and Lynn Tacha. Kay Brown was a guest. Megan Carter, Oberlin, gave a Creative Memories Program in the afternoon by having the group make a photo sharing card.

Elliott Gillespie, Marion, visited last Sunday afternoon and spent the night at the home of his grandparents, Stan and Ramona Shaw. He was enroute home from Denver.

When leaving the school board meeting Dec. 12, Lila Jennings slipped and fell on the steps on the north side of the schoolhouse. She broke a bone and cracked another in her ankle. A cast was put on which she will wear for seven weeks.

Tony LaRue returned home from the Oberlin hospital Friday.

Laverne Shields, Almena, formerly of Jennings, fell several weeks ago at her home breaking her hip. She is in a swing bed at the Norton hospital.

Jennings United Methodist Church will hold Christmas Eve services Saturday, Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. There will be no service Christmas morning.

Jennings Housing Board Authority met Thursday evening for their annual and regular meeting. Stan Shaw; Betty Cressler; Helen Rhodes; Alice Wagoner and Louise Cressler, board members; and Darlene LaRue, bookkeeper attended.

There have been several hunters renting the apartments the past month. We appreciate donated furniture for the units. Alice Wagoner's term on the board has expired. The board voted to have her serve another 4-year term pending approval by the city council. Fruit plates were delivered to our three residents following the meeting.

Mom's Lil' Market had a Christmas Open House Wednesday. She served cookies and apple cider. The market is sponsoring a drawing for the large Christmas stocking on display. The store will be open until noon on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. No noon meal will be served.

Jennings city water meters will be read Dec. 23. If you have an inside meter in your home, please post the reading on your front door.

ALMENA NEWS

By ESTHER MARBLE
Richard Engelhardt is in the Kearney Hospital with heart problems and pneumonia. His address is Room 442, 32st Street, Good

Samaritan Hospital, Kearney, Neb.

Sue Jackson visited Jean Leuszler Monday evening.

