

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily



WEEKLY SERMONETTE

Lowly, Yet Raised on High — Rick Rostek, Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church

The Psalmist says, "Though the Lord is on high, he looks upon the lowly, but the proud he knows from afar." God looks upon the lowly with favor. But He turns away from the proud people and does not look down on them. Those who are proud never get close to God. They are always off in the distance.

The proud people are the ones who turn their backs on God and trust in themselves and their own abilities. They say, "I don't need you God." There have been many successful people who never acknowledged the abilities that God gave them: business people, musicians, athletes. Many people who have wonderful God-given talents are, in fact, far from God, because they refuse to acknowledge Him as the source of all life.

God gives all people abilities and talents whether they believe in Him or not. But these abilities mean nothing when it comes time to

stand before God on the Judgment Day. If the violinist says, "See how well I can play?" God will simply turn away. If the doctor says, "Look at how many lives I saved." God will say, "I don't know you." If the football player brags on the number

of touchdowns he scored, God will know him only from afar. In the end, those who trust in their abilities are forever separated from God.

But the lowly recognize their inability to approach God, even though they may be very talented. The lowly

depend totally on the saving work of Jesus Christ. The lowly say to God, "We are not worthy to be in your presence. But we confess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior." And then,

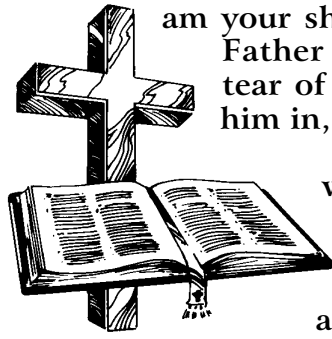
though the Lord is on high, he looks upon the lowly, the ones who put their trust in Christ. Through baptism and through His Word, God gives faith to believe in Christ so that his people, like Peter, can say to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." The lowly are then raised on high to live with God forever in heaven.

Our talents and abilities are wonderful gifts that God wants us to use wisely for the betterment of all and for bringing the message of salvation to the world. But faith sees the futility of these talents to bring salvation. Faith trusts in Jesus Christ alone for forgiveness and everlasting life. And God shines His face on such humble, lowly faith.

Such a Simple Thing



If this house had not been neglected, it would still be functional today. Just a coat of paint and some consistent care might have saved it from the damaging destruction of time. Such a simple thing...



In Genesis 15:1, God said to Abraham, "I am your shield, your very great reward." Our Father can protect us from the wear and tear of life. If we open our hearts and let him in, the reward will be great.

As you attend your house of worship this week, let God be your shield and your reward. He will protect your soul and keep your spirit shining and new. It's such a simple thing.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
John 17:1-26	John 1:19-51	Mark 8:1-26	Mark 8:27 - 9:13	Mark 9:14-32	Mark 9:33-50	Mark 10:1-16

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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NORTON MANOR

By DORIS MIZELL

James and Lena Skrdlant had as guests grandson Jay and wife and daughters Kacy, Janie and Cinnamon Christmas Day.

Clara Shewey went to Karen's for Christmas at Prairie View then on Dec. 27 she went to Rosie's at Almena for dinner and to open gifts.

Alma Schulze spent Christmas with her son Dale and his family. They enjoyed playing games and visiting. Additional guests were Rosalie's father, Tim Adrian and Alma's brother, Art Wudtke. Sunday evening Alma's grandson, Kody Hanston, from Kansas City and his mother, Donna Thomas, came over and spent the evening.

Marie Delimont spent Christmas eve with her daughter Judy Van DerVeen and family. She attended church Christmas morning with them at Luctor and then they all joined the family at the home of Shane and Stacie DeBoer, Alyssa and Gage of rural Edmond.

Marie Delimont was happy to be out for the Manor Coffee on Monday after about a week in the Holdredge Hospital and then recuperating at home.

Evalene Schulze spent several days at Seward, Neb., over the New Year with her daughter, Vicki, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hiser and their families.

Anetta Knapp spent Christmas Day at the Marty Smith home at Lenora.

Dec. 29 dinner guests of Mary Keith were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Murphy, Bettendorf, Iowa; Mr.

and Mrs. Sean Murphy, Kayla and Josie, Eagle River, Ala.; Mr. Patrick Murphy and Austen, Gardner.

Dec. 31 the family of Mary Keith gathered in the reception room of the Manor for Christmas. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Murphy, Bettendorf; Mr. and Mrs. Sean Murphy, Kayla and Josie of Eagle River; Patrick Murphy and Austin, Gardner, Miss.; Megan Murphy, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Ed and Linda Keith, Almena; Mr. and Mrs. Royce Bruce, Riley and Kyle, Little River; Mr. and Mrs. Jason Schmidt, Tegan and Will, Oakley; Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Keith and Tucker, Yuma, Colo.; Mr. and Mrs. William Greving, Mr. and Mrs. Colby Greving, Caley, Christian, Colton and Camylen of Prairie View; Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Nesvaras and Jacob, North Platte, Neb.; Mr. and Mrs. Todd Slavik and Torea of Long Island. Later in the day all joined in a celebration of Mary Keith's 80th birthday. An open house was enjoyed at the Christian Church.

Jan. 2 breakfast guests of Mary Keith were Mrs. Lyman Knapp and Evelyn Urban of Blackwell, Okla.; Mr. and Mrs. Gary Chambers, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Keith of Almena. Sunday all attended church and in the afternoon enjoyed visiting and driving around seeing all the old sites.

Manor residents celebrated the birthdays of Lacy Frack and Mary Keith at the regular coffee.

JENNINGS NEWS

By LOUISE CRESSLER

The Jennings school board met Jan. 9. The meeting was well attended by citizens interested in the distribution and closing of the school at the close of this year. The hearing held Jan. 13 drew a crowd of about 30 citizens. Hearing Board Officer and Superintendent Hart answered several questions.

The Housing Authority Board will meet Jan. 19.

Dawn Hartung, Cambridge, Neb., visited Dorothy Jones and Bob Jones on Saturday. She is a granddaughter of Mrs. Jones.

A smaller than usual crowd attended Senior Potluck Jan. 10.

Present were: Stan and Ramona Shaw; Helen and Keith Muirhead; Arch Harman; Vendla Tacha; Eleanor Morel; Agnes Wahlmeier; Marguerite and Elmo Bailey; William and Rachel Carter; Ruth and Merl Chance; Jay Kump; June Vavroch; Louise Cressler and Mary Votapka. The group played bingo.

All of Darrell Davis children spent the weekend with him and grandpa Norman Davis.

Merle Snyder served 38 dinners Saturday at Mom's Lil Market. It was one of the largest crowd she has had since opening her business.

LYLE NEWS

By DEANNA SUMNER

Eldon and Theresa Huff traveled to Las Vegas, Nev., to visit their parents after the holidays. Eldon's brother, David Huff, came from Parrington, Texas, to visit his parents, Ernest and Donna Huff of Lyle.

Saturday, Jan. 7, Toots Magers accompanied Charlie and Judy Easton to Abilene where they visited J.T. Guy and family.

Jan. 9, Kathy Van Meter's sister, Gladys Williams, was laid to rest in Hill City.

Thursday, Veda Wood and Toots

Magers enjoyed the music of the Vic Mowry Band at the Cedar Living Center in Oberlin.

Sunday visitors at Toots' was Gary and Cathy Anthony and Brooke Sumner who was selling Girl Scout cookies. That evening June Jolly and Toots played pinchole in Norton.

I would like to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for the cards, calls, and memorials upon the loss of my brother, Jim. It means so much to know there is comfort in the world.

PRAIRIE VIEW

By VIVIAN JANSONIUS

The Phillips County Landfill and Recycling Center was in Prairie View Jan. 10, 11 and 12.

Eddy and Anita de Boer, Phillipsburg, entertained most of their family for dinner on Christmas Day. Attending were: Kenny and Cindy Vink and family from Ellinwood; Tammy Slayton and daughters from Dodge City; Mark and Lisa Grieve and Kaiden and Megan, Heath and Lori Bogart, Kali, Alexi and Kambri, all of Hays; Kerry and Rhonda Kellerman, Jordan, Jaron and

Jacey, Phillipsburg; and Vivian Jansonius, Prairie View.

The Gleaner's Circle of the Prairie View Reformed Church met Jan. 5 at the home of Hazel Jansonius. Darline Brown conducted the meeting and Goldie Barker gave the devotions. Mrs. Brown presented the lesson, "God's Glory Fully Revealed". Seven members answered roll call. Others present were: Linda Van Der Weels, Erma Jean Nyland, Vivian Jansonius and Julianna Lasneiwski.

ALMENA NEWS

By ESTHER MARBLE

Ellis Fisher had an accident last Wednesday. The donut tire he was trying to put on his car blew up in his face. They took him by ambulance to Kearney and they sent him on to Omaha where they did surgery on his eye. He is at his daughter's home in Kearney now but will have to go back to Clarkson Hospital in Omaha for more surgery soon on his eye. He also has a broken thumb and wrist.

Darrell Delimont of Denver,

Colo., came one day last week and ate lunch and spent the afternoon visiting his sister Alberta Geil.

Brant Marble was home over the weekend to visit his family and friends. He left Sunday afternoon to go home because heard big snow storm was coming.

Vera Schra of McPherson stayed overnight with Alberta Geil. She came to attend the 80th birthday of her aunt Lucille Sawyer and to visit her aunt Marie Engelhardt and other relatives.

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