

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

“What We Really Want”

By Jeff Nielsen, Minister, Norton Christian Church

And he said to all, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake, he will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? Luke 9:23-25

We’d like to have a “Tinkerbell Jesus” — a Jesus who can fix all our problems in our personal lives, then when we die at a ripe old age in our sleep, can sprinkle a little fairy dust on us so we can fly home to God and receive our eternal reward.

Now we really don’t like to admit this truth, of course, at least not in those unvarnished and raw of terms. However, if we get really honest with our expectations, that’s what we really want. We don’t want to have to grow up and find a faith that sustains us through hard times because we live in a broken world where sin mars and bad things happen to perfectly good people. We love that Jesus is our Savior, Redeemer and Friend — and he is each of these and more! We just have a hard time with that “Jesus is Lord” part where the Cross became his destination and

might possibly become our own!

Even Jesus’ closest followers in the days of his earthly ministry, wouldn’t hear his message of the cross before it happened. Some were fearful at what awaited in Jerusalem that final trip. Some even realized that danger and death

might be lurking. Something tells us, however, that they really didn’t believe Jesus would let that happen.

None of Jesus’ followers anticipated that the crowds’ shouts of triumph would turn into calls for his crucifixion by week’s end. None expected that one of Jesus’ closest fol-

lowers would betray him or that his most vocal follower would deny, with cursing, that he ever knew Jesus. None expected the rest to run away and hide in the room where they had just had the Last Supper with their Lord whom they believed to be the Messiah of Israel.

Today there are “Tinkerbell Jesus” preachers who promise everything good and nothing bad. It’s a watered-down Christianity without the Cross, an empty Easter without the Passion, and the promise of a Savior without the need to follow the Lord.

The Cross, in Jesus day, was an awful torture stick used by the ancient Romans to shame, wound, and kill through humiliation all in the name of preventative justice. Jesus’ Cross was a real and awful Cross — not some token piece of jewelry or good luck symbol. That Cross today reminds us that without dying with Jesus and sharing in his Cross, there is no resurrection to Jesus’ life.

The Cross calls us to the life of Jesus, the sacrifice of Jesus, and the integrity to stand up for those everyone else ignores... no matter the cost to us personally.



Refuge

Lightening flashes across the sky. Thunder unleashes its ominous rumblings. The first spatter of rain falls briskly on the ground.

In the forest, the wind begins an eerie song in the swaying tops of tall pines. Sullen banks of clouds blanket the pale moon. The creatures of the woods scurry to their dens to wait out the approaching storm. They find a place of refuge.

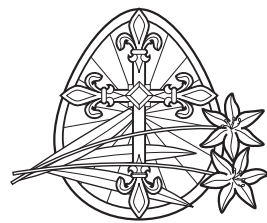
In our lives there will always be storms that arise; there will always be anxiety and fear. Where do we turn for comfort and safety? Where is our refuge?

God’s House offers protection against the adversities of life. A community of the faithful can provide solace and peace in the presence of grief and fear.

Come into the House of the Lord while the storm is raging and find your refuge.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Genesis	Genesis	Genesis	Exodus	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers
46.28-47.12	47.13-31	49.29-50.26	33.1-23	34.1-35	16.1-34	14.1-25

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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NEW ALMELO

Renee Cella and girls, Denver, spent the weekend with Roger and JoAnn.

Family coming to the Alfred and Betty Otter home for the Fourth of July weekend were

Will and Tina Ritter and family, Olathe; Karl Otter, Great Bend; Mark and Sheila Otter and family, Ulysses, who had attended a Heisel Reunion at the Norton lake over the weekend.

ALMENA NEWS

By FLETA HANLON

Evelyn Sanborn’s sister, Mabel Sanderson, Springfield, Va., came for a visit. All the Horesky family got together for a meal at the Town and Country Kitchen. She was unable to go home on Amtrac due to flooding in Il-

linois and Iowa. While waiting to go home, she became ill with respiratory problems and spent a week in the hospital.

She returned to Evelyn’s home on oxygen and had to wait for her children to come after her by car.

•PUBLIC NOTICE•

ALMENA IRRIGATION DISTRICT NO. 5

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, July 18, 2008.

(1T)

NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT HEARING

The Board of Directors of Almena Irrigation District No. 5 will meet as a board of equalization between the hours of 8:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. DST, July 29th, 2008 at the District headquarters building in Almena, Kansas.

Owners of land classified as irrigable in said District may discuss any problems they may have concerning irrigable acres.

Jeanette Harris, Secretary,
Almena Irrigation District No. 5

•PUBLIC NOTICE• PRIMARY ELECTION NOTICE

Published in The Norton Telegram on Tuesday, July 1, Friday, July 11, and Friday, July 18, 2008.

(3T)

State of Kansas, Norton County, Kansas, June 27, 2008 as required by K.S.A. 25-209. Notice is hereby given that there will be a Primary Election held in Norton County August 5, 2008.

The voting hours will be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the regular voting places. And the Modell Twp voters will all vote at the Lenora Community Building, in Lenora. I, Robert D. Wyatt, County Election Officer of Norton County do hereby certify the following named persons for the respective offices indicated below, are entitled to a place on the Official Ballots in the Primary Election to be held in Norton County, August 5, 2008.

**PRIMARY ELECTION NOTICE
NATIONAL OFFICES**

For UNITED STATES SENATOR
Lee Jones, Overland Park..... Democrat
Jim Slattery, Topeka..... Democrat
Pat Roberts, Dodge City..... Republican

For UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE 1st DISTRICT
James Bordonaro, Emporia..... Democrat
Jerry Moran, Hays..... Republican

For STATE SENATOR 40th DISTRICT
Ralph Ostmeyer, Grinnell..... Republican

For STATE REPRESENTATIVE 120th DISTRICT
Robert G. Strevay, Norcatour..... Democrat
John M. Faber, Brewster..... Republican

For DISTRICT JUDGE 17th DISTRICT
William B. Elliott, Hill City..... Republican

COUNTY OFFICES
For COUNTY COMMISSIONER 2nd District
Carolyn Applegate, Norton..... Republican

For COUNTY COMMISSIONER 3rd District
John Miller, Norton..... Republican

For COUNTY CLERK
Robert D. Wyatt, Norton..... Republican

For COUNTY TREASURER
Cynthia Joan Linner, Norton..... Republican

For REGISTER OF DEEDS
Wanda M. Vincent, Norton..... Republican

For COUNTY ATTORNEY
R. Douglas Sebelius, Norton..... Republican

For SHERIFF
Troy M. Thomson, Norton..... Republican
Brent A. Bohl, Norton..... Republican

TOWNSHIP OFFICES
For NORTON, WARD ONE COMMITTEEMAN

Joe E. Ballinger, Norton..... Republican

For NORTON WARD ONE, COMMITTEEWOMAN

Bernice R. Becker, Norton..... Republican

For NORTON WARD TWO COMMITTEEMAN

J.C. Berry, Norton..... Republican

For NORTON WARD TWO COMMITTEEWOMAN

Ruth Lofgreen, Norton..... Republican

For NORTON WARD THREE COMMITTEEMAN

Curt Archibald, Norton..... Republican

For NORTON WARD THREE COMMITTEEWOMAN

Norma Archibald, Norton..... Republican

For ALMENA PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN

Wayne Archer, Almena..... Republican

For ALMENA PRECINCT COMMITTEEWOMAN

Shari Archer, Almena..... Republican

For HIGHLAND #1 PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN

Steven L. Berry, Lenora..... Republican

For HIGHLAND #1 PRECINCT COMMITTEEWOMAN

Joni K. Berry, Lenora..... Republican

For HIGHLAND #3 PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN

John Miller, Norton..... Republican

For HIGHLAND #3 PRECINCT COMMITTEEWOMAN

Clarence E. Wetter, Norton..... Republican

For HIGHLAND #3 PRECINCT COMMITTEEWOMAN

Rebecca C. Wetter, Norton..... Republican

For CENTER #1 PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN

Jon Lofgreen, Norton..... Republican

For CENTER #1 PRECINCT COMMITTEEWOMAN

Elaine Lofgreen, Norton..... Republican

For TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE ALMENA

Shad Chandler, Almena..... Republican

For TOWNSHIP TREASURER ALMENA

Abner Williams, Almena..... Republican

VOTING PLACES

Almena City-Township & Harrison..... Almena City Hall

Center Precinct No. 1..... Courthouse Lobby

Center Precinct No. 2..... Courthouse Lobby

Highland Precinct No. 1..... Lenora Community Building

All of Modell..... Lenora Community Building

Highland Precinct #2..... American Legion Building

Highland Precinct #3..... Courthouse Lobby

Solomon Precinct No. 1..... American Legion Building

Old Belle Plain..... Courthouse Lobby

Solomon Precinct No. 2..... American Legion Building

NORTON CITY:

Ward One..... American Legion Building

Ward Two..... American Legion Building

Ward Three..... American Legion Building

Robert D. Wyatt
Norton Co. Election Officer
SEAL