

# Visit Your House of Worship

## +++++ WEEKLY SERMONETTE +++++

**Did the Prince of Peace ever pick a fight?**

**BY KIRK KASSON**

**ALMENA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

I don't like to make enemies. I prefer friends. As a kid I was always one of the last kids to get in a fight. In fact I can just about name every fight I got into as a kid.

I've always been more of a diplomat, wanting to help everyone else get along with each other.

While preparing my Christmas messages this past month, I ran across a passage of Scripture, which startled me.

Luke 2:33-35. The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Mary and Joseph had gotten used to hearing good news about their son. He would be a savior, one who saved people from their sins. He would also be "a light for revelation to the

Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." and called "the Son of the Most High".

But then they learned that their son would cause many to fall.

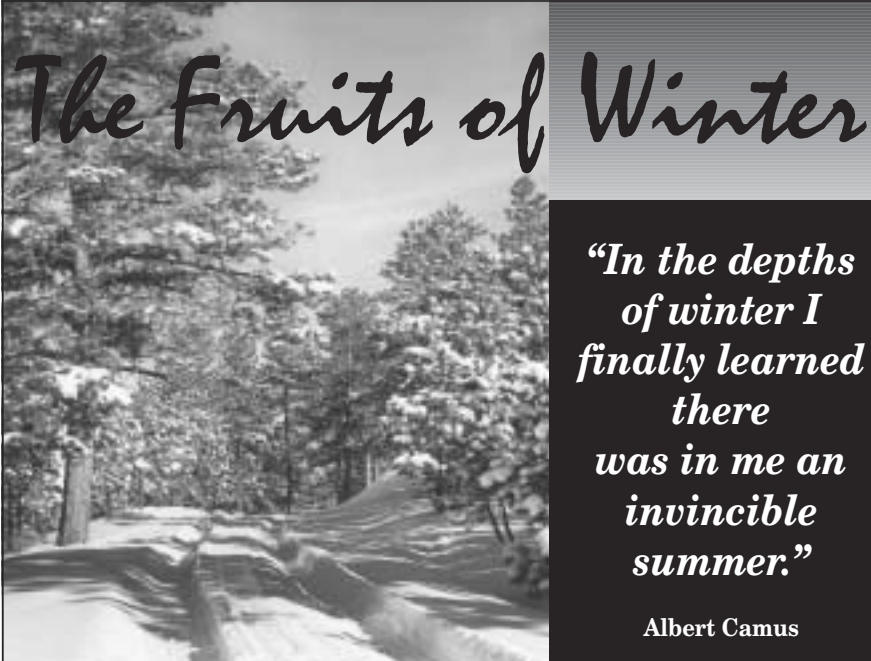
Does this change your image of Jesus? When did he ever cause anyone to fall? Look back at the rest of Simeon's prophecy. It says, "the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed."

Jesus did a lot to reveal the hearts of the people he came into contact with. We learned about the hearts of the Pharisees, the heart of the rich young ruler, and the heart of Judas.

You see, everyone has a choice regarding what to do with Jesus. He forces you to choose for or against him; there is no middle ground.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace, because he makes peace possible, but he never forces people to join him in peace. He allows people to choose violence, and to choose to reject him. Many have, and many continue to.

I pray that you have made Jesus your savior, and let him bring peace into your life. Do not choose destruction, but choose the way of life and light.



*"In the depths of winter I finally learned there was in me an invincible summer."*

Albert Camus

**H**ow often the challenges of life teach us how strong we really are. Of course, winter with its unique challenges is merely symbolic of surviving the tough times. A relationship ended, financial losses...any difficulty we overcome increases our confidence in ourselves.

Yet, in order to be truly strong in every situation, we must have an equally strong faith in our Heavenly Father. Our Lord proclaimed, "if you have faith and never doubt...if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will be done. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith." (Matthew 21:21-22)

Do you want to feel invincible? Worship God this week and learn of His love for you. The more you come to know Him, the more confident you will be. With God beside you, it will be summer all year around.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Isaiah 9:1-7	Isaiah 11:1-16	Isaiah 12:1-6	Isaiah 35:1-10	Isaiah 52:1-12	Isaiah 60:1-22	Isaiah 62:1-12

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## PRAIRIE VIEW

By VIVIAN JANSONIUS

Tom and Marcia Heersink of Colorado were Thanksgiving dinner guests at the home of her mother, Clazine Engleman.

The Gleaner's Circle of the Prairie View Reformed Church met Dec. 4 at the home of Linda Van Der Weele. Darline Brown, chairman, called the meeting to order with reading "Christmas". Vivian Jansonius, secretary, called the roll with eight members present. Members drew secret pals for 2004. Darline Brown, Goldie Barker and Mrs. Jansonius gave the program, "Trip to Bethlehem". Mrs. Van Der Weele closed the program with a prayer. Members exchanged gifts with their secret pals from this year and shared lunch.

Burdett Leydig went to Kearney Friday to visit at the home of his daughter, Tammy and Gene Tillotson, Sydney and Collin.

Larry and Joy Feris and Rick Williamson, Gardner, came Tuesday to visit at the home of Sam and Donna Stuteville and also to go hunting.

The Lone Prairie 4-H Club met Dec. 7 in the Prairie View Senior Citizen/Community Center with 13 members, seven leaders and three parents attending. Roll call was "Your Favorite Reindeer". Acting President Shaley Van Loenen conducted the meeting with Shyanne Thompson leading the flag salute and Samantha Tien leading the 4-H pledge. A "thank you" note from Clarence and Bette Tien was read and Aaron Tien was installed as a new member. The club voted to donate a wreath to the Prairie View Community Center. It was reported that Club Day will be March 19 and the Carnival will be March 20. The club will have a food stand at the gun show on Feb. 21 and 22. Michaela Girard gave a project talk and Caley Greving gave a talk on how "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" became a song. A gift exchange was held and leaders served refreshments provided by the club.

Members of the Prairie Homemakers Family Community and Education Unit met on Dec. 8. They went to Logan where they met at Carol Louise's for supper and a gift exchange. Hostesses were Wanda Schemper, Belinda Thalheim, Pat Hammond and Judy Van Der Veen. After exchanging secret pal gifts and revealing their identities, members drew names for 2004. Anissa Kats distributed the 2003 schedule. Others attending were La Von Kats, Sara Nelson, Beth Ponstein, Gloria DeWitt, Diana Greving, Linda Hultgren, Belva Leydig, Bev Schemper, Julia Schemper and Vivian Jansonius.

Harlan Van Der Wege and Vivian Jansonius went to Hays

Dec. 11 for shopping. They met Jerol and Jennifer De Boer, Kelsee and Taylor, Mark and Lisa Grieve and Megan and Heath and Lori Bogart, Kali and Alex, all of Hays. Kaiden Grieve was absent as he was playing basketball. While in Hays, Mrs. Jansonius went to a High Plains Mental Health meeting.

Stanley and Donna Kats went to Denver Friday to visit at the home of Phyllis and Darrell Delimont. They returned home Sunday.

Burdett and Belva Leydig spent Sunday in Kearney at the home of their family, Gene and Tammy Tillotson, Sydney and Colin and Mike and Lisa Leydig, Courtney and Megan.

The Sunshine City Library has placed several audio-books on their shelves that were purchased with money from the ice cream social. An audio-book, "The Lord is My Shepherd," by Robert Waller was given in memory of Audrey Kats. A compact disk, "Temptation," by Jude Deveraux was also donated.

Members of the Prairie View Reformed Church went to Logan on Dec. 16 to sing carols at Logan Manor and the Assisted Living Center. They were Norman and Rose Erickson and Bart and Erma Soodsma, Phillipsburg; Melvin Breathouwer, Long Island; Rev. Jeffrey Van Der Weele, Vivian Jansonius, Deb Thompson and Shyanne, Bill and Diana Greving, Colby Greving, Caley, Christen, Colton and Camryn, Prairie View.

John Hoffman, Logan; Phyllis Merklein, Marvin and June Harbers, Burdett and Belva Leydig, Gerald and June Van Loenen, Sam and Donna Stuteville, Richard and Grace Roeder, Julianna Lasniewski, Goldie Barker, Faith Van Diest, Linda Hultgren, Darline Brown, Hazel Jansonius, Rodney Jansonius, the Rev. Jeffrey Van Der Weele, Vivian Jansonius, Clazine Engelsman, Freda Rupke, Gertrude Erickson and Erma Jean Nyland attended a carry-in dinner on Dec. 17 at noon at the Prairie View Senior Citizen/Community Center.

Jamie and Kim Durbin and Katy of Orleans, Neb., Sam and Donna Stuteville, and David Fish and daughters, Arlie and Clorisa of Prairie View left Friday to Eastern Kansas to visit relatives and friends for Christmas, especially Margaret Stuteville of Stilwell, Larry and Joy Feris of Gardner.

College students home for the holidays include: Priscilla Van Der Weele from Orange City, Iowa; Kassy DeWitt, of Sioux City, Iowa; Jason and Crystal DeWitt of Hays; Jessica Thompson of Minden, Neb.; and Beau Van Loenen of Manhattan.

## LYLE NEWS

By HELEN HELM

The Star Valley 4-H Club met at the Lyle Community Building Sunday afternoon for their December meeting. A Christmas grab bag was held and a soup supper followed. Among the guests were Bob and Anita Montgomery, Kathy Van Meter and Helen and John Helm. Christmas carols were sung led by the 4-H members and their leaders before the close of the evening.

Sympathy is extended from the community to the family of Joe Schwab who died Sunday night. Joe grew up here and continued to be part of the Lyle Community. His services were held Thursday with burial at the Oberlin cemetery. The Lyle United Methodist Women furnished lunch following the services for family and friends. Helping were Margaret Magers, Kathy Van Meter, Yvonne Sumner and Joyce and Virgil Price, assisted by Laurene Van Otterloo of Oberlin.

Kathy Van Meter and Margaret Magers visited Van Cozad Tuesday evening at the Beaver City Nursing Home. A resident of Assisted Living, Blanche Feusner, joined them for cards.

Visitors Wednesday at the home of Margaret Magers were Verle Cook, Elden Huff and Helen and John Helm.

June Jolly and Karen Brown played cards at the Eagles' Club in McCook Monday evening. On Wednesday afternoon Mrs. Jolly

attended cards and Bingo that morning. She was in Norton for "Party Pitch" Sunday evening.

A chance meeting for Wednesday dinner at the Fencepost Cafe in Lebanon was enjoyed by Bob and Marie Daffer, Dean Jolly and John and Helen Helm.

Margaret Magers and Kathy Van Meter visited Marguerite Fullerton at the Good Samaritan Home in Oberlin on Thursday.

Jim Helm, Danbury, Neb., took his parents to McCook Thursday to enable them to do some errands.

Mrs. Ceanne Rinehart, Colby, was an overnight guest of her parents Thursday evening and left Friday morning to meet her sister, Kathy Brashears, Curtis, Neb., for a trip to Lincoln where Laurie Helm, St. Joseph, Mo., joined them. The girls attended a week-end retreat at Waverly, Neb., led by Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz, Bishop of the Lincoln diocese.

This correspondent would like to use this opportunity to wish all a very Merry Christmas, a happy New Year and most especially "Peace on Earth."

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