

Lutheran Chrurch dedicating new items

Sunday marks the beginning of the season of Advent.
Advent is a time of preparation as Christians anticipate both the birth of Christ and his return.
On Sunday, members of Colby's Trinity Lutheran Church will have for service new candle lighters, offering plates and white and violet paraments for the altar.
In addition, the church will be consecrating for service a new hymnal, the Lutheran Service Book.
The new offering plates were made possible by the Ruben Herbel memorial fund.

The funding for the paraments came from the Beulah Price memorial fund.
Member Margot Trowbridge made the paraments and member Leesa Wark embroidered the artwork on the paraments.
Funding for the new hymnals was made possible by the generous gifts of members and memorial gifts.
Trinity Lutheran Church is located at Fifth and Country Club. Weekly worship services are 5:30 p.m. Saturdays and at 10:30 a.m. Sundays with Sunday School for both children and adults at 9:15 a.m.

'Nativity Story' is a Christmas gift for audiences desiring reverential films

For The Associated Press
Was the box office for Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ," that 2004 show-biz shocker, a fluke? Or did it reveal a massive and neglected audience for reverential fare?
We'll learn more from the box-office receipts for "The Nativity Story," New Line Cinema's holiday gift that brings elegant Christmas-card scenes of Jesus' birth to life on screen.
Christians will presumably flock to "Nativity," even though the same Time Warner unit bears responsibility for those "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" movies. Home video and inevitable TV repeats in future Decembers will enhance proceeds.
Director Catherine Hardwicke ("Thirteen," "Lords of Dogtown") says she sought "epic intimacy" to evoke "another time and beautiful landscape." Strikingly austere vistas in Morocco and Italy represent the first-century Holy Land.
The 10-nation cast boasts Oscar nominees Shohreh Aghdashloo ("House of Sand and Fog") as Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist; and the magnetic Keisha Castle-Hughes ("Whale Rider") in the primary role of her cousin Mary.
(As it happens, Castle-Hughes, 16, is now pregnant out of wedlock.)
Oddly, Jesus' ministry and crucifixion have provided ample movie material while his birth is largely ignored, apart from cheapos for the church-basement market. Perhaps that's because this, possibly the most famous story ever told, lacks suspense.
The movie's historical consultant, the Rev. William Fulco of Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, endorses mild "higher criticism" of the Bible in a publicity handout that will rile fundamentalists.
The accounts in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke "are not completely compatible," Fulco says. Since "very little was known of the events," he explains, "the stories were developed using what is called midrash, a sometimes creative reconstruction of events based on what is actually known, elaborated from clues" in prior writings.
Screenwriter Mike Rich ("Finding Forrester," "The Rookie") is devoutly Christian. Since he turned the minimal scriptures into 94 minutes, how does "Nativity" compare with the Bible?

Rich follows a largely literal replication of Matthew and Luke. Unlike some of Gibson's "Passion" embroidery, the elaborations emerge naturally from the biblical and cultural background.

Specifics:
- Rich emphasizes the characters' Jewishness and, unlike with Jesus' passion, the only villains of the Nativity were the Romans.
- The show bears a PG violence warning because it begins with the Romans' slaughter of the innocents so the paranoid King Herod can eliminate youngsters who'd threaten his reign (see Matthew 2:16-18).
- Rich similarly presents Nazareth villagers as living on the economic margins, suffering from ruinous Roman taxes.
- Mary might have been as reluctant to wed Joseph, as Rich supposes, since it was probably an arranged marriage.
- It's certainly plausible that the holy couple, as here, would have been afraid, confused and worried rather than serenely accepting the miraculous unwed pregnancy that would have scandalized small-town neighbors. (Rich fully accepts Mary's virginity.)
- This on-screen Joseph is roughly Mary's age. There's a common Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox view that he was much older, to undergird belief that Mary remained perpetually virgin even after Jesus' birth.

Trivia question: How many wise men were there?
Answer: The Bible never says, only noting that the group brought three gifts. Inevitably, though, Rich shows the traditional trio crossing trackless desert while Mary and Joseph struggle toward Bethlehem.
"Nativity" has the wise men following a literal star, actually a notable conjunction of heavenly bodies such as occurred in 7 B.C. and 5 B.C.
The film ends with a voiceover as refugee Mary defiantly proclaims that God "has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts; he has put down the mighty from their thrones." (Luke 1:46-55).
Omitted for some reason is the baby's presentation in the temple and Simeon's prophecy, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace. ... for mine eyes have seen thy salvation" (Luke 2:22-39).

Judge to rule in logo suit

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP) — A federal judge is expected to rule soon in the case of a Las Cruces man who's suing the public school district over its use of three crosses in its logo.
U.S. District Judge Robert Brack heard testimony and closing arguments and said Tuesday that he would issue a decision as soon as possible.
Paul Weinbaum filed the lawsuit in 2003, arguing that the school district's use of Christian crosses on its maintenance vehicles violated the establishment clause of the First Amendment by using public money to promote religion.
Representing himself, Weinbaum said in opening remarks that his fight was about the Constitution and not about religion.
"The only thing I ask the court is they be an advocate of the First Amendment," he said.

Weinbaum was his only witness. He testified that he and his school-aged daughter have felt harassed by the use of a logo that he claims is used to spread Christianity.
School district attorney William Rusty Babington pressed Weinbaum on whether he had any evidence that the purpose of maintenance vehicle logos is to promote religion and that their use is not secular. He acknowledged he only had his own observations to back up his claim.
John Hunner, a New Mexico State University history professor, researched the origin of the name Las Cruces — Spanish for "the crosses" — and the use of three crosses. He said the use of religious symbols on public vehicles would be out of line in another city, but was not unusual given the historical significance of the symbol for Las Cruces.

Colby Berean Church welcomes pastor

By John Van Nostrand
Colby Free Press

If you wait long enough, God might give you the answer you were wanting according to the Rev. Tim Baarts.
Baarts, who started work at Colby Berean Church Nov. 19, said he had to wait 10 years before leading a church — something he wanted to do.
"In 1996, I wanted to be a senior pastor of a church," he said. "I never doubted God's call in our lives."
Baarts will replace Fran Harworth who retired in July 2005 after more than 40 years in Colby. The ministry is Baarts' second career. He has been at churches for five years.
For the previous 19 years he was at Telelect, a utility truck manufacturer in Huron, S.D. For eight of those years he was in management which included various informative and educational projects. That, combined with his already established Christian

faith, he wondered if he should be in ministry than in a secular job.
A discussion with a preacher confirmed that he was to be in the ministry. He enrolled at the Bible Institute in Chicago in 1996.
For the past five years, Baarts, 48, has been working in the ministry in other ways.
For a little more than two years, he was an associate pastor at North Oak Community Church in Hays. After that he was a program counselor for Prison Fellowship Ministries at the state penitentiary in Ellsworth.
"That was good for me to be there," Baarts said about his prison work. "It was like when Joseph was in prison. How can I minister to these people?"
The prison in Ellsworth is consid-



Baarts

“That was good for me to be there. It was like when Joseph was in prison. How can I minister to these people?”

Rev. Tim Baarts, on his previous work in prison ministry

ered medium security.
Baarts said prison work is a humbling experience.
"We have lived a protected life from the ugly parts of society," he said. "Some prisoners have lived in those ugly parts since a very young age."
Baarts said it is common for some

prisoners to have quit school to join a gang which started a lengthy list of criminal activity.
"It's the only thing they knew," he said.
But some of those prisoners have hope.
"Prison is where they found God," he said and "some have developed a relationship with Jesus Christ. Prison ministry is shepherding the sheep no one else wants."
Baarts said he does not have any major plans for Colby Berean Church.
"I just want to show the people I love them so I can lead them," he said.
Tim's wife Angie is also in the ministry. She works from their home for Tri-Media, a Christian marketing business headquartered in Chicago.
Tim and Angie have two children. Daughter Jennifer, 24, is at the University of Kansas medical school specializing in physical therapy. Son Chris, 22, works in admissions at Tabor College.



Worship in the church
of your choice this
weekend.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Worship, 9:00 a.m.

Schedule of church services

ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday, Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May
COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, Pastor, Jeremy Gundling, 245 W. College Dr. - 462-8234, Early Service - 8:00 a.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.
BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 460-2763, www.colbyberean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle & High School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Heartland Christian School Gym
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Rev. Carroll H. Morony, Grant & Webster Street, 462-2867. Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday evening 6:30 p.m.
COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, (SBC), Pastor Tom Huffman, 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m.
MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Chris Shubert. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Worship, 9:00 a.m.
WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 460-2656; Rocky Robbins, 1st counselor, 460-1101; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 462-3571.
COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 462-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. http://www.gbmg-umc.org/colby-umc/

REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC., 345 N. Franklin, Apostle W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 10 a.m., Sunday worship, 11 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Center (Bible School), 7 p.m.
CHURCH OF CHRIST, 510 E. 4th, Jay Kelley, minister, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Eve. Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
COLBY EVANGELISM CENTER, Rev. Robert Cooper, 815 West 3rd - 462-2062, Sunday School 9:45; Sunday service 10:00 and 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Friday Youth Power Hour at 7:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Bradley L. Herndon, 385 W. 3rd - 460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship at 9:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. E-mail: fccolby@st-tel.net
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rev. John L. Schmidt, East 5th & Country Club, 462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com
OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.
PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Charlie Busch, 694-2242, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Evening service, 6:00 p.m.
LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.
WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)
BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.
THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 687-2565
REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

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