

# Visit to religious community shows worship in a different light

Two days after Easter, my husband and I set out for Europe, with plans to visit Paris and southern Burgundy in France and Nuremberg in Germany.

This trip had its beginnings last August when I decided I was going to check off the top item on my Bucket List – you know, that list of things you really want to do before you “kick the bucket.” Number one on my list was to visit the Taize Community in France.

I had known about the community for many years but more recently making this trip became a priority. When I mentioned my plan to my husband he suggested we make a real trip out of it, so our post-Easter journey was born.

Taize is a small community in southern Burgundy, north of the city of Lyon. In 1940, the community’s founder, Brother Roger, came from Switzerland as a newly ordained pastor in the Reformed Church with the idea of creating a religious community in France. The war was raging and northern France was occupied by the Germans.

Brother Roger’s community became a haven for Jews and others who were trying to escape persecution. In October 1942, Brother Roger was warned that his work with refugees had been found out by the secret police, so Brother Roger and his “guests” escaped before the community was raided.

Brother Roger returned in 1944 with five other brothers and the Taize Community began to grow. Today there are about 100 brothers, both Protestant and Roman Catholic, who make up the community. Little by little, young people began coming to Taize as a place for spiritual retreat.

Today, as many as 5,000 young people under 30 come to Taize from around the world for worship and spiritual growth. They stay for a week, worshipping three times a day, and also engaging in small group discussion and



**Carol Rahn**

## • From the Pulpit

reflection and work in the community with the practical tasks of daily living.

When we were there, we encountered youth from France and Germany and saw at least one bus from the Czech Republic. The young people stay in bunk houses or in tents set up around the community.

Our first worship was Sunday Eucharist. The worship center, the Church of Reconciliation, is a simple wooden building that, when opened fully, offers a worship space about the size of a football field. There are no pews and only a few chairs for the older brothers. There are some simple benches along two of the walls. Otherwise everyone sits on steps or on the floor, or they use simple meditation benches to lean on. On this cold, rainy Sunday the church was full, with at least 85 percent of the worshippers under the age of thirty.

Worship is not fancy. The worship space was dimly lit from candles in the area of the altar or communion table. No grand organ played, no band with guitar, drums and keyboard provided the music. We were the musicians. The music is chanting simple songs based on scripture. We sang in French, English, German, Spanish, Italian, Dutch and Latin. Some songs were four-part harmony, some sung as rounds. A choir of youth led us, but all the singing was done by the entire congregation.

There was a short prayer and scripture readings, and then a time of silence for prayer and meditation. It lasted about 10 minutes. No one

stirred. No papers were shuffled. It was truly a holy silence. Then we all shared communion together and ended with more singing. Even after the final blessing the singing continued as worshippers continued to chant and pray. This worship service may have been the most profoundly spiritual experience of my life.

Before Brother Roger was killed in 2005, after being attacked in evening prayer, he was asked what was it about Taize that attracted so many young people. His answer was simple.

“Among the younger generation across the world a large number of young people are asking ‘is there any hope for our future?’ With the people we welcome we would like to search together how to find new vitality at the sources of faith, and how to prepare ourselves to live Christ for others.

“In the vocation of our community there have always been two aspirations: to go forward in an inner life, sustained among other things, by the beauty of the community prayer, and to take on the responsibilities to make the earth more fit to live in. Through the young people we meet we are strengthened in this certainty: when faith is lived out, it becomes believable and it is communicated. In the same way, when communication between Christians becomes real, it radiates hope; more than that, it can sustain the search for world peace.”

I want to go back, again and again. And I would pray for a deeper sense of Christian unity, so that we use our time seeking to reconcile with one another and sharing and spreading the Peace of Christ, rather than fighting about who is theologically or dogmatically right or wrong. Taize is one place that has offered me the hope that this could be a reality.

*Carol Rahn is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Colby. She may be reached at 462-6342.*



**Eric William Luedke and Arika Lanae Johnson**

## Couple to marry outdoors in August

Arika Lanae Johnson of Colby and Eric William Luedke of Hays plan to marry Saturday, Aug. 25, 2012, in an outdoors ceremony in Wray, Colo.

The bride is the daughter of Blane and Jill Johnson of Wray, Colo. Her grandparents are Ray and Ann Bushnell and Norma and the late Neil Johnson, all of Phillipsburg.

She is a student at Colby Community College and will

graduate in May 2012 with a degree in dental hygiene.

The groom is the son of Brian and Judy Luedke of Colby. He is the grandson of Norman and Bonna Lea Luedke and the late William and Margaret Cahoj, all of Atwood.

He is a 2007 graduate of the University of Iowa and is an apprentice lineman at L.E. Myers in Hays.

## Corrections

*The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.*

## Markets

|                        | Quotes as of close of previous business day |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Hi-Plains Co-op</b> |   |
| Wheat (bushel)         | \$5.85                                      |
| Corn (bushel)          | \$5.97                                      |
| Milo (hundredweight)   | \$10.25                                     |
| Soybeans (bushel)      | \$13.43                                     |

## Babies

### Andrew Michael Rose

Andrew Michael Rose, son of Trent and Brenda Rose of Colby, was born Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011, at the Gove County Medical Center in Quinter. He weighed 7 pounds, 6.8 ounces and measured 20 inches.

Andrew was welcomed home by his 3-year-old sister, Hannah.

Grandparents are Randy and Debbie Rose of Oakley and Ed and Sharon Prewo of Grinnell.

He is the great-grandson of Ilene Rose of Oakley.



**Andrew Rose**

### Elizabeth Quinn Hills

Elizabeth Quinn “Lizzy” Hills, daughter of Tyler and Kristina Hills of Gem, was born Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. She weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces and measured

19 1/2 inches.

Sisters Karli, 5, and Morgan, 3, welcomed their baby sister home.

Grandparents are Craig and Anita Hills of Colby and Michael and Connie Cooper of Atwood.



**Abraham S.**

Abraham Theoden Schoaff, son of Reed and Emily Shoaff of Ft. Wayne, Ind., was born Tuesday, March 27, 2012, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn, Ind. He weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 21 inches.

Abraham was welcomed home by his 2-1/2-year-old brother, Phineas.

Grandparents are Tom and Mary Schoaff of Colby and Wayne and Cheryl Cox of Hector, N.Y., formerly Colby residents.

He is the great-grandson of Marvin and Else Keil of Colby.

### Georgia Brynn Luedke

Georgia Brynn Luedke, daughter of Zach and Crystal Luedke of Colby, was born Thursday, April 5, 2012, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. She weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces and measured 20 inches.

Grandparents are Brian and

Judy Luedke and Dale and Suzanne Herschberger, all of Colby.

Great-grandparents are Norman and Bonna Lea Luedke of Atwood, Harley Herschberger of Colby and John and Rosalie Jacobs of Colby.



# Services Directory

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.

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**CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 1890 S. Franklin Ave. - Colby High School Auditorium. Pastor Dave Funk. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. [www.celebratejesus.org](http://www.celebratejesus.org)

**GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP**, 2nd and Sunrise, Oakley. Pastor James Bloom, Sunday Morning Worship and Children’s Church 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening Bible Study and Intercessory Prayer 6:30 p.m. 785-671-4020.

**COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH**, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee’s building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 785-460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

**ASCENSION-ON-THE-RAIRIE EPISCOPAL**, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 785-462-3041, 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**, 245 W. College Dr., Colby. Pastor Steve Todd. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Worship 10:15 a.m. Kid’s Church for Kindergarten- 5th grade during Worship Service. Nursery available for kids birth - 5 yrs old. Wednesday night: Family night September - May. Meal served 6 - 6:30 p.m. CD Kidz for kids birth - 5th grade, Youth Group for 6th - 12th graders and Adult Bible Study at 7 p.m. 785-462-8234. [cdag@st-tel.net](mailto:cdag@st-tel.net).

**BEREAN CHURCH**, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, [www.colbyborean.com](http://www.colbyborean.com); Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m and Saturday, 5:30 p.m.. Pastor Mark Carlton, Youth Pastor Ben Phillips. Middle School Group Wednesday 7 p.m. at the Attic and High School Youth Group Sunday 6 p.m. at the Attic. AWANA Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the church.

**To become a sponsor call Sharon or Kathryn today at 462-3963.**

**WINONA METHODIST CHURCH**, 501 Bellview Ave. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Rev. Craig Crossman, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; RC Club 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2 p.m.

**COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH** (Affiliated with Southern Baptist), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 785-460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m. Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday’s. Contemporary Evening Service at 4 p.m. through the semester.

**PLEASANT HOME CHURCH**, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-728-7380, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (MST)

**MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main Street, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Tom Peyton. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Worship Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Evenings 6:30. 3rd Sunday informal fellowship - bring a snack to share! First Sunday of month - carry-in dinner following morning worship.

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC**, 785-462-2179, 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, 785-462-6342, Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Podcasts of the worship services are available at the church website [colbypres.org](http://colbypres.org).

**OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

**WESLEYAN CHURCH**, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391, 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 - 785-460-6605, President Andy Rose, 785-460-6807. 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 by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.

**REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.**, 345N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 9 a.m., Sunday worship, 10 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 6 p.m. Shop online at: [www.rlmregionalchurch.com](http://www.rlmregionalchurch.com).

**COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 785-460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. [www.colbyumc.org](http://www.colbyumc.org)

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**, Minister, Jarrod Spencer. 510 E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m. [www.colbychurch.com](http://www.colbychurch.com)

**THE SHEPHERD’S STAFF, REXFORD**, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 785-687-2565.

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**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship and Children’s Church at 10:00 a.m.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Rev. Robert Alexander. East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497. Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:00 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at [www.trinitycolby.com](http://www.trinitycolby.com).

**LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 205 1st St., Pastor Charles Taff, 785-586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

**BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Mike Baughn, 785-694-2278, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

**REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

**BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 785-694-2720, 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, Tue. 5:00 p.m. - Women’s Bible Study.