

# Light outshines darkness; Jesus is not extinguished

The fifth verse of the Gospel of John could serve as a summary for the entire book: "The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not comprehend it."



**Mark Carlton**

• From the Pulpit

The word "comprehend" also translates from Greek as "overpower." I prefer that translation because I think it does a better job of conveying the point John was trying to communicate.

Comprehend gives us the idea that the darkness could not understand the Light of the World, Jesus. That's true, but the darkness' problem with Jesus was more than an inability to understand him.

The word "overpower" implies a deliberate but unsuccessful effort on the part of the darkness as it tried to extinguish the Light. That's what happened.

When Jesus was born, light began to shine in the darkness. It shone first in Bethlehem, and then it grew brighter in Nazareth. Finally it burst forth in blinding splendor as Jesus began his ministry. The world saw it. Curiosity drew them to it, but the Light began to expose the hearts of those who came too close to it. And those who, in John's words, "loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil," drew away from it, opposed it and finally did everything to extinguish it.

The darkness seemed to have won when the Light was extinguished on a dark afternoon on a rocky knoll known as Golgotha. But the Light began to shine again a few days later in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, and then bursting forth more brightly than ever and, much to the consternation of those who love the darkness, it has been shining brightly ever since.

We are in the season of the year when we remem-

ber and celebrate the first appearance of the Light of the World among us.

Interestingly, those who hate the Light have never given up on their efforts to extinguish it. This time of year is especially annoying to them because in spite of all the commercialism, in spite of all the secular trappings of the season, and in spite of all the attempts to remove him from the season, Christ is still in Christmas, and the Light hurts their eyes.

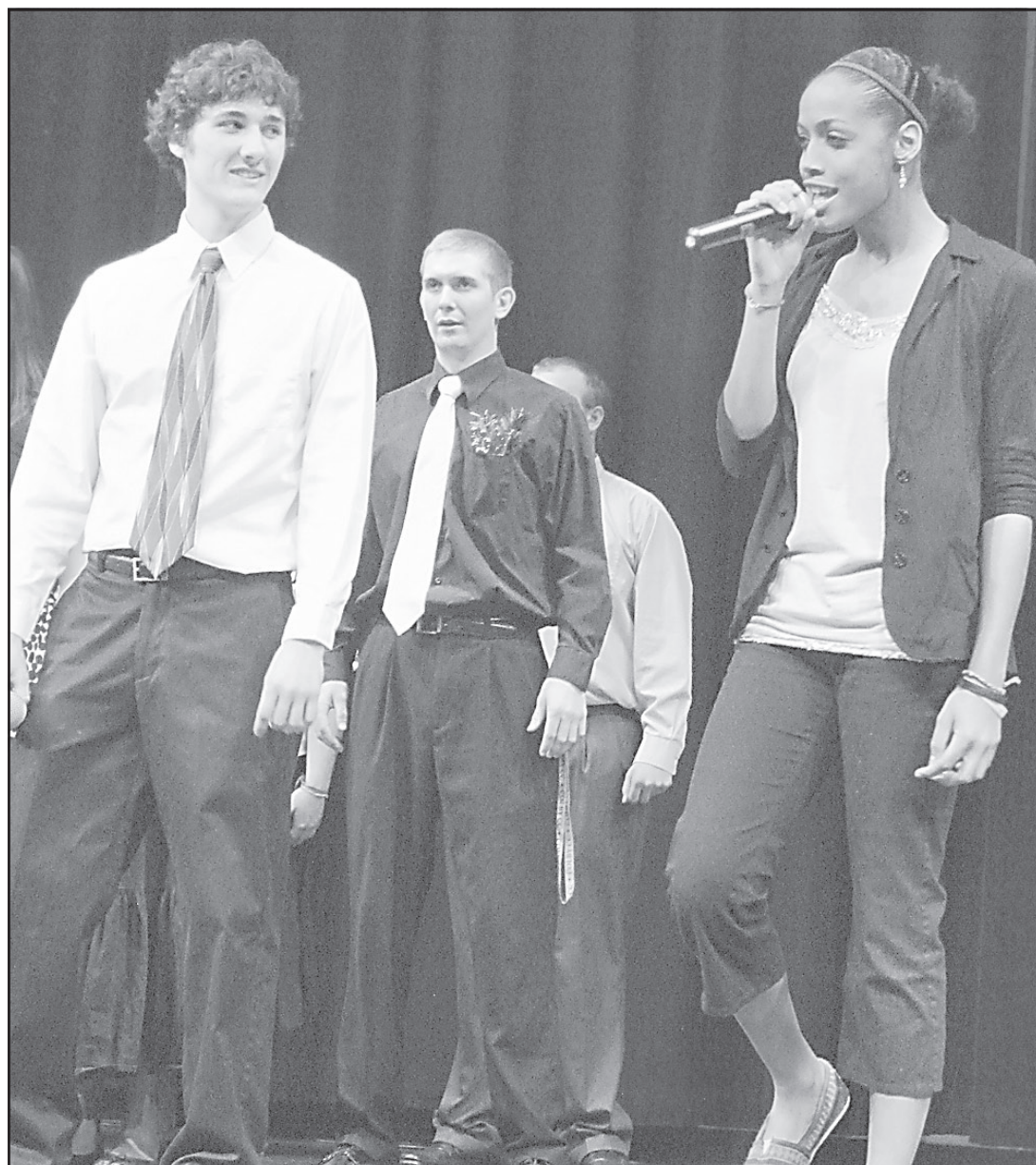
And so every year at this time we see them trying to remove the Light from the public square. This year is no exception. And they win some battles. Crèches are removed, high school choirs are censored and Christmas programs are canceled. Sometimes it feels like the bad guys are winning.

So, are they winning? No, the Light still shines. The darkness could not, cannot, nor will it ever be able to overpower it. Even if every Christmas tree is cut down, every crèche defaced and burnt, every Christmas pageant canceled and every Christmas carol censored, the Light will still shine.

It has always outlived those who have sought to extinguish it. Long after their voices have been silenced by their own mortality, it has continued to shine, giving hope, love, joy and peace to those who love it because unlike those who hate it, the Light is immortal. Why? John explained to us. You see, the Light was with God in the Beginning, and it was – and is – God.

Mark Carlton is pastor of the Colby Berean Church. You can reach him at [pastormark@colby-berean.com](mailto:pastormark@colby-berean.com) or 460-2763.

## Music's in every school now



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College Jaydon Bixenman and Rachel Myers sang "Don't Stop Believin'" by Alan Billingsley at the Colby Community College Stage Band and Sunflower Singers winter concert Dec. 4 in the Cultural Arts Center. The singers are directed by Randy Berls and the band by Tony Schroer. Both groups are available to perform at community events.

## Presidential electors to meet

At noon Monday, the six Kansas electors will meet in the Old Supreme Court Chamber at the Capitol to cast their votes for president and vice president of the United States. Once the ballots are tabulated, Secretary of State Kris Kobach will announce the number of votes each candidate received and the electors will sign certificates that will be submitted to the federal government.

Before the November presidential election, each political party recognized in Kansas and each team of independent candidates for president and vice president that successfully petitioned for ballot access chooses a slate of six electors.

Each state has electors equal to its total representation in the U.S. Congress. Kansas has six electors because it has four representatives

and two senators.

After the November election results are certified by the state board of canvassers, the secretary of state sends a certificate of election to each elector representing the party whose candidate won the statewide popular vote. This year the Republican candidates for president and vice president won the popular vote in Kansas, so the Republican electors are chosen to cast the state's official votes for president and vice president.

Electors in about 27 states are bound to cast their vote for a specific candidate by state law or by pledges to their political parties, but electors in Kansas are not bound to cast their vote for a specific candidate.

After the meeting of the electors, Kobach will certify the results of the vote to the president of

the U.S. Senate, the vice president of the United States and to the U.S. Archivist.

On Monday, Jan. 7, the electoral votes will be counted in a joint session of Congress with the president of the Senate presiding. If one pair of candidates for president and vice president receives a majority of the nationwide electoral votes – 270 – they are deemed to be elected. The winners will be inaugurated at noon on Monday, Jan. 21.

## 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.

## Solomon Valley 4-H Club

Presents for the Solomon Valley 4-H Club's Santa bingo gift exchange meeting came piling in on Tuesday.

The roll call was "What's your favorite winter activity?" There were 23 members present. The majority said sleighing was their favorite.

Club members gave 4-H calendars to the businesses that donated to 4-H. Quinlee Niblock, club member shot a photo for the calendar.

Maggie Nieman had a project talk on the steer she will be taking to the fair; Danielle Schroeder had a project talk over goats.

Then Santa Bingo began, with

everyone receiving a gift followed by refreshments provided by the Niblock and Thummel families.

The Solomon Valley 4-H club wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

— Christian Calliham, Reporter

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$8.02
Corn (bushel)	\$7.20
Milo (hundredweight)	\$12.41
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.87

## CELEBRATING THE BIG 50'S!

**What:** 50 years of Marriage and 50 years of Refereeing "Open House" honoring Don and Phyllis Dawes  
**Where:** City Limits • 2227 S. Range Ave. • Colby, KS  
**When:** Saturday, December 22, 2012  
**Time:** 6 p.m. CST - until ?

Fun, Food, Fellowship and Entertainment - No Gifts Please!

We would like to invite you - our valued customers... To join us Dec. 18th to Dec. 21st for our holiday open house.

From all of us at Swartz Veterinary Hospital -

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed new year!!

**Swartz Veterinary Hospital**  
 1775 W. 4th St. • Colby, KS 67701

Send local news to [colby.society@nwkansas.com](mailto:colby.society@nwkansas.com)

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Oasis Travel Center 700 W. Horton Ave. Colby  
 785.460.0566 M-S 10-7 Sun 1-6

# Services Directory

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



First Baptist Church

**FAITH FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**, Pastor Dan Keel, 815 W. 3rd. Sundays at 2 p.m. 337-401-7207 (temp)

**CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 1890 S. Franklin Ave. - Colby Community Building. 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-PRAIRIE 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.colbyberean.com](http://www.colbyberean.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 Kathryn or Janene 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. James Bridges, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study: 6:30 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 Mingo, 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).

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

**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.**, 345 N. 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)

**OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH**, 217 Main St., Brewster, 785-694-2751. Sunday worship 10:00 a.m.

**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., Beginning Sept. 2 - Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15 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 10:45 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.

155 W. Fifth St.  
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