

# ONE

A publication of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance April 2015

## INSIDE:

- + Message at the Top.
- + Rite of Passage at CrossPoint.

This month, we focus on victory; specifically victory in Jesus. Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, we can achieve the victory over the grave and have the blessing of eternal life. This gift of eternal life is only available to us because Jesus, the blameless Lamb, was crucified in our place.

Isaiah 53 describes for Israel what will take place to Jesus. It is a reminder to us of what the victory over death cost Jesus, and that's why for the welcome this month, we're going to provide you a copy of Isaiah 53 from the Message version. This passage will set the stage for the various victories we'll discuss in the coming pages. Take some time to reflect on the words as you are reading, and consider the One who gave his life for yours.

1 Who believes what we've heard and seen? Who would have thought God's saving power would look like this?

2-6 The servant grew up before God — a scrawny seedling,

a scrubby plant in a parched field.

There was nothing attractive about him, nothing to cause us to take a second look.

He was looked down on and passed over, a man who suffered, who knew pain firsthand.

One look at him and people turned away.

We looked down on him, thought he was scum.

But the fact is, it was our pains he carried — our disfigurements, all the things wrong with us.

We thought he brought it on himself,

that God was punishing him for his own failures.

Pastor  
Kevin Daniels



Hays Christian  
Church

But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him—our sins!

He took the punishment, and that made us whole.

Through his bruises we get healed.

We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost.

We've all done our own thing, gone our own way.

And God has piled all our sins, everything we've done wrong,

on him, on him.

7-9 He was beaten, he was tortured, but he didn't say a word.

Like a lamb taken to be slaughtered and like a sheep being sheared, he took it all in silence.

Justice miscarried, and he was led off — and did anyone really know what was happening?

He died without a thought for his own welfare, beaten bloody for the sins of my people.

They buried him with the wicked, threw him in a grave with a rich man,

Even though he'd never hurt a soul or said one word that wasn't true.

10 Still, it's what God had in mind all along, to crush him with pain.

## WELCOME

The plan was that he give himself as an offering for sin so that he'd see life come from it—life, life, and more life.

And God's plan will deeply prosper through him.

11-12 Out of that terrible travail of soul, he'll see that it's worth it and be glad he did it.

Through what he experienced, my righteous one, my servant,

will make many "righteous ones,"

as he himself carries the burden of their sins.

Therefore I'll reward him extravagantly —

the best of everything, the highest honors — Because he looked death in the face and didn't flinch,

because he embraced the company of the lowest.

He took on his own shoulders the sin of the many,

he took up the cause of all the black sheep.

All victory comes at a cost. Jesus paid the ultimate price for you and for me, so we might live. Take a moment to pray right now and thank God for sending his Son Jesus as a sacrifice for you.

As you read the rest of the articles this month, remember all victory — no matter what type we're talking about — came as a result of Jesus' sacrifice.

Kevin Daniels is pastor of Hays Christian Church, [kevin@hayschristianchurch.org](mailto:kevin@hayschristianchurch.org).

## RECIPE

The following recipe is a favorite with many — from my son's buddies, my daughter's dance teams, KSU tailgate parties and of course, First Presbyterian Fellowship hours. It is often requested by family and friends.

— Gia Scott, First Presbyterian

### Oreo brownies

Prepare fudge brownie mix according to package directions, adding in 1 cup chopped Oreo cookies. Bake as directed. Cool. Frost with prepared creamy vanilla frosting. Sprinkle 1 cup of chopped Oreos over frosting and press down slightly. Change color/flavor of Oreos to suit the holiday or team colors.

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## HOLY HUMOR

### One Good Deed

One day an elderly gentleman found himself standing in front of the pearly gates when suddenly St. Peter addresses him, saying: "All you need to have done is one good deed, my dear fellow, and we will allow you passage into heaven."

The old man, eager to pass through the pearly gates, says: "No problem," and then proceeds to tell St. Peter how he once stopped at an intersection where he saw a group of heav-

ily armed thugs harassing a group of teenagers. In an effort to help the teenagers, the man recounted how he got out of his car, walked up to the most intimidating thug, a guy standing some 7 feet tall and weighing nearly 400 pounds, and confronted him, saying he would not stand by as the gang terrorized teenagers.

For good measure, the man also told St. Peter he scolded the thugs for being cowards and he would not tolerate such behavior in his presence. In order to get his point across, the

man noted he yanked out the leader's nose ring and kicked him in the groin to make a point.

St. Peter, frantically searching for the episode in the man's life in the large tome in front of him, replied: "I can't find that incident anywhere in your file. When did that happen?"

The old man, glancing down at his watch, replied: "Oh, about five minutes ago."

Submitted by Jon Brudvig, Intern Pastor St. John Lutheran Church, Ellis

## SUBMISSIONS

ONE and the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance encourage submission from ECMA congregations. Photographs, stories, testimonies and other submissions should be directed toward your church leaders or sent via email to [one@dailynews.net](mailto:one@dailynews.net).

The ECMA advisory board will choose appropriate and timely submissions for publication.

The columns in ONE represent the views of the author.

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ONE is the official publication of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance, which guides its mission, content and theme.

It is produced by The Hays Daily News.

Volume 8, Issue 4

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# The arrival of Jesus, and his coming in the future

The Sunday before Easter is called “Palm Sunday.” When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people honored him with their equivalent of a ticker-tape parade, waving palm branches and shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” (John 12:13)

When Jesus Christ rode into Jerusalem on the Sunday prior to His crucifixion He was fulfilling the words of the prophet Zechariah. But I can remember reading this and thinking surely the text couldn't have said a donkey. Maybe a white stallion, or a camel. I'd take the old gray mare before a donkey.

It's pretty amazing, don't you think? The first truly public acknowledgment of Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah and he comes, as predicted in a way that seems, frankly, a little bit silly.

God had chosen to fulfill his plan rid-

ing upon a donkey, on a colt the foal of a donkey. What is the meaning of it? Well for one thing, I think it makes the Messianic claim unmistakable, it wasn't every day someone rode victoriously through the cheering crowd lined streets of Jerusalem on donkeys. Riding a donkey was a sign of the humility of Christ, since it was a despised thing to be seen riding on a donkey, a social step way beneath a horse-rider. This was in contrast to someone like the Grecian conqueror, Alexander the Great,

Kyle Ermoian



Celebration  
Community  
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## Zechariah 9:9 (ESV)

*9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

who entered into the cities he ruled in all his pomp and glory.

But I think there's another message for us here.

If God can use a lowly little donkey in the triumphant fulfillment of his plan, then just maybe he's got a plan for you and me, too.

In spite of the importance of the donkey's role in the fulfillment of prophecy by Zechariah, he still plays a big part. His job is to lift up Jesus so Jesus can be seen by the crowds.

We have a similar role in God's plan, not to be exalted but to exalt Christ, to make him be seen by the world. The scriptures tell us the Lord has prepared in advance for us works that are to bring glory to his Name and not our own. Like the donkey, we must be satisfied with a humble part in God's plan.

I also think the above passage actually announces two comings of the King — the first on Palm Sunday, the second yet to come in the future.

In his vision of judgment upon the wicked, the apostle John tells us Jesus is returning on another animal in the equine species, a white horse: “Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war” Revelation 19:11. Most Bible scholars are of the opinion this passage refers to a future time when Jesus comes to earth with His saints at the end of the Tribulation.

The horse's white color represents purity and victory, for this rider is holy and goes forth to be the triumphant conqueror, victorious over evil and death.

What a vivid contrast we see in Jesus' return with all His angels as compared to His entry to Jerusalem upon a donkey. He is no longer riding a humble donkey. Jesus will return on a fiery white charger, bringing judgment, just as He had promised. As we get ready for this Palm Sunday and an ECMA palm waving procession throughout the streets of downtown Hays at 3 p.m. March 29, get ready also for the eventual return of Jesus Christ.

Behold, your king is coming to you ... again.

*Kyle Ermoian is founding and senior pastor at Celebration Community Church.*



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## Celebrating resurrection

Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus each Easter. This is not merely a celebration of an event that happens long ago to Jesus. We are promised a share in his resurrection in the future at the end of time, when we will be raised from the dead, our bodies and souls will be reunited, and we will live with him forever along with those we have loved and lost. Thus, resurrection is both past event and future hope. Christians have been waiting for the resurrection of the dead for the last two thousand years.

As we know, waiting is a common human experience. It is estimated we spend about six months of our lives just waiting in line. Some of that waiting in line is for something we do not enjoy, as when we wait at the Department of Motor Vehicles or the courthouse to conduct business.

Scott Watford



St. Nicholas  
of Myra

## Psalm 62:1-2 (KJV)

*1 Truly my soul waiteth upon God: From him cometh my salvation. 2 He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved.*

Some of our waiting is for things we have to do. Some of that waiting in line is for something enjoyable, such as standing in line to get into a movie, a show, a concert, or a game.

SEE **WATFORD, 4**

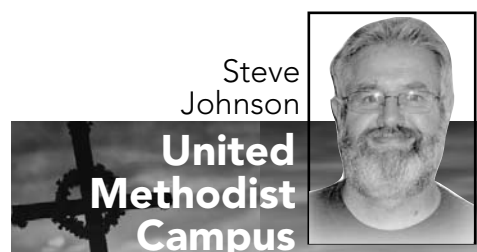
# Understanding Jesus' love for us

I am so glad to be writing about this section of scripture on victory in Jesus.

I am one who is always questioning. Several years ago while leading children in singing "Jesus Loves Me," we came to the line of "the Bible tells me so," and I thought: Where?

I easily found many places where it clearly said God loves us, and I know that Jesus is God. I also found many stories that showed Jesus loved people (us, me). But I wanted to find the expression of Jesus loves me more clearly in scripture.

I found at least a half dozen, and Romans 8:35 was one of them. The "love of Christ" is



Steve Johnson

United Methodist Campus

as close to "Jesus loves me" as you can get. Hooray!

Lately, though, I have been struggling with the term "eternal life." I am leading an in-depth Bible study of the Gospel of John, and

## Romans 8:35-37 (NIV)

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

source after source tells me in John "eternal life" is not just something in the future or at the end of time but is available right now.

If "eternal life" doesn't always refer to heaven but to right now, what does that mean? I have started thinking of eternal in

these passages as "perfect," "righteous" and even "Godly." Such words express the kind of life Jesus wants me to live right now.

Many people will get to church at least twice in the next few weeks. Once will be Palm Sunday, and the next will be Easter. Both Sundays will be filled with celebrations in worship.

But if you don't go to at least one service in between, chances are you will miss out on the last half of verse 35: Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

SEE JOHNSON, 6

## WATFORD, FROM 3

Some of our waiting is for things we want to do.

Furthermore, some of the waiting we do is expectant. Waiting for the arrival of a new baby is a prime example. We wait to hear if we get the new job for which we apply. We wait to get a special item we order. A lot of our waiting is for things that are good.

Of course, some of the waiting we do is anxious. There is waiting for medical test results. There is waiting to hear from the doctor who is performing a surgery on someone we love. A lot of our waiting is for things that are not good.

Along the lines of waiting for something that is not good, a common human experience is waiting by the bedside of a dying loved one. This is an agonizing, exhausting

experience. It is a blessing to die surrounded by loved ones. This cannot always happen, but it is helpful when it does. It is healing both for the person who is dying and for the survivors.

In times past, family and friends would be present at a loved one's death, would prepare the body, and would wait with the body until the time of burial. Much of that is left to professionals these days, but we still have visitations and wake, or vigil, services. These are vestiges of the time when family and friends would wait with the body.

In the Easter story, we have people waiting for the death of a loved one and waiting to prepare the body for burial. Jesus' mother and a few others wait with him at his death. He does not have a comfortable

deathbed but a rough-hewn cross. His pain is not eased as he is tortured to death. His suffering and death are like no other in that they are a sacrifice that atones for the sins of the world, yet the human elements of the story are all too familiar and tragic. Some women come to his tomb early in the morning to prepare his body, having waited until the Sabbath passes. The great surprise they encounter is Jesus is risen. This should be no surprise, since he tells them all along he will rise from the dead on the third day. They wait in sorrow when they should wait with joy. Human frailty being what it is, however, they do not understand the meaning of the resurrection until they encounter the reality of the empty tomb.

Ideally, each Easter is not just a recalling of the story about Jesus, but a fresh per-

sonal encounter with the reality of the risen Lord. We are reassured by this encounter as we wait for the resurrection. Our sorrow is turned to joy. Thus our celebration of Easter is not just a remembrance of a past event. It is also a celebration of a future hope. Victory over the power of death is won for all humanity through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. People participate in the victory through faith and have been the hope of believers for centuries. That hope unites the living and the dead. That hope sustains believers as they wait for the promise of resurrection to be fulfilled. That hope sustains in good times and in bad. That hope sustains at the deathbed and at the graveside.

*Deacon Scott Watford is pastoral associate at St. Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church.*

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# Death is not the end, only the beginning

My father made the decision to enter into a home-based hospice program after a 22-month journey with cancer, when it became clear further treatment would no longer improve his quality of life. My mom, his wife of more than 50 years, was by his side, but it was important for him that hospice was his choice. Even though Dad was completely deaf from the effects of chemotherapy, he opened and closed that enrollment meeting with prayer. He gave thanks to God for his wife and family and all those who had cared for him through this experience. He reaffirmed his trust in God with gratitude that death was not the end. Then he signed the necessary paperwork. My father knew well that wonderful secret; through Jesus Christ, death is swallowed up in victory.

I am grateful I was able to be with my parents through the last weeks of my father's life. My church graciously gave me time so I could return home to help care for Dad. He was an incredibly strong,

Celeste Lasich



gracious man in his life, and that strength and grace continued until the end.

On his last morning, I was at my father's bedside, holding his hand and reading aloud the traditional Presbyterian Service of Witness to the Resurrection. It was important to him I preach his funeral service. Though I knew he could not hear me with his ears, it felt natural to share those words of assurance and promise while he was still alive. As his breathing became more shallow and erratic, I came to the end of the service with its bold commendation.

"You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all.

## 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 (NLT)

51 But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! 52 It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. 53 For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. 54 Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 56 For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. 57 But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return.

This you ordained when you created us, saying,

'You are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our victory song:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Almighty God, Give rest O Christ to your servant with all your saints

where there is neither pain nor sorrow nor sighing but life everlasting"

On those last words which he could not hear with his mortal ears, my father

transformed from this life to eternity.

"Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people:

a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen."

Thanks be to God who has given us the victory through Jesus Christ!

*The Rev. Celeste Lasich is pastor at First Presbyterian Church.*

# The gates of hell cannot overpower the rock

It is significant this is the first occurrence of the word Church, or Ecclesia, in the New Testament. Its use was every way significant. Partly, it came with the associations which it had as to describe the "assembly" or "congregation" of the Lord, but partly also, it would bring with it the associations of the political and secular world of the time.

The Church would include the assembly of all citizens. The mere use of the term was accordingly a momentous step in the education of the disciples. They had been looking for a kingdom with the King, as its visible head, sitting on an earthly throne. They were told it was to be realized in a society, an assembly, like those which in earthly polities we call popular or democratic.

Christ, the King, claimed that society as His own. Christ was the church's real head and founder. But, outwardly, it was to be what the word which He now chose described. And this Church He was about

Jerre Nolte



to build would be founded on one of the first faith followers, namely, Peter. Christ is at once the founder and in the foundation of the new society.

The gates of Hades are commonly known as the place of torment. Hades as the shadow-world of the dead, the unseen counterpart of the visible grave, all-absorbing, all-destructive, into whose jaws or gates all things human's pass, and from which issue all forces that destroy, is half-idealized, half-personified, as a power, or polity of death.

In a literal sense the phrase, "gates of the grave, or of Hades," evokes the mean-

## Matthew 16:18 (NASB)

18 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

ing of all that is not of God. And so, the promise declared in this text address the reality that all the powers of Hades; all the forces of destruction that attack and in the long run overpowers other societies, would not overpower the church of which Christ is the founder, and Peter is the human on which this new kingdom begins.

Nothing in Christ's teaching is more wonderful than the utterance of such a prophecy and at such a time. Christ's Church would stand against the powers of evil. Christ was announcing, that with His coming death for all perpetuity be the triumph of all triumphs. The history of the world offers hardly any serious parallel to such a prediction, and still less to that fulfillment of it which has been witnessed through 18 centuries of Christendom, and which does not as yet seem

drawing to its close.

Today, these concepts and commentary from Charles Ellicot might provide insight and help as we face various life situations.

If we find ourselves on the brink of calamity or hopelessness, we might find assurance knowing Christ as the head of a new era has given to us humans in the form of Peter, the rock, a solid foundation to withstand all of the powers of Hades. As the powers of Hades might be encroaching on our lives, Christ first stood before those powers. Christ, and Christ alone, became our light in all of our "I have no-way-out" moments. Christ is the light of the world. Christ is your light.

If you are facing a shadowy, all-absorbing, all-destructive, tormenting moment in life, hear the good news, Christ built *the* kingdom of God on a human faith follower, Peter, and none of the destructive forces cannot tear that kingdom down.

*Jerre W. Nolte is pastor at First United Methodist Church.*

# Friendship can help lead to eternal victory

When we talk about victory in Jesus, it might seem strange at first glance to have this passage included. After all, it doesn't really talk about Jesus. I'd like to contend that though this passage doesn't explicitly mention Jesus' name, it does indeed speak of victory — the victory that is found by being together as Christian brothers and sisters.

My son loves Star Wars. We can't wait for the new movie to come out later this year. One thing that is common in Star Wars is that often main characters get into jams. Whether it's Luke out in the cold harsh night of winter, or Han Solo getting frozen in carbonite, someone is always getting in trouble. The beauty of the story is no matter what, the character's friends always come for them. Regardless of the danger, their friends can be counted on to come to their aid.

While life certainly is not a Star Wars movie, the principle of friendship and camaraderie certainly applies to life, particularly life in the church.

God designed human beings to live in relationships. The primary relationship one is to have is a relationship with God. No matter what your beliefs are, you do have a relationship with God. My hope and prayer is you have a relationship with God that is grounded in the gospel love of Jesus.

The second area of relationships we have are those relationships with those around

## JOHNSON, FROM 4

And also verse 36: As it is written: For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

I get it. The events of Thursday and Friday of Holy Week are difficult. Betrayal, beatings and death. Who wants a faith built on that?

First century people could maybe understand someone dying, being sacrificed, for their sins; they had experienced animal sacrifices as part of their faith for all of the lives.

But for modern day people, the whole concept can come across as gruesome and unnecessary. Maybe they will celebrate Palm Sunday and again on Easter, but what do they truly need to know?

More and more I am being convinced people in every walk of life need to know this: Jesus loves them.

Pastor  
Kevin Daniels

Hays Christian  
Church



us. Ideally, each of us has a set of friends or family that would be willing to traverse galaxies if need be to save us. We also need friends and families we would risk for as well. That's what Solomon is talking about when he writes in Ecclesiastes "A cord of three strands is not easily broken."

When we have friends who love us and care for us we are able to stand up to the tough situations in life. That's our three-stranded cord. The things that the world throws at us are no match for us when we have true and loving friends and family members. One place where we're supposed to be able to make such deep and strong connections is in the church.

Our churches are to be sanctuaries from the harsh world; places where we can be ourselves, without judgment and full of unconditional love. When we come to church, it is a place to find those other cords that can be woven together in our lives to face life's obstacles and pain.

Some people say God won't give you

They might not recognize their own sins, but they experience pain.

They might not realize what in life is missing, but they feel lonely.

They might not take responsibility for hurting others, but they know they are lost.

True as it is, the first thing they need to hear is not "Jesus died for you." What they are needing to hear, know and experience is "Jesus loves you."

And the best thing is that it is true. Our victory in Jesus is that Jesus loves us.

As my assigned passage ends: No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Hooray!

Steve Johnson is director of United Methodist Campus Ministry.

### Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (Holman)

9 Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts. 10 For if either falls, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one who falls without another to lift him up. 11 Also, if two lie down together, they can keep warm; but how can one person alone keep warm? 12 And if someone overpowers one person, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not easily broken.

more than you can handle. And that's true to a point, but I think it's better to say God won't give you more than you can handle together. God didn't design us to be alone — he made Eve for Adam because it was not good for him to be alone. We need to find those relationships we can count on in times of trouble. We need to seek out people of like faith who will stand with us in hardships and times of doubt. We need friends.

With friendship comes victory. Victory over the horrors of this world — victory be-

cause of Jesus' ultimate victory over death. Our victory in life is promised because of Jesus, but it is fulfilled through our relationships with friends.

I realize as I write this there are people who truly feel alone. There are people who don't feel like they have any close friends. To you, I urge you, no matter what the reason for your current state, make a renewed effort. Go to church. Go to Bible studies. Go to events where you will find like-minded men and women of faith. Make an effort to get connected. Talk to your pastor. Pray with your elders. I believe that God does not want you to be alone.

There is no greater feeling to know someone always has your back. It was true for Luke Skywalker and it's true for you and me. May friendship be with you.

Kevin Daniels is pastor of Hays Christian Church.

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so take this space between us and fill it up again

# The cross can symbolize victory

Paul, one of the greatest evangelizers in history, hit the nail on the head. “For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:18). The cross, at least in the world’s eyes, is utter nonsense. How can individuals swept up in the pursuit of worldly idols and worldly values see the cross for what it is — the power of God?

Sadly, far too many of us have been blinded by a worldly ethic that promotes power over people and encourages the selfish grasping for “things and bling,” the toys we mistakenly believe will satisfy the deepest longings of the human heart; values that promote and reward the never-ending pursuit of selfish ambitions at the expense of others’ needs, particularly the least, the last, and the lost. In a world so caught up with the extrinsic trappings of power, authority and success, I am amazed any of us manage to see the cross for what it truly is.

Paul was right. By all worldly appearances, the cross is folly and foolishness. Dare I say madness? Yet, during our respective Lenten journeys with Jesus, a time in our lives when the Spirit drives into the wilderness to accompany Jesus to



Pastor Jon Brudvig

Golgotha, many of us find ways, however fleeting, to break free from the seductive allure of worldly values in order to see the cross with new eyes. To see Jesus’ tortured body hanging on the cross for what it is, the power of God. God’s victory over sin and evil. God’s victory over even death itself. Victory!

Sadly, however, in our efforts to sanitize the cross of Jesus and clean it and make it marketable, we have managed to distance ourselves from its offensiveness and folly. Today, crosses are worn as necklaces, ear rings and other personal adornments without a second thought. Crosses are embroidered on clothing and plastered on everything from purses to leather belts, to rhinestone-studded cellphone cases, to designer fingernails. Like it or not, many of us have been co-opted by the wisdom of the world. Think about it. The ugly sight

## 1 Corinthians 1:18 (NRSV)

*18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

of a mangled human body hanging on an instrument of torture and execution offends the world’s wisdom. Values that laud and reward glory, power, status, wealth and honor cannot see the cross for what it is. During Jesus’ time, crucifixion was a humiliating death reserved for the worst sort of criminals — traitors, rebels and enemies of the state. There was nothing heroic about it. Crucifixion was shameful and embarrassing. The cross was something to be avoided at all costs. In fact, the cross is the last place anyone would expect God to show up.

Yet, Paul writes: “For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those of us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:18). Foolishness in a world obsessed with the latest comings and goings of celebrities whose every movement can be tracked via reality television shows and our fascination with the lifestyles of the rich and famous, the popular and the powerful. Yep, the cross is mere foolishness in a world that seeks to satisfy the needs of the false

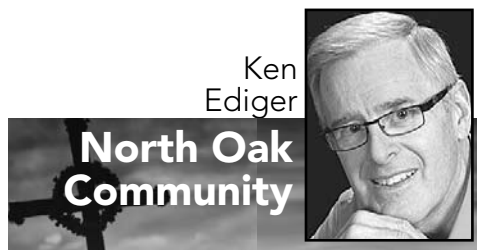
idols “Me, Myself and I.” Foolishness that believes we can merit favor with God or that we can cheat death.

Paul was right. The powers that be, and those of us who bought into the lie, simply cannot or will not, see the cross of the crucified God for what it is. God’s power in Christ’s powerlessness. Yet, the way things should be is not the way of God. Just as Jesus overturned the money-changers’ table in the temple in Jerusalem, God’s wisdom confuses and confounds us time and time again. In what to the world appears to be foolish, the cross, God shows God’s power and God’s wisdom, not in power and might, but in weakness and brokenness. In God’s self-giving love in Jesus, in the One who emptied himself on the cross for the whole world. Yes, in the world’s eyes, God’s saving action on the cross is sheer foolishness, but in terms of the wisdom of God it is victory. In the cross, the last place the world human wisdom would expect to look, we encounter God’s victory over the forces that oppose God. In the cross, the hidden God reveals God’s infinite love for you, for me and for the world. Victory!

*Jon Brudvig is intern pastor at St. John Lutheran Church, Ellis.*

# Victory through intimacy with Jesus

The resurrection of Jesus Christ changes everything. It is the best possible news for this world that is broken and deeply tainted by sinful humanity. Separated from God, every human being entering this world desperately needs to be rescued from eternal death and brought into relationship with Life. The only rescue plan involves the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is one of his two massive accomplishments that together form the gospel or “good news”. The Apostle Paul makes this claim in the New Testament letter to the Corinthians. He says this gospel saves people — the gospel they received and believed. It consists of two elements: “that Christ died for our sins” and “that he was raised on the third day.” Christians glory in the cross of Christ, as we should. But we give compara-



Ken Ediger

tively scant attention to the resurrection until Easter Sunday approaches.

In the context of Philippians 3:10-11, we learn Paul already knew Christ as his Savior. But he wanted to know him more intimately; to know him by experiencing deepening relationship with him. All his religious accomplishments and remarkable Jewish heritage he considered loss when compared to the surpassing worth of

## Philippians 3:10-11 (NIV84)

*10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

knowing Jesus Christ (verse 8). Knowing Christ became his magnificent obsession.

Paul describes the two dimensions in which he wants to know Christ. These dimensions relate to the two aspects of the gospel; the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. So Paul’s longing is to know Christ, to experience the power of Christ’s resurrection even as he shares in Christ’s suffering in the daily events of life. He wants to face his present earthly sufferings with resurrection power.

On the side of suffering, Paul wants

his life to be conformed to, or shaped by, the death of Christ. Like Christ, a believer subjects himself to humility, ridicule, discrimination, loneliness and other types of sacrifice — certainly not the same level of suffering as Christ but suffering nonetheless.

Secondly, as we are conformed to Christ’s death, we handle it with resurrection power and look forward to our own resurrection. It is the power of Christ’s resurrection that strengthens us to live in victory even as we “die” with him. Paul was certain because of the resurrection of Jesus that he too would experience bodily transformation if he was alive at Christ’s return, or he would be resurrected from death.

## Youth Spotlight

# CrossPoint ushers in Rite of Passage

By **DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN**  
one@dailynews.net

As the oldest of her four children, Jennifer Cimmiyotti expects a little more responsibility out of her son, Thomas Shepard.

Now, that involves actions at home and with their church family as well.

Shepard, 14, was one of seven students who participated in the Rite of Passage ceremony at CrossPoint Hays in March.

Included on that list was Shepard's younger sister, Adelita, who will turn 13 in May.

"I feel I will be able to give them more responsibility and treat them at a higher level," Cimmiyotti said. "They know what their church responsibilities as an adult are. I think this made it real to them."

Following a three-week preparation period, those seven students were front and center among their congregation the afternoon of March 8.

After a short explanation of the process, Pastor Micah Sanderson introduced the Rite of Passage candidates as they entered the church one by one.

It took a while for the students to reach the front of the church, where they signed a covenant and were blessed by Sanderson.

Members of the congregation formed two lines along the center aisle and congratulated, hugged and high-fived the students as they made their way through the "Tunnel of Blessing."

As the students entered the church, their parents read a passage, greeting their son or daughter as a mature member of the church, with new responsibilities.

"It is time for you to come out of the darkness and into the light," the passage began. "It is time for you to leave your childish ways and come into your Godly manhood (or womanhood)."

The Rite of Passage is part of CrossPoint's curriculum for students ages 13 and older, said Daniel Williams, student pastor at the Hays site.

Students and their families choose when they think is the right time for them to participate, and they then go through the preparation process.

"We ask them to consider how they can be more involved and contribute their gifts to glorify God," Williams said.

"It's a way for us to help usher our young people into adulthood," Sanderson said, "and we feel we have a responsibility as a church to help our young people in this process."



**Thomas Shepard, Ellis, receives hugs and cheers as he walks down the aisle during the Rite of Passage ceremony March 8 at CrossPoint Church in Hays.**

JOLIE GREEN, one@dailynews.net

Sanderson revealed an alarming statistic, "that nine to 10 students leave the church as soon as they leave home."

"There are a mixed number of beliefs about when you are an adult," he added. "It's about maturing and growing up in your faith."

During the ceremony, he asked the students four questions about becoming an adult: Are you ready? Are you able? Are you prepared? Are you willing?

Sanderson stressed if students are introduced at a young age guidance on how to become an adult, "they're going to be a lot more successful."

"We're hopeful as they leave this church, their approach to church will be different," he said.

Shepard did not take the charge lightly. He said he already felt different as he left the church that day.

"It's a different respect I felt," said Shepard, an eighth-grader at Washington Grade School in Ellis. "Before, you're a regular kid. You go through the Rite of Passage, and you're a Godly adult and you have to live like that."



**Pastor Micah Sanderson prays with Nick Schmidt, Hays, during the Rite of Passage ceremony.**



# Jesus lives — the victory is won in life

By ANNA TOWNS

When I hear the word “victory,” I immediately envision great battles, scenes of war, bloodied and exhausted soldiers and death. If you agree, just search for victory quotes in Google, and you won’t be disappointed. Sun Tzu, Patton, Churchill, Napoléon, all known for their military exploits, make the list. Their quotes use words like conquer, fight, effort, dedication, price, reward, leadership. These words conjure images of struggle, strife and pain. The idea of price and reward suggests others’ deaths are a necessary price paid to the victor, who is left standing after it’s all said and done, exhausted, but alive. When it comes to history, that is what victory means to me: who won the battle, and at what cost. But with faith, that’s not how I see it at all.

As in the scripture verse, I think not of swords and human ability, but of one God, who was made man, Jesus Christ. On Good Friday, God made the ultimate sacrifice for

*Psalm 44:3 (NIV)*

*“It was not by their sword that they won the land, nor did their arm bring them victory; it was your right hand, your arm, and the light of your face, for you loved them.”*

us. He gave his only Son so that we might live — not because of the effort people made, or the fight we put up, but because of God’s love for us. It was not the nails we hammered in Jesus’ hands and feet, or our spear through his side that won the battle over death, even though we were left standing in the end. It was God’s right hand, the flesh that was pierced, that was raised three days later, who won the war.

Our flesh is not immortal, and will not be left standing. All earthly things will die, “ashes to ashes, dust to dust,” but in Christ, our spirits will live on. There is an old hymn in the Lutheran Book of Worship, “Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won!” which describes perfectly how love gives us victory even in death. “I shall endure in His love, through death, forever./ God

will be my sure defense; this shall be my confidence.”

Sometimes grasping this concept, that Christ died so we each might live, can be a heavy weight to bear. At a recent meeting of our prayer group, this issue came up. It can be especially hard to wrap our minds around, because we do not love as God loves. When we give and share love, often we expect something in return. If God sacrificed his only Son out of love for us, what responsibility does that place on our shoulders? How can we ever be expected to repay this debt of love?

The hard truth is — we can’t, no matter what we do. Still, knowing we can’t offer repayment, and knowing God does not expect us to, does not always comfort us. Do we give up altogether? Do we do whatever we want, since He will love us no matter what? Those are questions we must struggle with and answer for ourselves. As our loving Father, God wants us to love Him and be victorious over death, but ac-

cepting God’s love is our choice to make.

If you searched Google for victory quotes, you might have also noticed quotes from Buddha, Gandhi, Plato and Mandela. In these quotes, the theme is winning victory over self. As a Christian, this means letting go of human ideals, such as winning the battle, and realizing the war is over, and God has gained victory for each of us, through love. Even though we might feel unworthy of God’s mercy and grace, that does not stop Him from loving us, unrestrained, even knowing we cannot love Him back in the same way.

“Jesus lives! And now is death/ but the gate of life immortal;/ this shall calm my trembling breath /when I pass its gloomy portal. / Faith shall cry, as fails each sense: / Jesus is my confidence!” What better sense of victory is there, than to vanquish death through faith and love?

*Anna Towns is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church.*

## FAITH BRIEFS

The Salvation Army’s Three Trails Camp & Retreat Center is a fresh-air camp established in 1924 by the Salvation Army. Three Trails shares in the long history of Salvation Army camping, providing a safe environment for campers to escape from everyday activities to have fun, learn new skills and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ.

The primary purpose of Three Trails has been serving children from Kansas and western Missouri during the summer months, June 16 to 19, through our residential camping program. In more than 90 years of operation, tens of thousands of children have been given the opportunity to come to Three Trails.

All of the staff have been trained in CPR,

first aid and Safe from Harm, we have a registered RN on site 24 hours a day. Children who experience camp, enjoy activities such as swimming, crafts, nature, music, zip-line, repelling, archery, pellet-gun range, Bible class and storytelling around a camp fire. There are a number of different camps offered throughout the summer months. The Salvation Army Service Extension hosts a one week camp for rural communities for children ages 8 to 12. For those children, transportation from key locations transports the children to and from camp.

For more information contact Ashley Allen at (785) 621-2794, or stop by the office at 203 E. Seventh, Ste. A, Hays.

• • •

Liberty Foursquare Church has moved to its new location at 400 E. Seventh as of April 1. Services are at 10 a.m. Sundays. Office hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

• • •

A community-wide Easter celebration will be at 9 and 10:45 a.m. on Easter at Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center on the Fort Hays State University campus.

Celebration Community Church pastor Kyle Ermoian will deliver the message, aligning with the NBC mini series “A.D. the Bible Continues.”

• • •

“Glow,” a women’s conference, will be at 7 p.m. April 17 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 18 at Celebration Community Church.

The featured speaker will be Pam Farrel of www.lovese.com. The conference is \$50 for attendees, and the registration for T-shirts is \$10. For more information, call (785) 625-5483. Registration deadline is April 10.

• • •

Hays Christian Church will be having a church-wide garage sale to benefit the church’s youth fund. The youth fund is the primary way students are able to attend summer camp. All manner of items will be sold at The Mall’s former Fashion Bug space from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 24 and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 25. Donations of all types are being accepted now. Call Lori at (785) 625-0094 or email [lori@hayschristianchurch.org](mailto:lori@hayschristianchurch.org) if you have items to donate.

## EDIGER, FROM 7

Knowing the power of Christ’s resurrection must accompany sharing in his death. If we simply know suffering without resurrection, we become gloomy, negative and joyless. If we focus on resur-

rection without suffering, we become disillusioned when we suffer. Knowing Christ truly and fully means knowing the power of his resurrection as well as knowing what it means to participate

in his suffering and model the way he handled his death.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ brings victory to our intimacy with him. We not only share in his sufferings but we share

in his resurrection. Nothing defines victory and defies death more than resurrection.

*Ken Ediger is pastor at North Oak Community Church.*

# Reading plan 'resurrected'

Welcome to April's Bible reading plan. We are celebrating the greatest day for mankind this month, Resurrection Day! My prayer is your Bible reading and prayer time will be "resurrected" into an even more life-changing time. Our readings this month are varied, so there should be something for everyone as we read together.

For our Old Testament readings, we will read through Lamentations and Song of Songs, and begin one of my favorite Old Testament books: Proverbs. Lamentations and Song of Songs follow Psalms because just like Psalms they are a collection of songs. Lamentations are songs that recorded the desperation felt by the Israelites as they were living in captivity. The prophet Jeremiah is credited with writing these songs. For me, they resonate with the condition of a world without Christ, therefore without hope. Song of Songs is a collection of songs that celebrate the love between a man and woman. (It gets a bit steamy.) Then we launch into the Proverbs. I try to read a chapter from Proverbs everyday. Since there are 31 days in most months, I read the Proverb chapter that matches the day. I've done it for 35-plus years and discover new ideas each month. Hebrews 4:12 asserts that God's Word is alive and powerful, that's why I see new things as it grows in me each month.

For our New Testament readings we continue through Paul's Epistles (letters). We will journey through most of 1 & 2 Corinthians, some excellent writing. The practical

Pastor Steve Dinkel



instruction found in these books can change your life. Spend time reading it carefully, take good notes, and enjoy the work of the Holy Spirit in these important books.

May the power of the resurrected Christ fill you as you read through the Bible. Thanks for joining me.

April		
1.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor. 5
2.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor. 6
3.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor. 7 & 8
4 & 5.....	Weekend Review	
6.....	<input type="checkbox"/> S. of Songs 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor. 9
7.....	<input type="checkbox"/> S. of Songs 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor. 10
8.....	<input type="checkbox"/> S. of Songs 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor. 11
9.....	<input type="checkbox"/> S. of Songs 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor. 12
10.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor. 13	
11 & 12.....	Weekend Review	
13.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor. 14
14.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor. 15
15.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor. 16
16.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 1
17.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 2
18 & 19.....	Weekend Review	
20.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 3
21.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 4
22.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 5
23.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 6
24.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 7
25 & 26.....	Weekend Review	
27.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 8
28.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 9
29.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 10
30.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 11

# A SIGN OF THE TIMES



Photo of marquee at New Life Center Assembly of God in Hays.



Liberty Foursquare Church has been hard at work on its new building at 400 E. Seventh. The church will open the renovated building with Easter services.

**EASTER**  
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**Celebrating Women**  
**Women's Conference "Glow"**  
Friday, April 17 • 7pm to 9pm  
Saturday, April 18 • 8am to 3pm  
Featured speaker is Pam Farrel [www.glow-women.com](http://www.glow-women.com)  
Registration only \$50 Deadline is April 10  
Call 785-625-5475

# MESSAGE AT THE TOP: IT COULD END IN FLAMES, PARADISE

The lady and the man in the relationship described in Taylor Swift's song "Style" are still beginning a love relationship. They have dated in the past, and both of them discovered there were other people in their lives with whom they could have a relationship. Their own relationship was one that had magic moments in which they thought they had found the perfect match for themselves. But there were other times when just the opposite was true, when they were going "round and round" trying to discover how their relationship together would be.

"Midnight. You come and pick me up, no headlights, long drive, could end in burning flames or paradise. It's been a while since I have even heard from you. I should just tell you to leave 'cause I know exactly where it leads, but I watch us go 'round and 'round each time. You got that James Dean daydream look in your eye, and I got that red lip classic thing that you like, and when we go crashing

Father  
Mike Scully



## Message at the Top

down, we come back every time 'cause we never go out of style. He can't keep his wild eyes on the road, takes me home, lights are off. He's taking off his coat. I say, 'I heard that you've been out and about with some other girl.' He says, 'What you've heard is true but I can't stop thinking about you,' and I said, 'I've been there too a few times' "

Dating always involves such thinking because early on, we just never know what the other person is going to be like. It is a discovery process, and we will always find ourselves "second guessing" our thinking. We realize

the decision is a momentous one, and early on, generally speaking, we are simply not able to find the love the way we want it.

These meditations have often pointed out Jesus did not have anything to say about the process of discovering "romantic love." Life commitments to each other were arranged rather than discovered in Jesus' time. Consequently, the person searching the Gospels for how to work with romantic love will never find it. But the Scriptures give many examples of people searching for love in their lives. Studying the lady in John's Gospel who has been described as the "Samaritan woman," we see a person who was searching for love in the life she was leading.

Jesus' disciples returned, and were amazed he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, "What are you looking for?" or "Why are you talking with her?" The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, "Come see a man who told me

everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Messiah?" They went out of the town and came to him (John 4:27-30).

The fact she had several lovers is a statement of a person trying to discover true love.

No doubt, the lady found discovering such love was not at all easy, exactly the same conclusion of the two lovers in Swift's song. They both were continuing to discover love elsewhere.

The lesson for the 21st century is a lesson of caution when one is discovering love, that is, when one is dating. At all times, the potential marriage partners must be totally aware of the commitment they intend to make.

### The Gospels in Father Mike's Top 5

- 1 - "Uptown Funk" / Mark Ronson f/ Bruno Mars Matthew 11:2-6
- 2 - "Thinking Out Loud" / Ed Sheeran Matthew 5:33-37
- 3 - "Style" / Taylor Swift John 4:27-30
- 4 - "Sugar" / Maroon 5 John 12:1-3
- 5 - "Time of Our Lives" / Pitbull f/ Ne Yo Luke 8:11-15



## St. Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church

2901 E. 13th, Hays, Kansas, Parish Offices: (785) 628-1446

Fax: (785) 623-4207, website: [www.heartlandparishes.org](http://www.heartlandparishes.org)

Rev. Daryl Olmstead

Rectory: 656-0336

### Mass Schedule:

Saturday at 5 PM

Sunday at 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Daily Mass - Wednesday, and Friday at 7:30 AM

Reconciliation: Saturday at 4:00 PM

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**Palm Sunday Mass - Saturday 5:00 pm**

Sunday 8:00 am -10:00 am -12:00 pm Spanish - 6:00 pm

**Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper**

7:00 pm Bilingual

**Good Friday - Passion Service**

1:00 pm - 7:00 pm Spanish - Living Stations - 8:30 pm

**Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil Mass**

8:30 pm Bilingual

**Easter Sunday -**

**Resurrection of the Lord**

8:00 am - 10:00 am -

12:00 pm Spanish

He is  
**RISEN**



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 12th & Fort 625-9454  
 Nursery Available  
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 Pastora Lory Herrick  
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Pastor Kevin Daniels  
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 Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.  
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 call the church or 625-0094  
 22nd & Marshall 625-3100  
[www.hayschristianchurch.org](http://www.hayschristianchurch.org)

## THE BASILICA OF ST. FIDELIS, VICTORIA

Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.  
 Sunday Mass: 10:00 a.m.  
 Eucharistic Adoration  
 Thursdays:  
 7:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
 in St. Fidelis Church behind the main altar  
 St. Ann, Walker  
 Sat. Mass: 6:30 p.m. Nov thru April  
 Sun. Mass: 7:30 a.m. May thru Oct  
 St. Boniface, Vincent  
 Sun. Mass: 8:45 a.m.  
 Fr. John Schmeidler  
 735-2777  
[fidelis@ruraltel.net](mailto:fidelis@ruraltel.net)  
[www.stfidelischurch.com](http://www.stfidelischurch.com)

## ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

Intern Jon Brudvig  
 Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship with Holy  
 Communion: 10:30 a.m.  
 394 St. John-St. Andrew Rd.  
 Get off the Ellis exit on I-70,  
 and go six miles North  
 on the paved road  
 726-3207

## WESTVIEW CHURCH

Pastor Wes Oakley, D. Min.  
 Assoc. Pastor Tim Nunnery  
 Assoc. Pastor Brandon Prough  
 Assoc. Pastor Jeremy McGuire  
 Sunday Adult & Children's Church  
 10:30 a.m.  
 Tues. R3 Live College, 8:30 p.m.  
 Wed. R3 Youth, 7:00 p.m.  
 Wed. Elevate Kids & Midweek Adult  
 Service, 7:00 p.m.  
 3000 W. 41st St 785-625-6359  
[www.westviewchurch.tv](http://www.westviewchurch.tv)

## MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

Traditional Worship: 8:30 a.m.  
 Study Hour: 9:45 a.m.  
 Contemporary Worship: 11:00 a.m.  
 (Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays)  
 Lutheran Hour: Sunday 7:30 a.m.  
 KHAZ FM 99.5  
 e-mail: [messiahsec@ruraltel.net](mailto:messiahsec@ruraltel.net)  
 2000 Main 625-2057  
[www.messiahlutheranhays.com](http://www.messiahlutheranhays.com)

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
 Sunday Service: 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.  
 10:45 a.m. Service Broadcast  
 on KAYS 1400 AM  
 Wed. Afternoon Kid's Club:  
 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday Service: 5:00 p.m.  
 (Light Supper & Informal Worship)  
 305 W. 7th 625-3408

## ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Pastor Harvey Hillem  
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[stmichaelsays@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelsays@gmail.com)

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 29th & Indian Trail 625-9500  
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## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

Interim Pastor John Kreidler  
 2703 Fort St. 785-625-2044  
 Sunday 10:15 a.m.  
 (Holy Communion  
 is Celebrated Every Sunday)  
 Fellowship Following Worship  
[www.trinityhays.org](http://www.trinityhays.org)  
[tchays@eaglecom.net](mailto:tchays@eaglecom.net)

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Celeste Lasich  
 Nursery available  
 Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.  
 Adult Study Group: 11 a.m.  
 Fellowship Hour: 11 a.m.  
 Youth Group Sun. evenings  
[www.haysfpc.org](http://www.haysfpc.org)  
[pastorceleste@ruraltel.net](mailto:pastorceleste@ruraltel.net)  
 2900 Hall 625-2847

## NORTH OAK COMMUNITY CHURCH

Pastor Ken Ediger  
 Associate Pastor John Wiker  
 Youth Pastor Jeff Neher  
 Worship Service:  
 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.  
 Sunday School: 9:50 a.m.  
 Nursery &  
 Children's Church Available  
 Wed. K-12 programs  
 3000 Oak 785-628-8887  
[www.northoak.net](http://www.northoak.net)