

INSIDE:

- + Home provides safe haven.
- + CYO students step up.

ONE

A publication of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance May 2015

Proverbs 14:1 — “The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish one tears hers down.”

Proverbs 31:10-30 — “A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She bring him good not harm, all the days of her life. She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She set about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her task. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in

Pastor
Lory Herrick

**First Baptist
Church**



scarlet.

She makes coverings for beds; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments with sashes. She can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instructions is on her tongue. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also and he praises her: A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.”

We as women of God are equipped with many talents. The Lord took time to create us, and it

WELCOME

was good. We saw what a woman can do without God (Eve) almost destroyed the World. But a woman in Gods' hands is unstoppable. I had two great influences in my life who met these characteristics; my grandma and my mom. They always put God first and their families in God's hands. They extended their hands to the person in need and prayer for those they couldn't reach.

I hope I can be as good of an influence to my daughter as they have been to me. There is a lot of great work going on in Ellis County to reach not only the female population, but showing God's hand to everyone. This is my last month as the ECMA president, it has been an honor serving this community.

God bless.

Lory Herrick is senior pastor at First Baptist Church Hispanic Ministry.

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.

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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RECIPE

This candied chicken is sure to be a family favorite. Chicken breasts are cooked in a sweet and tangy sauce that leaves the kids begging for more.

— Ashley Allen is the Ellis County coordinator for the Salvation Army Service Extension.

Candied chicken (Serves six)

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup flour
- salt and pepper
- 4-5 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (about 3 pounds)
- 2-3 tablespoons olive oil or vegetable oil
- 1½ cups brown sugar
- ¾ cup water
- ½ cup ketchup
- ¼ cup yellow mustard
- ¼ cup chopped onion

- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- ½ teaspoon salt

Instructions:

Pour the flour into a large Ziplock bag. Season with salt and pepper. Add the chicken and toss to coat the chicken in the flour.

Preheat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add 1-2 tablespoons of the oil. Brown the chicken in the pan, working in batches, if needed, and adding more oil if needed. Place the chicken in a 9-by-13-inch baking dish.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

In a large bowl, combine the brown sugar, water, ketchup, mustard, onion, Worcestershire and salt. Stir to combine. Pour the mixture over the chicken.

Bake until the chicken is cooked through, 1 hour to 1 hour 30 minutes, depending on the thickness of your chicken. Baste the chicken with the sauce every 20 to 30 minutes. Serve with rice, if desired.

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HOLY HUMOR

Practicality vs. religion

During a recent ecumenical gathering, a secretary rushed in shouting, “The building is on fire!”

The Methodists gathered in the corner and prayed.

The Baptists cried, “Where is the holy water?”

The Quakers quietly praised God for the blessings that fire brings.

The Lutherans posted a notice on the door

declaring the fire was evil.

The Roman Catholics passed the plate to cover the damage.

The Jews posted symbols on the doors hoping the fire would pass.

The Congregationalists shouted, “Every man for himself!”

The Fundamentalists proclaimed, “It’s the vengeance of God!”

The Episcopalians formed a procession and

marched out.

The Christian Scientists concluded there was no fire.

The Presbyterians appointed a chairperson who was to appoint a committee to look into the matter and submit a written report.

The secretary grabbed the fire extinguisher and put the fire out.

Submitted by Wes Oakley, senior pastor at Westview Church.

Women play a special part in Bible, modern life

The Bible has always placed a premium on the value of a wife and mother.

Proverbs 31 gives us two powerful reasons to praise wives and mothers. After spending 18 verses describing the different kinds of things a “worthy woman” does, the author says:

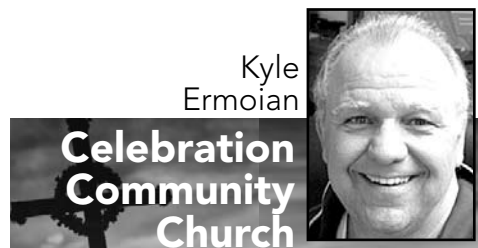
“Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.

Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.

Charm is deceptive, beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.”

We are to praise our wives and mothers because of the wonderful things they have done to bless us. While many women



Kyle Ermoian

Celebration Community Church

do many wonderful things, a mother, our mother, surpasses all others because she has done them for us.

Think of all she has done to give us life: offered her body, her time, her own physical nourishment, her attention, her affection, her concern, her laughter, her tears, her guidance, her correction, her pain, her praise, her care, her sleep, and her love. In fact, the list could go on and on.

Most mothers have made incredible sacrifices for their children. Some of those

are tangible. Others are places in her heart. So we praise our mothers because they are worthy of praise. Can you think of anyone more deserving of honor? If the greatest in the kingdom is a servant, then moms will have most of the best places in the Kingdom when it comes in all its glory. Mothers come to glory the old fashioned way: They earn it.

Think of all the times your mother cared for you in special ways — birthday parties, shopping for you, praying for you, doing without so you could have. Write her a personal note thanking her for some of those. Remember them to her in as much detail as you can. But make sure she gets the drift of the message: There are a lot of good women out there in the world, but Mom, you’re the greatest.

Second, we take time to honor mothers on Mothers’ Day because we are told to. A woman who honors God in her life is to be

praised. God said it and He means it. And this is not just to be the praise of a casual conversation at home. This is to be public praise. This is to be the praise of a husband who is known in the community as a man who adores and appreciates his wife. A man of God brags on his wife to his golfing, bowling or fishing buddies. God’s man honors God’s woman in that way. She’s earned it. Why? Because God said so. If you look carefully at the Biblical passage, you know why—she has invested her life in what really matters.

You see, most of us are lured away from the important things. We get distracted by the shiny things, the deceptive and fleeting things. But when a woman fears the Lord and puts his will first in her life and the life of her family, she is to be praised.

Kyle Ermoian is founding a senior pastor of Celebration Community Church.



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Maternity home offers options for women

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

A large two-story home, a block off Main Street in Hays, no doubt catches visitors' eyes.

The historical Victorian home with a massive fenced-in yard dominates the southwest corner of Seventh and Fort and provides a picturesque silhouette against the setting sun.

But it's the good things going on inside that are the most impressive about the home.

Donated by local resident Elizabeth Marcotte in 1997, the home is a safe haven for pregnant teens and young women.

Since opening in 1997, the Mary Elizabeth Maternity Home has provided support to more than 350 young, unwed women from ages 13 to 21. The home that features a Christian environment has room to accommodate eight mothers and two babies at a time.

Mary Elizabeth is one of only two of its kind in the state — the other is in Wichita — and the parents of a current Mary Elizabeth resident found out about the home through their family church in the Kansas City area.

The resident, a 16-year-old high school sophomore, said it's been an eye-opening experience since coming to Hays in March, learning all that her baby will need, "especially when you're used to your mom doing everything for you."

At Mary Elizabeth, residents learn life skills, along with how to parent their baby, including money management.

They have to do their own laundry at the home and make menus and cook.

"We're very structured here," said Christin Nunnery, executive director at Mary Elizabeth, which is funded by several state-placement agencies and donations.

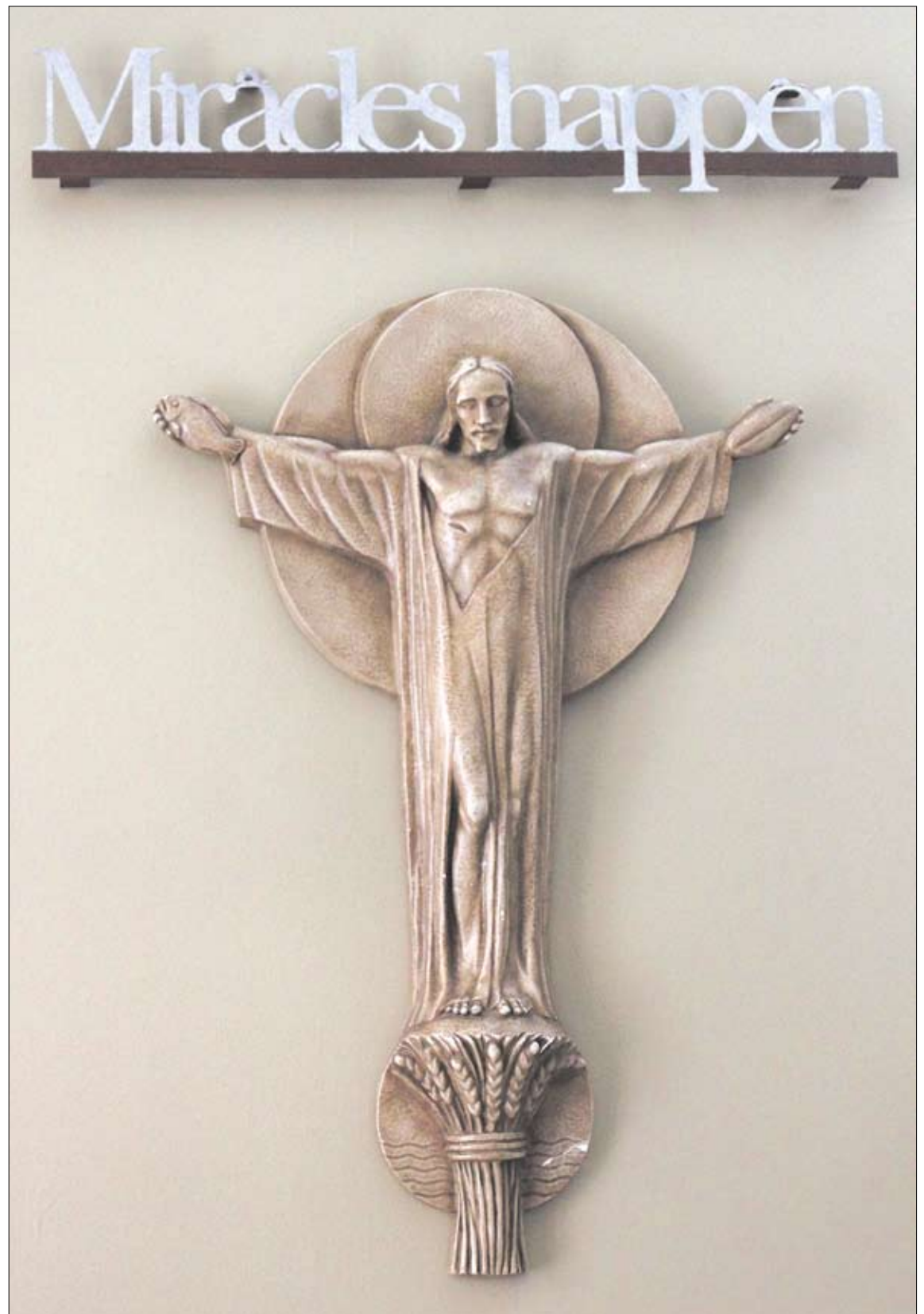
While some residents resist that structure, the current resident is taking it all in stride.

"You learn how to take care of yourself," she said, "and someone else."

SEE **HOME, 9**



A quiet room for new and expecting mothers is located on the second floor.



JOLIE GREEN, one@dailynews.net

A plaque that says "Miracles Happen" hangs above a wall hanging of Jesus inside the Mary Elizabeth Maternity Home in Hays.

Getting support while being a female leader

When I first had a sense of call to ministry, I had never seen a woman in the pulpit. While my denomination, Presbyterian Church (USA), had ordained women to Ministry of Word and Sacrament since 1956, until recently women were seldom called to pastoral ministry. In each of the churches I have served, including Hays, I have been the first women installed in that position. While I have no doubt God calls women and men to clergy ministry, this calling can be a lonely and isolating experience when you are the first or the only woman.

In 2005 while serving in a rural church, I stumbled across RevGalBlogPals, an online international community of English speaking women and men who are supportive of women in ministry. Smart, witty and faithful, this online blogging faith community quickly became my

Celeste Lasich



spiritual home, a safe place to share my joys, frustration and prayers as a woman in ordained ministry. Through the years, I have met many of these writers in real life and am grateful to God for their inspiration, encouragement, humor and faithful witness to the transforming love of God.

There's a Woman in the Pulpit: Christian Clergywomen Share Their Hard Days, Holy Moments & the Healing Power of Humor (SkyLight Paths Publishing) is the group's newest book, released April 10.

From the website revgalblogpals.org "Learn — and laugh — with these women of the church, all members of the RevGalBlogPals web ring, bound together by a deep commitment to ministry, as they reveal what it really means to be a woman in the pulpit. More than 50 clergywomen representing 14 denominations share the details of their intimidating balancing act — juggling the isolating expectations of perfection from their congregations and the shared human realities of everyday life."

"In ministry, we constantly balance the sacred and the ordinary, juggling the two as expertly as we manage a chalice and a (baby) bottle. Even as we do things as simple as light the candles, set the table, break the bread and pour the wine, we invite people into a holy moment The women (in this book) not only have a

wellspring of deep wisdom, but they also have the ability to dish out their knowledge with side-aching humor I am thrilled that their great wisdom and intelligence will be bound into the pages that I can turn to, lend and appreciate for years to come." — from the foreword by the Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

The book is intended for laypeople, women hearing a call to ministry and clergy of all denominations. These stories and prayers will resonate with, challenge, encourage and amuse anyone who has a passion for their work and faith. As I write this before the release date, my preordered copy is on its way. I can't wait to read and savor the stories, humor and wisdom within this collection of holy moments.

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

First United Methodist offers several women's ministries

The general unit of the United Methodist Women functions to inspire and instruct women in ways of spiritual enrichment and social awareness.

The purpose of the organized general unit of the United Methodist Women is the establishment of a community of women whose purpose is to know God and experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. In form and function to meet this purpose, the general unit meets monthly in the dining hall of the church, 305 W. Seventh, for a meal and a program on the third Wednesday of each month during the school year.

In order to maintain the general unit, various administrative committees are nominated, elected and commissioned each year.

For more information about the general unit of the United Methodist Women and the ministry areas to follow, feel invited to contact the church office at (785) 625-3408 or visit www.haysfirstunitedmethodistchurch.com and click on

Jerre Nolte



"Ministry Teams/Adult Ministries/UM Women."

SMORGASBORD

One avenue of social awareness is a yearly gathering of the women for a Christmas Smorgasbord event in the evening early in the month of December. This array of food, fellowship and Christmas decor is punctuated by a delightful expression of the Advent Season.

SPRING BRUNCH

Another moment of social awareness is a women's brunch coordinated each April on a Saturday called the Spring Brunch. The seasonal spring colors and decorative tables provide the perfect atmosphere for conversation, and the brunch program highlights study and ministry.

CIRCLES

Circles, or small groupings of United Methodist Women, provide participants with an avenue for closer relationships to be formed, nurtured and grow. These groupings of participants meet regularly throughout the school year in homes and at the church. The circles are a tremendous way for women to associate with each other and learn how they can be in ministry to each other and the community.

PEDDLER'S FAIR

The Peddler's Fair is a grand moment in time of bringing a wide selection of foods, crafts and other items for sale on the first Saturday of November. The human resources of the United Methodist women are used to make the annual event a well-attended Hays community activity each year in the fall. Proceeds of this event support missions inside and outside the church.

QUILTERS

The Quilter's meet each week at 9 a.m. for quilting of various quilts to be sold or

given away. The quilting group shares in a common appreciation for the time-tested art of quilt making. The Quilter's also prepare a beautiful quilt for the Peddler's Fair in November.

CRAFTERS

The Crafters meet in their crafting room each month on the second Thursday of each month for fellowship and craft design. Refreshments are provided by various members of the group. Many of the items designed and crafted by the group become a part of the yearly Peddler's Fair in November.

MISSIONS

The mission of the United Methodist Church is fulfilled through special collections, volunteer work and awareness of our neighbors near and far. The local general unit of the United Methodist Women at First United Methodist Church joins others from the northwest region of Kansas, as well as from the state, in support of local, regional, statewide, national and global mission.

The Rev. Jerre Nolte is pastor at First United Methodist Church.

Guidance of women

As I reflect this month about women who have influenced my faith, three women come immediately to mind. The first is my grandmother, who we called "Batsa." Batsa was always a very central figure in my life growing up. She was involved in my life, supporting me along the way and always providing the best chocolate chip cookies around.

Batsa's faith was well-documented. She had a trust that no matter what was going on, God would see her through. When I went to Bible college, she was one of my strongest supporters and she was so proud to see me enter the full-time ministry.

Everyone who knew Batsa knew she was a genuinely honest person — you didn't have to wonder what she was thinking. She was authentic and loving, modeling to me what true, unconditional love looks like.

Sadly, Alzheimer's took Batsa away from us in a cruel and unrelenting manner. It was one of the hardest things I have had to go through — seeing her spirit slowly disappear before me. When she was called out of that suffering and called home to be with her Savior, I officiated her funeral. It was the most difficult but also the most rewarding funeral I have ever done.

It was difficult because I missed her; I still do. Things happen in my life and in the lives of her great-grandchildren who she never got to know, and I think about how she would respond — how excited she would be to see the blessings the Lord has given us.

But it was also rewarding. As I studied for the message to share, I looked in her Bible. She had used the same Bible for many years and had underlined and made notes throughout. What a true joy it was to literally see on the page how God was working in her life. I only used passages she had underlined in my message, and it was like she was preaching with me. I can't wait until we are reunited in heaven.

The second woman who has greatly influenced my spiritual life is my mom. Around the time I went to Bible college, my mom really started getting involved in Bible studies and church activities. She truly dove into the Word with a fervor

Pastor
Kevin Daniels



Hays Christian
Church

and passion unmatched in my own life. She shared with us what she was studying and how the Lord was changing her life. Her passion for God's Word was inspiring, and her current commitment to Christ continues to be an example worthy of following.

She sees her role as grandma as one that is not only spoiling the grandkids (which she does quite well), but more importantly as one who is to pass on our spiritual heritage so each of her grandchildren know Jesus and his love. She is a woman filled with love, and I admire her faith and commitment to Christ.

The third woman who has shaped my faith is my wife, Lori. Lori is not one for the spotlight, so I'm not going to be too specific here. Lori has stuck with me through some difficult times. During my many bipolar episodes, she was the one who ended up taking the brunt of my moods. Yet despite my instability as they were trying to get my medication figured out, she stood by me. She honored the commitment she made before God to stick with it "for better or worse." I don't believe many people would have done that. She takes her faith seriously and through those times has developed an even deeper reliance on God.

She has made Jesus the No. 1 priority of her life. She serves with me at the church in myriad of ways and is making it a priority to pass faith on to our children. To see God work through her to influence others, particularly the children she works with, is an honor and privilege. I know I would not be the man I am today without her unconditional love and grace.

Thank you, Batsa. Thank you, mom. Thank you, Lori. Thank you, Jesus, for bringing these women into my life and blessing me through them.

Kevin Daniels is pastor of Hays Christian Church.

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Stitches of love at St. John Lutheran

“Little children,” writes the author of the First Letter of John, “let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action” (1 John 3:18, NRSV). A spirit-generated response to what Jesus Christ has done, is doing and will do for all of God’s creation. Yet, a lived faith marked by self-giving love is no easy task, particularly in a world possessed by me-first thinking. A world obsessed with the unending quest for material goods, status and position, often at the expense of others’ needs, simply cannot, or will not, answer the call to love in truth and action. A worldly ethic challenged by the author of 1 John who boldly confesses, “We know love by this, that he (Jesus) laid down his life for us — and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?” (1 John 3:16-17, NRSV).

In the midst of abundance, I frequently wonder why so many of us, well-intentioned and kind-hearted people, find it



Pastor Jon Brudvig

difficult to respond in acts of love to brothers and sisters in need. Are we paralyzed by fear? Or, do we allow apathy, the belief that the task at hand is so daunting that nothing we do will matter, to discourage us from reaching out in love to sisters and brothers in need?

Thankfully, not everyone buys into the lie that nothing we can do will matter. During my internship year in Ellis, I have been inspired by both the dogged determination and lived faith of a remarkable group of quilters of all ages and abilities who have been meeting in the St. John Lutheran Church’s gathering space for more than 40 years. Women who some-

how make time in their busy schedules to come together in Christian fellowship a few Thursdays each month to share their creativity and sewing skills to produce mission quilts, school kits and personal care kits for children and families, many of whom they will never meet. And, in defiance of the world’s me-first values, the quilters manage to produce nearly 100 quilts each year, each one crafted from donated fabric that is carefully designed, cut, pieced and stitched together with love. Quilts in every conceivable color and design; tangible expressions of a lived faith crafted for children of God near and far. Gifts from the heart presented to a high school graduate or given to a local family after a fire or other crisis. Items stitched with love that are also distributed around the world through Lutheran World Relief to people living in war-torn regions, developing countries or communities recovering from tropical cyclones, earthquakes and other natural disasters. Gifts that are often transformed and adapted to serve a

variety of local needs.

While we might use quilts primarily as bed covers, quilts can serve as baby carriers wrapped around mothers’ backs or as market displays spread on the ground and piled with fruit and vegetables or as sacks for transporting goods and produce to market. Quilts also can be adapted to serve as sunshades or shawls. No matter how the quilts are used, however, they will remain visible reminders someone in a faraway place such as Ellis County cares about them.

While it might be difficult to jettison our me-first thinking or our mistaken notion there is nothing we can do to change the world for the better, we can open our eyes and look around at the wonderful things our friends and neighbors are doing to love in truth and action by helping brothers and sisters in need, one quilt, one school kit and one personal care kit at a time.

Jon Brudvig is intern pastor at St. John Lutheran Church.

Woman Women of faith

This month’s article was supposed to be about a woman of faith who has influenced my life, but the truth is, there are too many to count. What I’d rather write about is the opportunities for women of faith here in my faith community, Trinity Lutheran Church. I’ve been coming to TLC (not an ironic abbreviation, but a fitting one, if you ask me) since I was born. Back then, the ladies of the church babysat me before worship while my parents taught Sunday School.

These women helped my parents and me. I was already seeing the selfless nature of faith. I’m sure I was always a joy, but on the off-chance I wasn’t, these women still cared for me, enabling my mother to do what she does best, teach. They were also imparting their gifts of friendliness and caring to me, before I was able to realize it. I also learned the importance of intergenerational interaction and the benefits it offers all around.

As I grew in my faith, I saw women in leadership roles within the church —



Anna Towns

reading, assisting, teaching, etc. — and also in more “traditional” roles — helping in the kitchen, watching the children, etc. I didn’t think much about the duality women at TLC were allowed until I was older. During high school, I attended youth events at other churches, and this sometimes included worship services and catechism classes. It was during this time that the lack of women leaders was obvious, and as I was told, intentional. I enjoyed my time at these other churches, but I was glad I could go “home” to TLC each Sunday.

I attended KU for a while after graduating high school, and I participated in

Lutheran Campus Ministries. Here, I continued to see women helping with worship; cooking meals with and for us poor, starving college kids; and distributing leftovers to the homeless shelters in Lawrence. For a campus ministry, this group had many non-traditional members. I befriended women who were not my age and participated in a “Bad Girls of the Bible” Bible study group. Several stories focused on these strong women and their non-traditional roles. I found it interesting they were considered “bad girls” for their acts of faith, but I didn’t delve too deeply into that.

When I returned to Hays, I returned to TLC. We had had a female interim pastor, who I had met during breaks and enjoyed seeing behind the pulpit. We ended up calling a female Pastor, and our church council president was a woman, too. I was the worship assistant now and then, but school, work and social activities took precedence.

After I graduated, I got more involved,

and when the administrative assistant position opened up, I applied. I’m not sure if my bachelor’s degree in geography is necessarily helpful, but I know the support, encouragement and consistency of women in my congregation has been immeasurably so. When our pastor left, and before we had another interim, I took on more of a leadership role during lay-led services. Several members reassured me I was doing a fine job, and some suggested I look into seminary. I usually laughed, but it was nice to hear I was doing well.

A few weeks ago, one of our council members (a woman) even approached me about taking classes to become a Parish Ministry Assistant (PMA). This is a bit less daunting than going to seminary, but I’m still unsure. What I am sure of, though, is no matter what decision I make, I will have the support and guidance of my faith family at Trinity Lutheran Church. I always have.

Anna Towns is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Youth Spotlight

CYO gets youth involved, active

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

Fifty-some teenagers in the Catholic Youth Organization at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays add to their already busy high school schedules by attending a weekly meeting Wednesday evenings.

There, they plan the numerous activities and fundraisers in which they will participate throughout the year.

Jared Rack says he wouldn't have it any other way.

"It's nice to take an hour out of the week to just go relax and have fun and talk about God," said Rack, a student at Thomas More Prep-Marian High School and a junior class representative for the CYO.

Amanda Koenigsman, a senior at Hays High School and this year's CYO president at IHM, agreed.

"(CYO) definitely is a big part of my life," said Koenigsman, who was a class representative her first three years of high school before being elected president for her senior year.

She added she even likes continuing the routine weekly CYO meeting schedule during the summer months.

"We hang out and are able to still learn from each other," Koenigsman said. "We make sure we meet up every week in the summer to keep our friendships strong."

The summer is an especially busy time for the Immaculate Heart of Mary youth, as they go on mission trips far and wide. Until a few years ago, the group sold fireworks for the Fourth of July weekend until drought in the area canceled that fundraiser. And a few also attend the One Bread One Cup liturgical leadership conference at St. Meinrad Seminary & School of Theology in Indiana in July.

Service definitely is the main focus of the youth group, said Rick Binder, IHM's youth ministry coordinator.

"When we talk about what we're going to do for the year, we talk about becoming who they are," Binder said.

Rack is the oldest of four siblings and said he thinks his younger brothers and sister are anxious for their turn at the same opportunities as their older brother.

"I think they see me working the service



DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN, one@dailynews.net

Kinsey Ackerman, a member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Youth Organization in Hays, serves a group of athletes at the Special Olympics Kansas Basketball and Cheerleading Tournament's dinner in Hays in March.

projects, and they also want to help with that," Rack said.

Koenigsman knows that feeling well. Her sister, Kelly, is a year older than her and was active in CYO during her high school career, too.

Kelly now is a freshman at the University of Kansas, and middle sibling Amanda is acting as a role model for her younger brother, Brent, a sophomore at HHS.

Amanda Koenigsman said she takes her responsibilities as president seriously.

"It means the world to me because I love having kids look up to me," she said. "I love being that model for them. I want to be there for them and teach them."

Koenigsman said she especially enjoys her final year in CYO because "we seniors plan a lot more lessons."

"It's more interactive for us, teaching our peers," she said. "(Binder) sets up the activities but lets it be about us."

Serving as president of a group of peers is challenging, but rewarding, Koenigsman said.

"It definitely keeps me on my toes," said Koenigsman, who also participates in a lot of Hays High activities. "But it keeps me active and keeps me grounded in my faith."

Rack said he likes the approach Binder takes in leading the CYO in service opportunities.

"It sets us on the right path to be accustomed to do service work," Rack said, "and to see that as a positive thing."

Two noteworthy projects are sponsoring teams from the Lakemary Center in eastern Kansas for the annual Special Olympics

Kansas Basketball and Cheerleading Tournament in Hays each March and raising more than \$15,000 for cancer research the past 10 years in the Ellis County Relay for Life.

"It makes them take ownership of a lifestyle," Binder said of his style of directing. "Instead of something they do, it's who they become. We want doing service to become habit forming, so when they become adults, it's a given."

Binder, who just began his 12th year in his current role, sees positive results from students' experience in CYO.

"A lot of our kids go on to stay very active in some type of service, some kind of lifestyle about volunteering, about helping others," he said. "That's the best thing about our group, developing that commitment about what their life is all about."

HOME, FROM 4

That particular someone else, who is due in August, will make 92 babies born under Nunnery's care since she took over as the home's director in 2006.

To date, the home — which was begun as an alternative to abortion — has housed teens and young women from four different states and more than 80 counties in Kansas. The new mothers are able to stay in the home until their babies are 6 months old.

"That helps them to have someone constantly there with them, if they do have questions," Nunnery said of the Mary Elizabeth staff that includes three full-time and five part-time employees. "At home, their parents may be working, or if they are on their own, they might have no idea what to do in certain situations."

Residents also have the opportunity to work with Sunflower Family Services, an adoption service agency in Hays.

If residents have not yet graduated from high school, they are required to attend school while living at Mary Elizabeth. Most attend the Learning Center of Ellis County, an alternative virtual high school diploma program that provides standardized courses through a computer-based curriculum with a lab in Hays. Some residents also have taken classes at Fort Hays State University.

The Learning Center has made for a more comfortable situation for the current Mary Elizabeth resident, as opposed to a regular high school setting.

"It's smaller; there aren't as many people there," she said.

For more information about the Mary Elizabeth home, call (785) 625-6800, email Nunnery at christin@maryelizabeth.net or visit the home's website at www.maryelizabeth.net.

ADDITIONAL MINISTRIES

North Oak Community Church

- The fourth Monday of the month at 10 a.m., there is a meeting at Mokas for coffee and fellowship.

- There is a women's ministry event at 9:30 a.m. April 25 at the church featuring a short Beth Moore video and a sharing time of "How God has used you." A light breakfast will be served.

- Women will be attending the conference Living Proof Live 2015 with Beth Moore on Sept. 12 in Wichita.

Options Domestic and Sexual Violence Services in Hays provides immediate help for those suffering from domestic or sexual violence and also educates the public at large about identifying violence.

The organization, which began as the Northwest Kansas Family Shelter in 1983, also provides counseling, safety planning and support groups and conducts health fairs to provide awareness.

Options serves residents in 18 coun-

- For more information on any of these events, contact Paula Martin at (785) 628-8294.

Trinity Lutheran Church

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America meets every third Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. for Bible Study. They meet all other Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. for fellowship and to tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief (www.lwr.org/quilts). For more information, visit www.womenoftheelca.org, or contact Trinity member Mitzi Krause at 785-628-2198.

- Jana's Closet is also housed at Trinity. This free closet provides professional wear for women who need an appropriate outfit for an interview, presentation or new job. Contact Anna in the office at (785) 625-2044 or tlchays@eaglecom.net for more information.

St. John Lutheran

While women play a significant role in several ongoing ministries at St. John Lutheran Church, the three that are unique to the women here include St. John Quilters, WELCA and Faith Community Nurse. Contact sjlcellis@gbta.net or call (785) 726-3207 for more information.

First United Methodist

Praise and prayer invites people to join us in Psalm 105: "O give thanks to the Lord, call on His name, make known His deeds among the peoples. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wonderful works."

We experience this together from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. every Tuesday in the sanctuary at Hays First United Methodist Church. We experience God in the silence — listening for the still small voice

ties in northwest Kansas and has an outreach office in Colby.

It is funded by state and federal grants and also receives some help from United Way of Ellis County and donations from individuals and businesses in its service area.

Options has 15 to 20 employees and also utilizes volunteers from the communities it serves.

Advocates can be reached at (800) 794-4624.

— in the beautiful stained glass windows, in newer songs of praise, in old familiar hymns, in prayers spoken, silent, sung and in sweet fellowship with the body of Christ which includes men as well. We invite all who would desire to give honor and glory to our Lord to join us. We bring ourselves, aging and imperfect voices, along with imperfect piano fingers to our God as a sacrifice of praise. No voice is too gone, for God wants to hear a "joyful noise" and surrendered hearts, not perfection.

One participant said, "Praise and prayer is something I look forward to each week. It has been a wonderful blessing to me. It's fun and relaxing. You can express your personal feelings and your needs, the needs of others and share a personal prayer. This not only helps ourselves but others. I would invite and encourage anyone to just come, and you will be 'infected' with such warmth, love and nearness to God and the fellowship of others."

The praise and prayer participants extend a heartfelt desire to the body of Christ in Hays and the surrounding area to join us in praising the Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

Celebration Community Church

It is an exciting time for the Celebrating Women Ministry at Celebration Community Church. As a group of women, our mission is to strive to grow in our relationship with God and with each other. It was amazing to host our spring women's conference April 17 and 18 — GLOW, Radiating God's Love. During the conference, we were able to welcome more than 100 women from four states to fellowship, worship and learn together — ultimately growing together in our individual walk



The Mary Elizabeth Maternity Home in Hays is a home for pregnant teenagers.

with Jesus. We welcomed keynote speaker and bestselling author Pam Farrel to Hays to teach about how to wear different hats gracefully through generations. It was a great weekend of faith, friendship and fellowship.

Proverbs 27:17 tells us, "As iron sharpens iron, a friend sharpens a friend." Celebrating Women offers three opportunities weekly for women to fellowship together, to unplug from the world, and to plug into God and his word. In June, we will be hosting a women's brunch and hearing from a panel of local Christian ladies who will answer questions and talk about their daily Christian walks.

In September, we will travel to Wichita to Beth Moore's Living Proof Live Conference. Each one of us is in a different place in our Christian walk. Some of us are new to our faith, and others have been walking the path for some time. We do not have it all together, each having our own struggles, hurts and heartaches. Yet, we are committed to supporting each other and learning how to love as Jesus loves us.

Captivating reading continues with Bible passages

I hope you had a great Resurrection Sunday. Mine was great. We celebrated it in our new facility. Now, it's on to graduation, vacations, baseball games and all of the other events that fill our schedules this time of year. To keep the reading plan going this time of year, I find myself getting up early or staying up late. But the investment in sacrifice is worth it. We are reading through some captivating text this summer.

For our Old Testament readings, we will continue through the wisdom books. These books are the most dog-eared in my Bible. I love reading the book of Proverbs. I try to read through



Pastor
Steve Dinkel

the entire book every month. Take time to write down a thought from Proverbs every day this month and discuss it with a friend. You will find the exercise beneficial.

Our New Testament readings continue through Paul's Epistles; Galatians and Romans. The practical instruction and

correction in these books are Christianity 101. We are so blessed to have these writings to guide us into becoming more like Christ. Let these books soak deeply into your heart.

Don't let the pace of summer crowd out your Bible study time. And thanks to all of you who sent us notes and prayed for us during our busy transition into our new facility. We are enjoying it immensely. Stop by and visit us anytime.

May

1..... Proverbs 15..... 2 Cor. 12
2 & 3.....Weekend Review
4..... Proverbs 16..... 2 Cor. 13
5..... Proverbs 17..... Galatians 1

6..... Proverbs 18..... Galatians 2
7..... Proverbs 19..... Galatians 3
8..... Proverbs 20..... Galatians 4
9 & 10.....Weekend Review
11..... Proverbs 21..... Galatians 5
12..... Proverbs 22..... Galatians 6
13..... Proverbs 23..... Romans 1
14..... Proverbs 24..... Romans 2
15..... Proverbs 25..... Romans 3
16 & 17.....Weekend Review
18..... Proverbs 26..... Romans 4
19..... Proverbs 27..... Romans 5
20..... Proverbs 28..... Romans 6
21..... Proverbs 29..... Romans 7
22..... Proverbs 30..... Romans 8
23 & 24.....Weekend Review
25..... Proverbs 31..... Romans 9
26..... Eccles. 1..... Romans 10
27..... Eccles. 2..... Romans 11
28..... Eccles. 3..... Romans 12
29..... Eccles. 4..... Romans 13
30.....Weekend Review

FAITH BRIEFS

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live in another country? Maybe you don't have the means to experience life in another country, but what about hosting an international student in your home? Thomas More Prep-Marian/NACEL Open Door is seeking families who are interested in opening their hearts, homes and lives to an international student. Families are needed to provide international students with a safe (well-maintained), caring and supportive environment.

Single parent? No problem. Empty nester? No problem. A house full of chil-

dren but room for one more? No problem. Students can share a bedroom with another student. They will need space for their belongings and a separate bed.

Have the room, but no furniture? No problem, TMP might be able to help you with furniture.

NACEL Open Door offers host families 24-hour support, local representation to support and guides host families while providing a \$500 per month (per student) stipend. The stipend is to help offset expenses. Students will have their own medical insurance and spending money. The students will share with your family

a bit of their culture. Single and double placements available. A short 10-month opportunity will create lifelong memories for your family.

Contact Angie Roth, director of admissions, 785-625-6577 (main); 785-621-5424 (direct) or rotha@tmp-m.org to learn more. Or visit, NACEL Open Door, www.nacelopendoor.org, to learn more and apply to be a host family.

• • •

Glenda & Mike's mysteries and Wonders Show is coming to North Oak Community Church, 3000 Oak, at 3:30 p.m.

May 6. Heroes for Life, a fun-filled, Bible-based after-school program, is sponsoring the Gospel presentation. Glenda presents visual lessons with her illusions she calls "gospel-magic" to grab the attention of children and adults. Mike, the ventriloquist, humorously converses with puppets using Billy, a boy puppet, Gertrude, his dog, and Hector, an ostrich.

The public is invited to the free show. It is for the entire family. The Mann's have appeared throughout the Midwest and also at the Kansas State Fair, presenting the gospel message in an interesting and unique way.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES



The marquee sign recently at First United Methodist Church in Hays.

SUMMER EVENTS

First Presbyterian Church

The young people at First Presbyterian Church are going to be a busy group this summer. Below is a list of upcoming events.

- Luth-terian (youth from First Presbyterian and Trinity Lutheran churches) leave for a trip to Camp Tomah Shinga outside of Junction City on May 3 to participate in camp activities and perform mission work.

- Heartland Day Camp June 22 to 26. A week of day camp designed for students having completed K to sixth grade. The theme is "Love Never Fails" and will be a Christ-centered, activity-based program. It will include a youth night, family night and a fourth- to sixth-grade overnight camp-in.

- Luth-terian youth group will meet — time and date to be announced.

- Two youth will be participating in the 2015 Presbytery of Northern Kansas mission trip to St. Paul, Minn. from July 18 to 24.

- Luth-terian youth will be fundraising this summer for a mission trip. They will be "Flamingoing" yards and will continue to be available as "Youth for Hire."

First United Methodist Church

- The children's ministry at First United Methodist Church is kicking off summer programming with a Sundae Sunday at 3 p.m. May 31. Kids will get ice cream and a pair of sunglasses with a special invitation to join us "At the Beach." From June 7 to Aug. 9, we switch our

traditional classroom teaching style during the Sunday School hour (9:30 to 10:30 a.m.) for a one-room format where children ages preschool to fifth grade play and learn together.

- Make plans now to join us for "G-Force, God's Love in Action Vacation Bible School." This year's VBS will be July 20 to 23, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Our team provides a simple meal from 5 to 5:30 p.m. for all participants, and the VBS program is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The age range is preschool to fifth grade. VBS Sunday is July 26.

- To celebrate the end of summer, the Children's Advisory Board will host a family potluck after worship Aug. 9. The following Sunday, we'll kick off the new school year, with "New Beginnings Sunday" when all ministries in the church share upcoming plans.

United Methodist Church, Ellis

- VBS will be from 3 to 5 p.m. July 7 to 10 at Ellis United Methodist Church. Contact person is Becca Cass at (785) 639-2745.

Hays Christian Church

- This summer take a "Bible Blast to the Past" from July 6 to 10. Each night for a full week, students will travel back in time to visit Bible times to see and hear firsthand what took place thousands of years ago. The verse for the week is 1 John 4:16, which tells us "God is love." The week culminates with a closing program on Sunday, followed by a free picnic and giant inflatable water slide.

VBS is for children ages 2 through grade 5 each evening from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m., followed by a special teen time for grades 6 to 12 from 9 to 10 p.m., though teens are encouraged to register as helpers for the younger children. The entire community is invited, and the cost is free. The church is located at 22nd and Marshall in Hays. For more information or to register, visit HaysChristianChurch.org.

North Oak Community Church

- The church will host Son Spark Science Labs VBS from 9 a.m. to noon June 1 to 5. On that Friday night, parents are welcome to come and hear the sounds, see the crafts and do science labs with the kids at 7 p.m.

Messiah Lutheran Church

- VBS will be from July 26 to 31, with a potluck dinner. The theme is "Everest."

Celebration Community Church

- GoFish camp for children ages third through fifth grades will be from June 4 to 6. Cost is \$100. Registering before May 10, the price is \$75.

- Kidfest will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 22 at Hays Academy of Hair Design. The event includes free haircuts for preschoolers through fifth-graders. It is a free event.

- VBS for children ages preschool through fifth grade will be from 6 to 8:30 p.m. July 20 to 23. The event is free.

- CrossCurrent middle school camp will be from May 30 to June 1. Cost is \$150.

- Youth conference for middle- and high-schoolers will be June 26 and 27. Cost is \$40.

- CrossCurrent high school Not-Camp will be from July 7 to 13. Cost is \$350.

First Baptist Church

- VBS will be from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. July 13 to 17, with lunch provided. For more information or to register children ages 4 to 11, call Pastor Lory Herrick at (785) 625-9454.

Catholic parishes

- Prayer and Action weeks will be in two locations: Stockton and Ellsworth. Stockton weeks begin May 31 and end the week of June 21. Ellsworth begins the week of July 5 and ends the week of July 19. The week of May 31 is a college week. The rest are high school. Information and registration is available at salinadiocese.org/youth-ministry/2014-front-page-box-stories-2/2964-prayer-and-action-2015.

- Immaculate Heart of Mary VBS will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. June 1 to 5 in the Activity Center. Age groups are age 4, or those who are entering preschool, kinder prep, kindergarten, and first grade in fall 2015. Call the church for information.

- Totus Tuus is June 7 to 12 Day camp for youth first to fifth grade, and evening camp is for youth sixth to 12th grade. Contact Immaculate Heart of Mary parish church for information.



St. Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church

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

Fax: (785) 623-4207, website: 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

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church



Weekday Mass Times:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday—6:45 a.m.

Wednesday Spanish Mass—6:30 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday—8:00 a.m.

Weekend Mass Times:

Saturday—5:00 p.m.

Sunday—8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Spanish Mass—12:00 p.m.

Sponsoring Churches of **ONE**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jerry Sprock
 Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
 Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
 Sun. Hispanic Services: 3 p.m.
 785-625-9454/639-6181
 12th & Fort 625-9454
 Nursery Available
 Iglesia Hispana Bautista
 Pastora Lory Herrick
 Sunday Domingos 2:00 p.m.
 785-625-9454/639-6181
 Nursery Available
 12th & Fort 625-9454



Pastor Kevin Daniels
 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
 Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.
 Nursery
 Children's Church Provided
 For additional
 services and information
 call the church or 625-0094
 22nd & Marshall 625-3100
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
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

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
 2000 Main 625-2057
www.messiahlutheranhays.com

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Jerre Nolte, Senior Pastor
 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
 Sunday Holy Eucharist
 9:30 a.m.
 2900 Canal Blvd. 628-8442
stmichaelsays@gmail.com

CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH

* Casual Dress
 * Friendly People
 * Contemporary Music
 * Multi-Media Worship
 * Loving Nursery Care
 * Dynamic Youth Groups
 * Fun Kid's Church
 * Weekly Communion
 * Gourmet Coffee Bar
www.celebratejesus.org
 I-70 @ 183 Bypass (Exit 157)

CORNERSTONE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Gary Simon
 Kids/Youth/Adult
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday Adult Bible Study
 6:00 p.m.
 Sunday King's Kids 6:00 p.m.
 Wed. Devotion/Prayer 7:00 p.m.
 29th & Indian Trail 625-9500
www.hayscornerstonesbc.com

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
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
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