

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the World for the Lord has come

INSIDE:

- + Christmas narrative
- + ECMA News

ONE

A publication of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance December 2017

The story of the birth of Jesus

Dear Friends,

In this issue of ONE, we will be looking at the birth of Jesus as recorded in the book of Matthew. It's interesting to look at the birth narrative from only one gospel because it gives us a sense of that author's purpose.

The apostle Matthew writes his account of the life of Jesus in such a way as to demonstrate that the prophecies about the coming Messiah found in the Old Testament are indeed fulfilled by the person and work of Jesus.

In seemingly anti-climatic fashion, Matthew begins his gospel with the genealogy of Jesus. While this may tempt modern readers to "skip to the good stuff," it is important to recognize the significance of what Matthew is writing.

Traditionally, genealogies were written by men, for men and included only men. However, in this case, there is the inclusion of 4 women. I believe that signifies some important things, one of them being that women are indeed valued and important to God. Not only that, but the women included have a direct impact on the coming of the Messiah. For the Pharisees of

that time, this would be unthinkable because of their views on the role and place of women.

Another spectacular element of this genealogy is that there are a lot of imperfect people on there! Granted, all of us are imperfect, but in much literature at the time, those who recorded the history leave out those things that could be seen as negative or unflattering. So, in the writing of the history of the coming Messiah, it wouldn't have been unusual for the author to skip those who would cause embarrassment or shame.

Instead, Matthew chooses people that were central to the narrative, including those whose lives were filled with sins – even those that might be considered "major" sins.

The genealogy contains a woman who sleeps with her father-in-law (Tamar), a prostitute (Rahab), evil kings (Abijah, for one), a good man (Boaz), a good king (Jehoshaphat), a murderer and Baal worshipper (Joram), an idolater and defiler of God (Manasseh), a foolish king (Hezekiah) and a leper who directly disobeyed God (Uzziah). Not exactly a great list.

I believe that while Matthew's primary pur-

pose is to show that Jesus' lineage can be traced back to David and Abraham – a prominent key in the prophecies regarding the coming Messiah – he was also teaching us something else.

By including those in the family tree of Jesus that some would rather forget, Matthew reminds us that we are more than the sum of our family history. Regardless of our family legacy, we can all overcome whatever baggage our family throws on us.

Jesus could have been content following in the sometimes foolish footsteps of his ancestry. Instead, he chose a different path. He chose to follow God by the power of the Holy Spirit.

That same power in the Holy Spirit is here for us today, when we choose to follow God. Regardless of our upbringing, we all are able to make the choice to follow God; and that's really why Jesus came in the first place.

Jesus came to earth so that he could offer the gift of salvation to all who follow him. He paid the price for the sins of us all – including the sins of his family. So while we celebrate the birth of Jesus during this time, we must never forget that the culmination of Jesus' birth comes at Easter, when we celebrate his death and resurrection which provides the avenue of salvation for us all.



Welcome

Pastor Kevin Daniels

Hays Christian Church
rev.kevin.daniels@gmail.com

Part 1: The virgin became pregnant – Matthew 1:18

I love Christmas and the Giver of Christmas. The decorations, the lights, the trees, the giving and receiving of gifts, and the draw of the Christmas Spirit to come to Christ, touches me to the very depths of my being.

My wife has a collection of Nativity Sets; I stopped counting at 25 the other night as they were being positioned on shelves in our family room. All

of them have the two main characters, Mary and Joseph, who are depicted adoring the Christ Child. Rarely does a year go by that while looking at these Nativity Sets, do I not wonder... "Mary, Joseph, what was it really like to be there at that moment?" I believe the Lord wants us to understand what it must have been like for Mary and Joseph. For sake of space, I'm going to offer a few changes that

happened to Mary and how those very changes can take place in our lives as well.

"We often misunderstand a verse in Luke that says, "...behold, all generations shall call me blessed." Some have taken this to mean Mary is to be esteemed above other beings. The place Mary was given was indeed an unusual and exalted place in that she was allowed to be the avenue by which the Christ Child

was born. Yet there's nothing in the Bible that would imply she is to be esteemed, praised, or acknowledged as a mediator between us and the Lord.

At the same time it would be prudent not to say less about Mary than what the Bible says, as we would miss one of the most insightful revelations in Scripture which is foundational to all the Lord would have us understand

(RSV) Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit;

in our midst—which is Emmanuel, God with us." (Pastor Jack Hayford)

Mary was impregnated by the Holy Spirit—the Christ Child came into her life! For you and me it's an example of what can happen to us—Jesus coming into our lives, into our hearts, not the womb. It's indeed a Divine Truth to be lived out by each of us who choose Christ to come into our lives. God wants to enter your life, to grow inside you, to literally happen through you, and change the world around you.

In verse 18 of Matthew 1, we see the Holy Spirit was present in the glorious event, and is available to us to help birth the Promise into our lives. Mary said yes to the Lord,

and it changed her life forever! That same realized hope eternal can be yours too. How did the entry of the Christ Child into her womb change her life? She was stretched and like most pregnancies, it left a "mark" as she came so close to losing Joseph—he came so close to walking out on her; she risked being scorned by her own family and friends, and had to deal with the possibility that what's happening may not turn out the way it was told her.

But, and I love the conjunction "but," because we're getting ready to see the profound evidence of God's promise — after going through all the challenges that come when pursuing a promise from God the Father — that Christmas morn, she wrapped the baby in swaddling clothes and laid Him in the manger... the promise of God! What grows in all of us is the seed of a word from God...when you say "yes" you are in the process of being stretched to the point that you too, receive the "Promise" from God!



Pastor Wes Oakley

Westview Church
wesoaak49@gmail.com

SUBMISSIONS

ONE and the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance encourage submissions 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.

ADVISERS

Pastor Kevin Daniels
Hays Christian Church
rev.kevin.daniels@gmail.com

Pastor Steve Dinkel
Liberty Foursquare Church
lcfcscd@ruraltel.net

Pastor Marie Sager
Trinity Lutheran Church
pastormarie15@gmail.com



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 10, Issue 11
Copyright 2017

one@dailynews.net
Read the PDF version at oureema.com
or find us on Facebook

ON THE COVER

The winning entry for the Christmas Coloring Contest was Xiarhiana Hood, 8, a third-grader from Liberty Foursquare Church.



Part 2: Joseph's response – 1:19

From pauper to King, despised to insanely popular, all-powerful to beaten and killed (and back to all powerful again), Jesus traveled the gamut. Which helps to account for the widespread admiration of Jesus. He loved and taught love to the entire spectrum of people:

The Outsiders. The Wounded. The Poor. Jesus is the friend of these.

The rich. The popular. The athletic. Jesus is the friend of these.

Speaking hope and help and freedom and care, Jesus entered the homes and the lives of others to bring the Kingdom of God there. And the Kingdom did come. Which is why people still admire



Pastor Dave Buller

North Oak Community
dbuller@northoak.net

Jesus.

admire: regard (an object, quality, or person) with respect or warm approval.

But Jesus was explicit that admiration was not enough. Admiration doesn't get you into "friendship" status with Jesus (John 15). And at the risk of

sounding works-based, Christians need a warning about their apathy and lack of action.

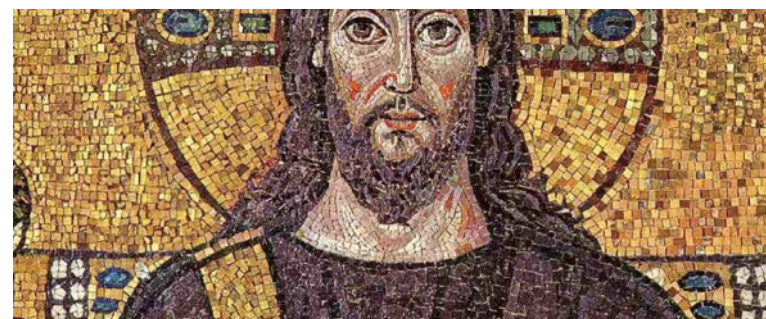
Kyle Idleman in his book *Not a Fan*, describes the difference between "admiration" and "devotion;" Fans often confuse their admiration for devotion. They

(NKJV) Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

mistake their knowledge of Jesus for intimacy with Jesus. Fans assume their good intentions make up for their apathetic faith.

Devotion goes beyond admiration. Devotion is get-up-and-do-something-because-Jesus-said-so action. So be kind. Show respect. Share your stuff. Live generously. Stop doing evil. Care for the poor, the widows, and the orphans. For His sake, humble yourself. Serve and love because that is what your Savior did.

Which leads us to Joseph. It was Joseph's devotion that is highlighted in Matthew 1:19. He is declared a "righteous" man. He intended to spare Mary public humiliation and



Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo in Ravenna, Italy: "Christ surrounded by angels and saints". Mosaic of a Ravennate Italian-byzantine workshop, completed within 526 AD.

disgrace. He was determined to help her save face. We know, on this side of the story, that the angel of the Lord appeared to him and directed him to stay with Mary. Here is where Joseph's "admiration" was tied with "devotion." His love for God affected his decisions, and led to his action. THAT is devotion. Joseph's obedience to God also led to

the protection and provision of the greatest Freedom and Deliverance the world will ever know... Jesus. His story is a vitally important part of what we call Christmas. And how could He use your devotion?



devotion: a feeling of strong love or loyalty; the quality of being devoted; the use of time, money, energy, etc., for a particular purpose.

KJIL


88.5 FM

Serving Hays and
Ft. Hays
State University.

Listen to the Rock Show Saturday
nights from 9-1.

Radio For Life



tobyMac



HAYSMED

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

855.429.7633

Bone, Joint & Spine Center
Breast Care Center
Center for Health Improvement
Convenient Care Walk-In Clinic
DeBaKey Heart Institute
Dodge City Specialty Clinic
Dreiling/Schmidt Cancer
Institute

Eye Surgery
Family Medicine
General Surgery
Hospice/Palliative Care
Imaging Center
Internal Medicine
Medical Pavilion Pharmacy
Nephrology Center of Western
Kansas
OB/GYN
Orthopedic Institute

Pediatrics
Poison Control Center
Psychiatric Associates
Pulmonology Associates
Rehabilitation Services
Robotic Surgery
St. Rose Health Center

Sleep Neurodiagnostic
Institute
Specialty Clinic At St.
Rose
Urology
WorkSMART
Wound Healing &
Hyperbaric Center

Medical Concierge Services

ONE CALL 1-855-429-7633

Nurse Hotline M-F 4:30 p.m.-8 a.m.

24 hours weekends and holidays

Convenient Care Walk-In Clinic

M-F 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. | Sat. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Sun. 11 a.m.-4 pm

785-261-7065

HaysMed complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age disability, or sex.
ATTENTION: If you speak a language other than English, language assistance services are available to you free of charge. Call 1-855-429-7633 (TTY: 1-800-766-3777).
ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-855-429-7633 (TTY: 1-800-766-3777).
CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 1-855-429-7633 (TTY: 1-800-766-3777).

Part 3: Joseph's dream 1:20-25

Joseph was in an extremely difficult position. The storyline of his plan for marriage and a happy life had just become extremely complex, unraveling in apparent betrayal and scandal. He was considering his options and apparently settled on one that would solve the problem and minimize the shame. At that moment, the perspective of heaven entered the situation. God's angelic



Pastor Ken Ediger

North Oak Community

kediger@northoak.net]

messenger drew back the curtain and explained Joseph's human situation in the context of the divine storyline. Joseph received the message and rearranged his plans to fit the plan of God. There is much about our sojourn on earth that

God does not explain. But when he does, and when we listen and obey, we enjoy a meaningful and purposeful part in the timeline of His story.

This is a story of the interaction between the human and divine: God is at work behind the scenes of Joseph's life to bring about the birth of Jesus Christ. The emphasis in the narrative is with God at work like this, the birth can only be supernatural. This is the tone that Matthew wants to set at the outset of his gospel—there is nothing purely human about this Jesus. The birth was of God, explained by God, in fulfillment of a prophecy by God. God planned it, God carried it out, and God made sure the main participants understood it (as much as they were capable of understanding). The whole thing

(ESV) But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

was supernatural. God was visiting this planet to redeem people from their sins. It all began with the extraordinary birth through a virgin, which had been foretold centuries earlier. This child would be Immanuel, the wonder king prophesied by Isaiah.

The narrative ends with Joseph's forthright response to God. He violated all custom by immediately taking Mary into his home rather than waiting till the one-year time period of betrothal had passed. Joseph was probably thinking of what would be best for Mary in her condition. He brought her home and began to care and provide for her. But there was no sexual relationship between them until after the birth of this Child, Jesus. The author, Matthew, simply notes the birth of the Child and that Joseph did exactly what he had been instructed, he gave him the name Jesus.

The works of God are always supernatural, and so the revelation about His works must be considered and welcomed in order to discern what the divine plan is and how it should be embraced by faith. Those who believe in the Lord will receive his word, obey it, and so take part in the glorious storyline of God.

Part 4: The magi seek out Jesus – 2:1-6

The light bulb moment. Admit it, you know what I'm talking about, right? That moment when suddenly something that's been a little hazy becomes EXTREMELY clear. That moment you miraculously "GET IT". The Wise Men had this moment when they were stargazing. Some research indicates they were actually quite skilled in astronomy. While it isn't real clear where these guys were from, we do know they are from somewhere in the east and they saw a star. Most of us have seen stars. These guys studied the stars. What made this one measly star stand out to them? The Bible doesn't say. The Bible does tell us they saw this star and called it "HIS star" and reported their finding to Herod, who became quite upset. Why? Why was Herod so distraught over an unusual star? We know from past stories that Herod was the ruler of this region and that he was not a very nice guy.

Herod was mad because the prophecy said this baby would be the king of the Jews. The Jews lived in the region of Judea (the area Herod was king of). Herod didn't want anyone coming in and taking "his" kingdom. What Herod didn't understand was that Jesus' kingdom was to be in heaven, not here on earth.

Our takeaway from this part of the story is that GOD directs people. His guidance and teachings were for ALL. He guided the shepherds, considered to be rather low on the societal totem pole. They knew where to find

(NASB) Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: 'and you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

the baby. He guided the wise ones who were quite privileged — they also knew where to find the baby. He guided those who were scared by his Glory and he guided those who recognized the magnitude of the glorious star. ALL were guided — by a star; by a verse from Micah; and then in their dreams.

God's far-reaching message is for EVERYone. ALL people were to be the recipients of the good news of Christ's birth. He did not leave anyone out. Not everyone received the message in a positive way.

Herod. He was jealous and didn't see God's ever-expanding embrace. His jealousy gave way to fear. This happens to this day. We have our own expectations of how people should receive Christ and his message. This can create fear when it is different than what we expect of them. It is important to let people receive Christ in their own way. We want to be open and welcoming. It is the way God guided and he is our teacher.



Becky Rogowski

First Presbyterian

presbychsec@gmail.com

Part 5: King Herod's plan to find Jesus – 2:7-9a, 12

I am currently reading Same Kind of Different as Me by Ron Hall and Denver Moore for a book club. It is based on a true story, and just came out as a movie. The description on the cover says, "A modern-day slave, an unlikely woman who bound them together." I do not want to give too much away, but the tie-in to this passage about the Magi (Wise Men) is the power of a dream.

I personally hardly ever remember what I dream. It slips away as soon as I try to remember it, but for Deborah Hall, the "unlikely woman," Denver Moore, the "modern-day slave," and for the Magi, dreams change lives. In the case of the wise men, their dream saved Jesus' life. Without the insider information from the Magi, Herod is unable to seek out Jesus and get rid of the competition.

When I think of the Magi at Christmastime, I remember the strange presents they brought for Jesus, and I find their presence at the manger scene a

(NLT) Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!" After this interview the wise men went their way. . . . When it was time to leave (from visiting Jesus), they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

bit odd. Don't worry, I am not advocating to get rid of them. We Three Kings is one of my favorite Christmas hymns, and I can't imagine my grandmother's or mother's Nativity scenes without them, so they are definitely here to stay as part

of my Christmas traditions, but I want to know more.

When God warned them in a dream, did all three have the same dream? Did one of them have the dream, and the others trusted and believed him?



Anna Towns

Trinity Lutheran Church

tlchays@eaglecom.net

Part 6: The wise men worship Jesus – 2:9b-11

In Advent, a time of waiting and hopefulness, this passage strikes me as an interesting one. If you look earlier in The Message version of the Bible at Matthew 2, you will find that those who do the gift giving are named as scholars.

The scholars, also known as magi and wise men in other translations of the Bible, were possibly Zoroastrian priests, who



Pastor Marie Sager
Trinity Lutheran Church
pastormarie15@gmail.com

paid attention to the sky. They had seen a new star rising in the sky. In its rising, they noticed that it finally stopped over Bethlehem, the place where the child was — the place where the Holy Family was. I imagine the star they followed was like the North Star, guiding

them at night, to know what direction they are headed.

God reached out to the scholars, guiding them at night, by a star. You may even know a song about it. In the song, “We Three Kings of Orient Are,” the refrain mentions a star of night that has royal beauty, is bright, and is leading us westward, guiding us to thy perfect light. But, who is thy perfect light that is being sung about?

Thy perfect light we sing of, is God. We sing of a God who came down to earth in the form of a little baby boy, in the arms of Mary, who the magi visited as a child. God’s light was and is shown to all the nations at the birth of Jesus. And in John’s gospel, Jesus

(MSG) Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time! They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

even claims himself as the light of the world.

On January 6, the Epiphany of our Lord, we remember that God’s son is revealed to all the nations of the world. Epiphany begins a season of light- God’s light- the light that has entered into your life and helps you to see beyond the darkness.

And what about those scholars who brought the three gifts of gold, frankincense,

and myrrh. Gold, so precious it is fit for a king. Frankincense, an incense fit for a God. And myrrh, a spice used for burials. The scholars brought gifts that looked towards the future. The future of little Jesus, grown up to an adult.

Even though we are just now preparing for and celebrating the birth of Jesus, we will soon begin the season of Lent. A season of darkness and reflection, a time of giving things up. And at the culmination of the Lenten season, we remember the day that Christ died for you and me. Christ gave up his life as the ultimate sacrifice. Christ died for the forgiveness of your sins.

And so, the next time you look up at the North Star, remember God. Because like the star the scholars followed, Christ is the light of the world, the Word made flesh who came and lived among us.

Jesus’ family flees to Egypt – 2:13-15

Jesus is God in the flesh. “Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,” the Christmas carol says, yet he humbles himself to be born of the Virgin Mary and to be nurtured within a human family. With his family, he hurries off to Egypt to escape King Herod’s wicked, life-threatening decree. We see in the story of the flight to Egypt Jesus’ humility and what it means.

First of all, we see how deep Jesus’ humility is. So complete is his humility, he becomes a refugee. He goes with his family into Egypt to escape persecution. As God, Jesus is all-powerful, yet he is seen in the weakness of the baby being whisked away



Deacon Scott Watford
St. Nicholas of Myra
swatford@eaglecom.net

from danger. He could not save what he did not become, so he became one of us. He became fully human, though without sin. He embraced human vulnerability to the point of becoming a poor infant refugee.

Furthermore, we see Jesus’ humility in the fact that he depends on the protection of a human family. He is the divine in human form, and yet it is hard to imagine anything as frail as the infant carried away by his fleeing family. God is a community; a trinity, bound together by love. God exists as a perfect family in a manner of speaking. Thus family life reflects the life of God as a community of love. Families are ideally a loving safe haven for vulnera-

(NIV) When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

ble children. It was so for Jesus.

Of course, it was not necessary that Jesus should condescend to become one of us and be born into a human family. It was love that compelled him. He lowered himself in his incarnation to raise us to the divine life. Egypt is the land of slavery and exile. It is also the land from which God brings salvation to his people. Egypt is thus

an image of the human condition, trapped by sin and alienated from God, and of God’s deliverance of the People of God. Jesus enters into our exiled condition and frees us and restores us to relationship with God. This he does out of love.

To look at the Christ Child in the manger at Christmas is to view the face of God and to see that God is love, as the Scripture says. The response is to embrace the Christ Child and nurture his presence in our hearts that he may transform us so that we reflect God’s love. The story of the holy family’s flight into Egypt teaches us that divine love revealed in human form is not an abstraction but is a reality as concrete as the protection of the children born to our families. We must surely include in that love those who are persecuted, poor, or refugees.

PLAN, FROM 4

For Deborah and Denver, they have dreams that end up impacting each other’s lives, and the lives of countless others, but there is a trust that must be built up. When Deborah first dreams, she shares it with her husband, Ron, and he trusts her, and acts on what she shares with him. Later, when Denver dreams that God has a message for the Halls, they listen, and trust that Denver

is speaking truth. However the dream-message was received from God, we should all be thankful that the Magi listened.

At book club, when we discussed the idea of dreams as visions in modern times we all agreed that we were skeptical, and probably would not act on things because of the dreams of another, or even our own dreams. Sometimes I feel like I am all

for miracles and signs from God, as long as they are practical—but that just is not really how God operates. God does not only choose the best and the brightest (as we would consider them), but he chooses the outcast, the forgotten, the “other”, the “least of these.”

An overarching theme in Same Kind of Different as Me is getting past one’s

prejudices, ditching the societal norms and nagging voice in the back of your head that holds you back. There are always (human) reasons not to trust, stereotypes to confront, and weaknesses to overcome. Only when we trust God can we trust others. And who knows, maybe I will remember a dream, and use it to change lives, or maybe you will.

Part 8: Herod's anger burns over the deception of the wise men – 2:16-18

Dear friends please be sure to read all the Christmas narrative selections. Each one is filled with God's great plan of salvation for all of humanity. Please search through each selection for the recurring phrase: "to fulfill", "what had been written", "what the prophet(s) said". Only two of the selections do not have these words written in the Scripture references.

Yes, even in this section of the slaughter of the innocents

we are told: "So what was said through the prophet Jeremiah came true..." Fascinating. The murder of innocent children was fore known by God. Foretold by the prophet Jeremiah. With unbridled hatred a wicked, ruthless ruler put to death all children under the age of two in an entire town. Why would the Lord God allow such

an evil event to happen? This shocking incident reveals the depth of evil that lurks in wicked hearts.

"Rachel crying for her children." Rachel was the loved wife of Jacob. The Lord changed Jacob's name to Israel. These murdered children in Bethlehem were descendants of the seed of Israel. Notice that the wise men traveled about 2 years in order to worship the promised Messiah-King. Such was

their faithful devotion. They made this long, difficult journey due to the prophecy of God's Word.

In the midst of the wise men's faithful devotion Herod stands out as an opposing example of all consuming hatred. "He (Herod) was furious." In his blind anger Herod tried to remove what he felt was a

(NCV) When Herod saw that the wise men had tricked him, he was furious. So he gave an order to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem and in the surrounding area who were two years old or younger. This was in keeping with the time he learned from the wise men. So what God had said through the prophet Jeremiah came true: 'A voice was heard in Ramah of painful crying and deep sadness: Rachel crying for her children. She refused to be comforted, because her children are dead.'

threat to his own authority as king. During his life Jesus always reminded everyone who would listen that his kingdom was not of this world. Important.

The people in Jesus' day always expected "more" from their Savior-King. They wanted this Jesus to overcome the oppressive Roman rule. But they (and we) would really get much more than anyone ever imagined. This child Jesus grew up. He was betrayed by one on of his own. He suffered. He was crucified. Jesus physically rose again on

the third day. Jesus overcame our eternal enemies. Satan was crushed. The price for sin was paid. Death was defeated.

Herod could not defeat God's great plan of salvation. Herod failed when he took the lives of innocent children. Pilate failed when he passed the death sentence. The crowd failed with their crucifixion cries. For even in all these wicked events God's promises were fulfilled. Fully. Completely. Perfectly.

Rejoice that God's ways and thoughts and plans are much higher than our ways and thoughts and plans. Be thankful that in the midst of the unthinkable, God's ways work out everything for good beyond what we could ask or imagine. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways." This is the Lord's declaration. 'For as heaven is higher than earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.'" [ISAIAH 55:8, 9 (CSB)]



Pastor Timm O. Meyer

Living Savior Lutheran
timmomeyer@ruraltel.net

Part 9: Jesus' family returns to Nazareth – 2:19-23

In every newborn baby, there is the promise of a future filled with love and hope and joy, and at the same time, there is the potential for danger, for illness, for trials, for threats yet unknown. If this had not also been true for Jesus, then he would not have been truly one of us.

The truth that saves us is that the fullness of the Christmas story does not end with a cooing baby surrounded by animals

and angels. This Holy Child is born in poverty, escapes death at the hands a cruel paranoid ruler and grows up as a refugee in a foreign land, his parents fearfully

hiding him away from yet another evil king. I wonder what Jesus heard from his parents in those early years in Egypt, conversations when they thought him asleep or too young to understand; the boy children who did not escape Herod's paranoia and their families heartbreaking grief, Joseph's protective fear, the strain of living among strangers in a foreign land, constant vigilance knowing that powerful men would stop at nothing to retain their power.

Those stories, those earliest experiences must have shaped Jesus' ministry with people on the margins. The Gospels show Jesus warmly accepting and welcoming people from other places, religions, and races. He eats with them, he laughs with them, and he consistently welcomes the outsider. This is true incarnation- God in Human flesh.

As we ponder the Christmas Story, how might Incarnation

open us to new insights in our ongoing life



The Rev. Celeste Lasich

First Presbyterian Church
pastorcelestehays@gmail.com

of faith? The height of Christmas joy reminds us that Jesus our Savior and Lord, as a baby and as a child, delighted in the wonder of every new experience and so we too can delight. When difficulty, illness, or loss touches our life, we are comforted to remember that Jesus too knew deep suffering and that we are not alone in our suffering. When we see those who have to flee the danger of their homes, we identify Jesus as a child whose family was forced to escape an evil regime

(NIV) After Herod died, Joseph had a dream while he was still in Egypt. In the dream an angel of the Lord appeared to him. The angel said, "Get up! Take the child and his mother. Go to the land of Israel. Those who were trying to kill the child are dead." So Joseph got up. He took the child and his mother Mary back to the land of Israel. But then he heard that Archelaus was king of Judea. Archelaus was ruling in place of his father Herod. This made Joseph afraid to go there. Warned in a dream, Joseph went back to the land of Galilee instead. There he lived in a town called Nazareth. So what the prophets had said about Jesus came true. They had said, "He will be called a Nazarene."

to survive and have compassion with those in such harrowing circumstances. The Christmas Story was never intended to end with the birth of a baby. The story of God's Love and Incarnation lives on, in all its light and shadows. This is the radical truth and beauty of Christmas. As the season fades, its complex story lives on in you.

Without the difficult and multifaceted parts it's only a sweet nostalgic tale with no power to save or transform the world. Thanks be to God that in Jesus we experience the fullness of God's love. May our lives reflect and the wonder and transforming power of the Christmas Story.

SIGN OF THE TIMES

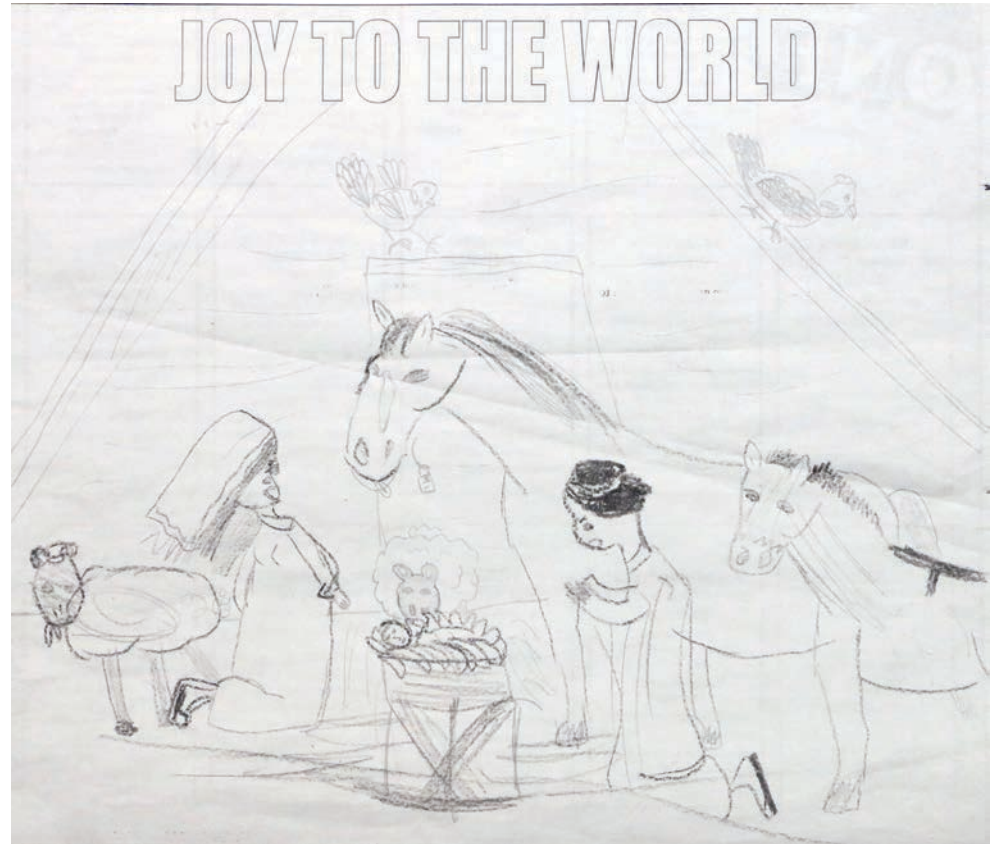


CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST

Below are the honorable mention selections in this year's Christmas coloring contest.



Analeise Knisley, 9, North Oak Community Church.



Emily Ross, 9, North Oak Community Church.



Emmaline Leuschner, 10, Hays First United Methodist Church.



Isabelle Jones, 11, Hays First United Methodist Church.

Plant seeds of hope with this holiday season

Welcome to December's Bible reading plan. As with most people, December is one of my favorite months. I love driving around town and enjoying Christmas decorations, mailing Christmas cards, shopping, concerts, plays, and seeing more hope in people than any other time of the year. As we finish our readings for the year, let the Spirit of Hope encourage you that God has great things ahead for you.



Bible Reading Plan
Pastor Steve Dinkel
 Liberty Four Square Church
 lcfcsd@ruraltel.net

In the Old Testament we will finish our reading of the Prophetic books with Joel and Malachi. Our readings were more or less chronological this year, but Joel is a book that is difficult to place in the timeline of the Old Testament. Most theologians put it towards the end of the prophetic writings because of

its style. Although this book is written to address an ecological event of that day, Joel also wrote about the hope of the future Church in chapter 2:28-29. Malachi is easier to place in the Old Testament time line. Most theologians agree Malachi was the last of the writing prophets. Although his writings also are corrective, they also plant seeds of hope. Let these books encourage you. Even at life's darkest hours, God sews seeds of hope.

We will finish our New Testament readings with the last of the Apostle Paul's writings. Although our New Testament plan was not completely chronological for 2017, it was grouped by author (not chronological), and then chronological within those groups. We will finish Paul's letters to churches, and then read his letters to the leaders of those churches. Paul's writings in Timothy,

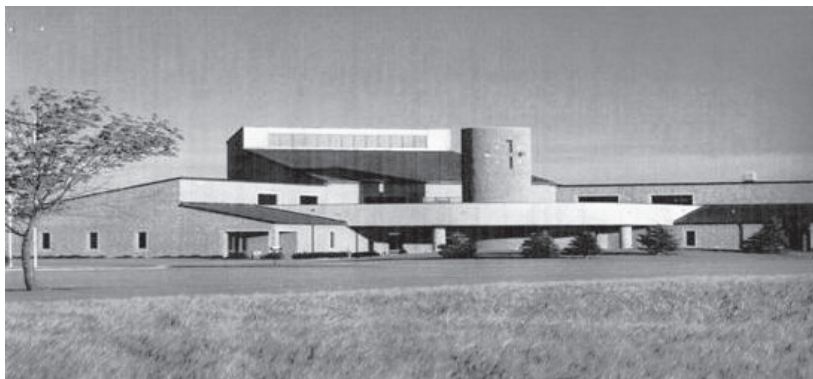
December	
1..... <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Eph 4
2&3.....Weekend Review	
4..... <input type="checkbox"/> Joel 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Eph 5
5..... <input type="checkbox"/> Joel 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Eph 6
6..... <input type="checkbox"/> Joel 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Philemon
7..... <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Phillipians 1
8..... <input type="checkbox"/> Ezek 48	<input type="checkbox"/> Phillipians 2
9&10.....Weekend Review	
11..... <input type="checkbox"/> Malachi 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Phillipians 3
12..... <input type="checkbox"/> Malachi 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Phillipians 4
13..... <input type="checkbox"/> Malachi 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 1
14..... <input type="checkbox"/> Malachi 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 2
15..... <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 3
16&17.....Weekend Review	
18..... <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 4
19..... <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 5
20..... <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 6
21..... <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus 1
22..... <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus 2
23&24.....Weekend Review	
25..... <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus 3
26..... <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 1
27..... <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 2
28..... <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 3
29..... <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 4
30&31.....Weekend Review	

and Titus are straight forward and clear; pray, work on your character, be careful of deception, and persecution will be part of your experience.

As we finish 2017, I would encourage you to let these last books read you. God is calling us all to dream big, and to overcome the interesting times in which we live. His grace is more than sufficient for all of us.

Thank you for reading the Bible with

me this year. I consider it a privilege to write this article each month. I also enjoy hearing from all of you. Thanks for the notes of encouragement. For 2018 we will finish our chronological trek through the Old Testament, and read through the New Testament again. My prayer for you is from Ephesians 1:17-21. May these promises be an ever-increasing reality in all of us. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



St. Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church

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

Fax: (785) 623-4207, website: www.heartlandparishes.org

Fr. Jarett Konrade

Mass Schedule:

Saturday at 5 PM

Sunday at 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Daily Mass - Wednesday, and Friday at 7:00 AM

Reconciliation: Saturday at 4:00 PM

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church



1805 Vine Street - Hays, Kansas

Fr. Barry Brinkman, Pastor

Parish Office: 785-685-7339

Website: www.ihm-church.com

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday 5 PM - Sunday 8 AM - 10 AM - 6 PM

Sunday Spanish Mass - 12 PM

Weekday Mass Schedule:

MWF 6:45 AM - TTh 8 AM Wednesday Spanish 6:30 PM

Reconciliation: Saturday 4 PM and Thursday 5 PM

News to know

'Espresso Yourself' dialogue Nov. 30

The third and final "Espresso Yourself" dialogue offered this fall will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30, at Breathe Coffee House, 703 B Main. This event will give members of the public the opportunity to visit informally with mental health professionals on a variety of topics.

Titled "The Battle Within: A Conversation on Emotional and Mental Issues," the dialogue will feature counselors and representatives from various social service agencies in Ellis County.

Patrick McGinnis, who opened Breathe in May 2016, said a main purpose of the coffee house is "building bridges and connecting different groups in Ellis County." Two previous dialogues have featured local candidates and law enforcement personnel.

These conversations are much more informal than a panel discussion or forum, McGinnis said. "People will just be sitting around at tables talking about things that are important to them." The community is invited.

'African Praise Night' scheduled

Liberty Foursquare Church, 400 E. Seventh, invites the community to "worship the King of kings the African way." The church's first annual "African Mega Praise Night" will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1.

'Volunteer elves' needed to construct toys

The Center for Applied Technology at Fort Hays State University is once again putting out the call for "volunteer elves" to help construct the wooden toys it donates every year to "Teaming Up for Tots."

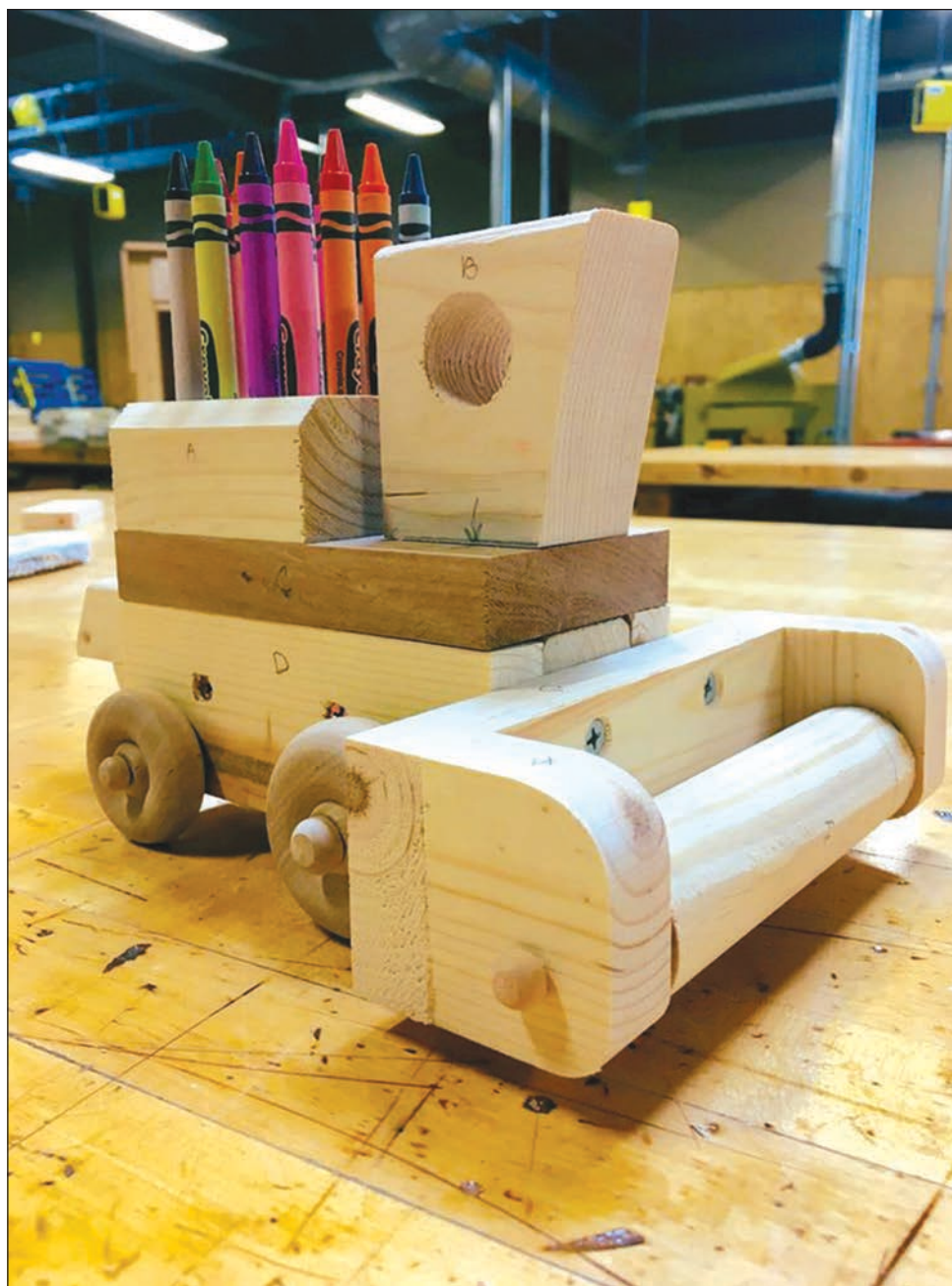
This year's toy-making event will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 2, in the Wood Materials Processing Lab, Room 131, in the new Center for Technology Building, across the street from the Memorial Union on the FHSU campus.

Duane Renfrow, assistant professor of Applied Technology, who is coordinating the event, said the toy being constructed this year is a crayon-holder combine.

Renfrow said about 50 to 60 volunteers are needed to help with sanding, running parts, assembly and finishing. He added kids are welcome to help, as long as there is an adult to supervise them. Two hundred toys will be produced.

"Many university faculty, staff and students from our program are involved in the assembly of the toys," Renfrow said. "Work on this project typically starts approximately six weeks before the toys are assembled. Pre-production includes designing the toy, ordering components, preparing materials, and developing jigs and fixtures."

He explained that "a jig is a mechanism for



COURTESY PHOTO

This is what the wooden crayon-holder combine will look like when it is finished. Two hundred of these toys will be constructed on Saturday, Dec. 2, and donated to "Teaming Up for Tots" of Ellis County.

holding a toy part and for guiding a machine tool to that part. A fixture is a mechanism used to hold a part of the toy while a machine completes an operation on the part."

After the wooden toys are finished, Renfrow's team will deliver them to Sharon Dreher, chairperson for the "Teaming Up for Tots" program in Ellis County.

'Angel Trees' awaiting purchasers

All over Hays, Christmas trees have been erected containing pink and blue paper angels. It is Sharon Dreher's hope that soon all of

those angels will disappear.

Dreher is chairperson for "Teaming Up for Tots" in Ellis County. Each of those angels represents a gift for an underprivileged local child. Dreher said she is confident that Ellis County residents will once again make buying a gift for one of those children part of their holiday tradition.

"It's heartwarming to me to have people wanting to make a child's Christmas better. We are successful because the community supports us," Dreher said. "This may be the

only Christmas gift these kids receive."

Here is how the "Teaming Up for Tots" program works:

Families who meet the income guidelines may sign up at the Community Assistance Center in Hays. Each child in the family receives two new gifts, clothing and a toy, Dreher said.

The child's ID number and the desired gift are written on the paper angels—blue for boys, pink for girls—and placed on the trees. The "Angel Trees" are at the following locations in Hays: Walmart, 4301 N. Vine; Maurice's, located in Big Creek Crossing; First Kansas Bank, 1200 E. 27th St.; Walgreens, 27th and Vine; and the Memorial Union on the Fort Hays State University campus.

In addition, all boys and girls aged 3 to 6 will receive a wooden toy manufactured by the Center for Applied Technology at FHSU. This year's toy is a crayon-holder combine. (Please see the previous article for information on how volunteers can help construct these toys.)

"Fort Hays has been wonderful to work with through the years," Dreher said.

An individual may take as many angels off the trees as he or she wants to purchase, but all gifts need to be returned, unwrapped, with the angels attached to them, by Wednesday, Dec. 13. Drop-off locations are Walmart, Maurice's, and First Kansas Bank. The gifts will be distributed to families on Sunday, Dec. 17.

Dreher said the number of families in Ellis County receiving assistance has gone up over the years. In 2007, the program served 163 families with 375 children. In 2016, the program served 180 families with 478 children.

Although at press time Dreher did not have the final count for the number of children being served this year, 200 wooden toys are being constructed just for the younger children.

The program also appreciates financial donations. Dreher said sometimes people are well intentioned, but misplace their angel, or simply forget to buy the gift.

That's when her committee members must go out and buy the missing gifts. Financial contributions may be mailed to Teaming Up for Tots, P.O. Box 542, Hays, KS 67601.

Children preparing for Christmas Pageant

Preparations are underway for this year's Children's Christmas Pageant at the First United Methodist Church, 305 W. Seventh St. in Hays. Catherine Miller is once again writing and directing the play, which will feature children ranging in age from preschoolers through fifth grade.

The pageant will be performed at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, and at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 17.

NEWS, FROM 9

The church also will offer a Longest Night Service at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, for those experiencing grief during the holiday season.

St. Joseph Church to host 'Vespers Concert'

A "Winter Vespers Concert" will be held on Saturday evening, Dec. 2, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 210 W. 13th in Hays.

The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m., with a pre-concert talk by Hays Symphony Orchestra Director Shah Sadikov at 7 p.m.

The concert will feature "introspective, lyrical and spiritual music of the 20th Century," according to a news release. Fort Hays State University faculty soloists Kay Werth, Kristin Pisano and Ben Cline will be accompanied by the Hays Symphony Orchestra strings.

A post-concert reception will be sponsored by the Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Presbyterian Church announces December events

First Presbyterian Church, 2900 Hall St., is having several special events during the month of December.

The "Advent Festival" will follow the morning service on Sunday, Dec. 3. The service is at 10 a.m. The Advent activities will begin at 11 a.m., featuring lunch, crafts and music. All ages are invited.

On Sunday, Dec. 17, the church's Chancel Choir will perform a Christmas cantata at the 10 a.m. service. "The Service of the Longest Night" will take place at 7 that evening. This service is especially designed for those experiencing grief during the holiday season.

The church will hold its "Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant," with participation by all ages, at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 24. The church's traditional "Candlelight Christmas Eve Service" will take place that night at 7.

'Cathedral Concert' is Dec. 3 in Victoria

The "32nd Annual Cathedral Concert" will be held at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at the Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria. The event is free and open to the public.

Director Terry Crull said the following groups will be performing: The Fort Hays Singers, Fort Hays Concert Choir, Smokey Hill Chorale, Hays High School Chamber Singers, Hays High Plains Barbershop Chorus, Fort Hays State University Brass Choir, an FHSU student brass quartet, an FHSU student string quartet, and the FHSU Double Reed Consort.

Individual soloists will include FHSU voice faculty members Ivalah Allen and Joseph Perniciaro, brass faculty member Brad Dawson, and organist Tom Meagher.

"As always, carols sung by the audience will help to get them involved in the season," Crull said.

'Tree Lighting Ceremony' at FHSU is Dec. 5

The "Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony" at Fort Hays State University will take place starting at 5:40 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, outside Sheridan Hall.

The celebration will also include carolers, free snacks and beverages, hayrack rides, crafts for the kids and a special visit from Santa Claus.

Coloring contest entries from USD 489 will be displayed,



COURTESY PHOTO

The winners in the 2017 Respect-Life Essay Contest are pictured with their teachers. From left are Holy Family Elementary sixth-grade teacher Chris Dinkel; second-place winner Mia Lang; first-place winner Gabe Stanton; third-place winner Helen Cappuccio; sixth-grade teacher Shirley Dinkel; and Knights of Columbus Pro-Life Chairman Lester Robben.

and winners will be announced, plus a holiday movie will be shown in the Beach-Schmidt Performing Arts Center. The public is invited.

'Advent Night' activities slated Dec. 6

Messiah Lutheran Church, 2000 Main St., will have an "Advent Night" on Wednesday, Dec. 6. The evening will be feature crafts, games, and supper. The meal will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by a short Advent service.

Crossroads Choir plans one last concert

Crossroads Choir, a Hays-based Gospel singing group, will be holding its final concert ever this holiday season. That performance will be at the Christmas Vespers Service at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at the United Methodist Church, 305 W. Seventh in Hays.

"Due to changes in life's journey and circumstances, Crossroads will be disbanding at the end of the year," said Melody Barton, choir member.

The concert is free and open to the public. Barton said the group's CD's will be on sale.

Known for its Southern Gospel sound and rich harmonies, the 16-member choir celebrated its 20th anniversary in August. The group started out accompanied by piano only, but later added rhythm and bass guitars and percussion, Barton said.

Crossroads has performed throughout Kansas, Oklaho-

ma, Nebraska, at the Capitol Rotunda in Topeka, and, in June 2009, performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Barton said that over the years, "there have probably been up to 35 or more" different individuals who have sung in the choir, who have come from all walks of life. Only three of the original members, Kay Fisher and her sons Lee and Lynn, are still with the group.

The choir has sung for numerous benefits in Ellis County, along with funerals, weddings, telethons and birthday parties.

"We have been lucky enough to truly 'make music with our friends' as (stated) in our theme song 'Loving God, Loving Each Other,'" Barton said. "Who knows what the future holds? For now we celebrate this wonderful past and look into 2018 to see where our personal journeys lead us."

Respect-Life essay winners announced

The St. Mary's Knights of Columbus in Hays have announced the winners in the sixth-grade "Respect-Life Essay Contest." The contest is conducted each year at Holy Family Elementary School through the creative writing and religion class taught by Shirley Dinkel.

Taking first place is Gabe Stanton, son of Andy and Dana Stanton of Hays, who told his own story of survival. When Gabe was born in China in 2005, it was very apparent that one of his arms is significantly different from the other.

Message at the Top — Everyone is important

There was a young lady in the nursing program of one of our universities who was asked a question on her final exam that she could not answer. She was a conscientious student and was doing quite well in the course and felt good about the exam until the last question. It read: "What is the first name of the maintenance man who works in our building?" Of course, she had seen the maintenance man several times — he was a rather unorthodox man who was never very happy and not real friendly, and consequently she had never talked to him.

The young lady handed in her exam paper leaving the question blank, and it was marked "wrong" when she received the exam back. The professor explained something that the young lady never forgot. Her professor said: "In your career of helping people, you will meet many people; all are significant. They

deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say 'hello.'" She went up to the maintenance man a couple days later, found out his name, and asked about his family and life, and spoke to him often while she was involved in her Registered Nurse training.



Message at the Top

Fr. Mike Scully

michael.scully@capuchins.org

Everyone is important. Of all the characteristics of Jesus, the importance of everyone is basic. He would go into a place in which many sick people were gathered, and pick out one in particular who needed the most help. He was even known to heal all the sick gathered around him because everyone, even the most neglected, was important to him.

There is in Jerusalem at the Sheep Gate a pool called in Hebrew Bethesda, with five porticoes. In these lay a large number of ill, blind, lame, and crippled. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When

THE GOSPELS IN FATHER MIKE'S TOP 5 as of Nov. 15

- 1 - "What about Us" / Pink John 5:2-9a
- 2 - "Feel It Still" / Portugal.The Man John 1:47-50
- 3 - "Thunder" / Imagine Dragons John 21:24-25
- 4 - "What Lovers Do" / Maroon 5 featuring SZA Matthew 4:18-22
- 5 - "Slow Hands" / Niall Horan John 15:1-5

Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been ill for a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am on my way, someone else gets down there before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your mat and walk." Immediately the man became well, took up his mat, and walked (John 5:2-9a).

This is one of the basics of good living. The fact is that we all have different personalities and all have different ways of looking at things. If we could learn to accept those personalities a little better, our world would turn out to be a little better. In Pink's song, "What About Us," she wants people to notice those

people who deserve recognition.

"We are searchlights: we can see in the dark; we are billions of beautiful hearts, and you sold us down the river too far. What about us? What about all the times you said you had the answers? We are problems that want to be solved; we are children that need to be loved. What about love? What about trust? What about us?"

Speaking for the people who deserve recognition, whoever they might be, she says simply, "What about us?" Are we not important? Should not the people in charge give us recognition?

Everyone is important. Jesus said it and the popular music of today says it as well.

NEWS, FROM 10

At that time China had a one-child policy. Seeing his "limb difference," his Chinese parents abandoned him in a hospital bathroom, with a note attached to the baby saying they couldn't take care of him, Andy said.

The Stantons adopted Gabe when he was 2. In his essay, Gabe wrote, "Besides the 'a, w, s' keys on the keyboard, I can do most anything." Gabe added he feels fortunate to have an older sister who also was adopted from China, but from a different province. "I feel lucky we were both born," Gabe said in his essay.

Mia Lang, daughter of Greg and LaNae Lang of Hays, took second place with her essay, "Euthanasia." The third-place winner was Helen Cappuccio, daughter of Amber Cappuccio of Hays, with her essay, "Abortion is Wrong."

The winning students were awarded hand-made ladder rosaries. All the students who entered the contest received a Respect-Life Wristband. The winning students, along with their families, will be recognized at the Knights of Columbus Christmas party on Dec. 10.

Men's trio to perform for Hays After 5

The men's trio "Trilogy" will perform holiday songs at the Hays After 5 Christian

women's meeting on Monday, Dec. 11. The trio features brothers Jerry and Leroy Schmitzberger and their brother-in-law Rick Rupp, all of Victoria.

The meeting will take place from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Rose Garden Banquet Hall, 2250 E. Eighth St. in Hays.

Also on the program is inspirational speaker Kelley Carter of Bonner Springs. Carter lives on 14 acres of land and says she enjoys family get-togethers, camping and gardening. In her talk, titled "Radiant One," she will share about designing bouquets and how she found the "Great Designer."

Cost of the dinner program is \$12.50. Reservations are due by Thursday, Dec. 7, to daisymae0917@yahoo.com or (785) 202-1036. Hays After 5 is affiliated with Stonecroft Ministry of Overland Park.

Blood drive scheduled at church

The American Red Cross will have a blood drive from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11, at the First United Methodist Church, 305 W. Seventh St. in Hays. Please call the church office at (785) 625-3408 to schedule an appointment.

Fundraiser to benefit Ronald McDonald Houses

DECA, an association of marketing students at Hays High School, will be holding a fundraiser on Thursday, Dec. 14. Proceeds will help fund the building of a new Ronald McDonald House near Wesley Medical Center in Wichita.

Ronald McDonald Houses provide a place for out-of-town families to stay while their children are being treated at a hospital.

DECA students will be collecting monetary donations from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at both the north and south McDonald's in Hays, 3406 Vine and 1201 Vine, respectively; and at Eagle Radio, 2300 Hall St.

The students have a goal of raising \$50,000 to help the Ronald McDonald Houses in Wichita, said Kallie Leiker, one of the students spearheading the project.

People who can't make it to one of those locations on Dec. 14 may donate online at donate.rmhwichita.org and clicking on "Gifts from the Heart" on the left side of the page.

Leiker said, "It is important to go to Gifts from the Heart because all donations made here go to (help us achieve) our goal. We would also like to stress the importance that every donation counts, so please bring your donations and help us make a difference in these families' lives."

DECA, officially Distributive Education

Clubs of America, is designed for students who have an interest in marketing, management, hospitality and tourism, and entrepreneurship. Shaina Prough, the DECA adviser at Hays High, said 31 students are involved in the club this year.


North Oak Children's Christmas Program Dec. 17

North Oak Community Church, 3000 Oak St., has a busy December planned. The annual Children's Christmas Program will take place at 9:50 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, during the Sunday School hour. That evening at 5, the church's youth group will present its annual "Soup Supper and Family Christmas Program."

The program will include fellowship, entertainment, and even some shopping. Throughout the evening, attendees will have the opportunity to bid on themed gift baskets and enjoy a talent show. All proceeds from donations and gift basket purchases will go toward the annual youth mission trip.

On Sunday, Dec. 24, there will be one combined worship service at 11 a.m. Sunday School will not meet. At 7 that evening, a Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be held.

Sponsoring
Churches of
ONE



**LIBERTY
FOURSQUARE
CHURCH**
Pastor Steve Dinkel
Pastora Lory Herrick Assoc. Pastor
Sunday Services: 10 a.m.
Wed. Services: 7 p.m.
Adult Bible Study
High School Youth Group
Royal Rangers and Mpaact Girls
Clubs (Aug. - May)
400 E. 7th 625-6245
www.libertyis.com

**FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH**
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
12th & Fort 625-9454
Iglesia Hispana Bautista
Sunday Domingos 10:30 a.m.
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:
10:00 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 Hayden Kvamme
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.
Associate Pastor Tim Nunnery
Children's Pastor Jeremy McGuire
Sunday Service: Adult & Children's
Church, 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Service: Elevate Kids,
R3 Youth & Midweek Adult Service,
7:00 p.m.
Thursday Service: R3 Live
College, 8:00 p.m.
3000 W. 41st St 785-625-6359
www.westviewchurch.tv

**MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
(LC-MS)
Christ Centered, Family Strong,
Mission Minded
Pastor Rocco Mallardi
We gather around Christ's gifts
every Sunday @ 8:30 & 11:00
Wednesday evening education
classes for all ages
Starts @ 5:00
2000 Main 625-2057
www.messiahlutheranhays.com

**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**
Rev. Mike Rose, Sr. Pastor
Matt Dumler, Youth Ministry Dir.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Service: 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
10:45 a.m. Service Broadcast
on KAYS 1400 AM
WOW Worship on Wednesdays:
Meal 5 to 6 pm
Worship 5:50 to 6:10 p.m.
Children/Youth/Adult Programs
6:15-7:15 pm
305 W. 7th 625-3408

**ST. MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**
Rev. Harvey Hillin
Sunday Holy Eucharist
9:30 a.m.
Evening Prayer
Wednesdays 5:15 p.m.
2900 Canal Blvd. 628-8442
stmichaelshays@gmail.com



No matter where you are
in your faith there's
a place for you at C3.
Welcome home.
For more info on service times
and styles, visit us online at
celebratejesus.org
or download our app C3hays.

**CORNERSTONE
SOUTHERN BAPTIST
CHURCH**
Kids/Youth/Adult
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Bible Study
6:00 p.m.
Wed. Devotion/Prayer 7:00 p.m.
29th & Indian Trail 625-9500
www.hayscornerstonesbc.com

**TRINITY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
(ELCA)
The Rev. Marie Sager
2703 Fort St. 785-625-2044
Sunday 10:15 a.m.
(Holy Communion
is Celebrated Every Sunday)
Fellowship Following Worship
www.trinityhays.org
tichays@eaglecom.net

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
The 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
pastorcelestehays@gmail.com
2900 Hall 625-2847

**NORTH OAK
COMMUNITY
CHURCH**
Pastor Ken Ediger
Associate Pastor Dave Buller
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