

A publication of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance January 2018

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God is always with you

Welcome to 2018. Dear ONE readers, this is a new year, therefore you and I can begin new practices.

This month's theme is how to study the Bible. One of my favorite ways to study is through a meditative process called Lectio Divina.

Lectio Divina means "diving reading." There are a few steps you can take either by yourself or with a small group. First, you need to pick a passage to read. Usually a good size passage is around 10

verses. Two passages that I have recently done Lectio Divina with are Psalm 63 and John 15:1-11. After you choose a passage, read the passage out loud.

Welcome

Pastor Marie Sager

Trinity Lutheran Church

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When you are reading the passage for the first time, notice a word or phrase that sticks out to you. Then think about why that word or phrase

may have caught your attention. After you have read the passage once, read it a second time. If possible, read it in a different translation than the one you

read it the first time. And if you are in a small group, you may even have someone new read the passage aloud as to hear the passage in a different voice. This second time around, listen and ponder what God is saying to you. And finally, read the passage a third time, pondering how your life will change because you read this passage.

These three steps can impact your faith in big ways. I encourage you take moment today and read either of the passages I mentioned earlier.

And always remember you are not alone. God is always with you and makes all things new.

A journey for the love of Jesus

My love for Jesus is the journey I'm going to try to tell you about today. I was baptized as an infant in 1930, my sponsors were Mom and Dad's relatives. I attended Sunday School every Sunday and was proud of the yearly award for perfect attendance.

From the beginning singing "Jesus loves me this I know 'cause the Bible tells me so" and memorizing the Lord's Prayer, I knew about God's Son Jesus. I was confirmed as a teenager and was a member of the Luther League. I sang in the church choir too.

I graduated from high school in 1948 then met Jim at Fort Hays. We dated and attended his church. I didn't care which church I attended, I believed the heavenly Father was the same God that was worshiped in all churches. My parents wanted me to attend church, they didn't care which one as long as it was Protestant. Neither Jim nor I grew up with family Bible reading

or praying at home. But they believed the importance of attending church. I know they believed Jesus was sent to be our Savior as well.

When we decided to get married, we didn't want a big wedding and discussed it with the pastor. We were married in the church parsonage. After marriage we joined the church in Hays where we were living.

The pastor thought I should be baptized again since

I was

only baptized as an infant. This was a very emotional experience as I felt very loved.

Five years later, we moved to Dodge City — we searched but didn't find a church we were comfortable with during the five years we lived there. When we moved to Ellis in 1960, we attended a very small church. Time passed, and we had more children and milked

cows each morning. By the time we made it to church on Sunday it became an unhappy situation and we started missing church and eventually stopped going.

I felt I was really missing something and felt bad our children weren't going to Sunday School as I did growing up. We lived 1 mile from church (In fact it was my dad's church when he was

a kid.) when we accepted the invitation to

Vacation Bible School a week after public school was out for summer. Our kids enjoyed going for years. Now our children and grandchildren worship and attend a church of their choice. I'm so thankful for his love of my extended family.

After we became empty nesters we began to attend, and joined. We began to enjoy

the wonderful blessing of worship, went to Bible study, and the men's and women's group meetings.

Jim went to Heaven in 2010. Now I am learning more about God's love for me. I attend church every Sunday, go to two Bible study groups. The Stonecroft After 5 Christian women's last lesson book was on the New Testament book of EPHESIANS, and the study held at Ellis Good Sam led by the intern at our church is the book of MARK learning about the parables Jesus told. I've never really understood these stories before. I have learned and believe the Christmas story. It is now the Season of Advent and we wait to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus.

My journey continues. I pray everyone will find the love of the Lord, even if it takes years to know he is in your heart and believe that "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son." -John 3:16



Opal Flinn

St. John Lutheran

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.

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KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST FROM THE ELLIS COUNTY MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE AND ONE MAGAZINE BY FINDING ECMA ON FACEBOOK.

Finding the courage to make a change

Now that we are past Christmas Day, it is an appropriate time to talk about the visit from the Wise Men or Magi. The Magi most likely came much later than the actual birth of Jesus, perhaps up to two years later.

What fascinates me about the Magi is the fact that they followed a star for thousands of miles, without any guarantee of actually finding anything. They had learned something from the Scriptures

— enough to know that the King of the Jews was to be born — but did they really understand what was happening? Probably not.



Pastor Kevin Daniels

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Yet these men chose to follow. They followed the star to Jesus, against all odds. They were followers.

The truth of the matter is that we are all followers — sometimes we think we're following ourselves — but we are all following someone or something. So the question becomes: Who or what are you following?

People follow celebrities, sports heroes, teachers, pastors, priests, doctors, judges, family members, friends, news anchors, political parties, politicians, money, fame, and the list could go on.

Who or what we follow is going to

determine our next steps. What is the next step in your path of following what you're following?

You may find that you're simply following the path of least resistance.

The Magi were following the star, which ultimately led them to Jesus, which is who we should be following.

However, following Jesus is not typically the path of least resistance. In fact, it can often be the path which causes the most resistance.

Jesus says that the resistance that we feel on earth when choosing to following Him, however, is worth it in the end. He says that following his teachings is like building your house on a good foundation of bedrock. Because

when the wind and the rain comes, the house will stand tall. That's in contrast to the person who builds their house on the sand, which shifts and blows in the storm (Matthew 7:24-27).

What foundation are you building for yourself? We know that the storm is eventually coming — when it does, will your foundation be secure in Christ?

As you go through this week, consider carefully each decision that you are making. Who are you choosing to follow with each choice? Is that really who or what you should be following?

Have the courage to make the changes necessary so that you're following Christ with your whole heart.

KJIL

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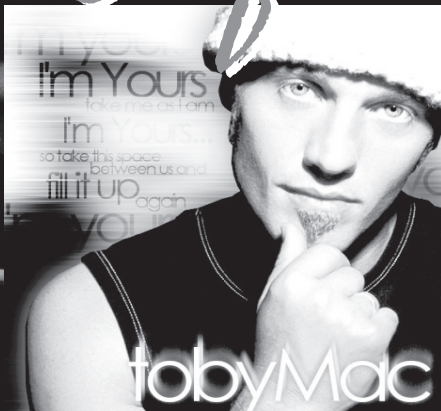
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3 reasons people oppose the Bible

Cultures change — sometimes drastically. In the past 100 years, the Bible has moved from one of the standards in American public education, teaching character and behaviors, to a forbidden text. In this article, we will identify three reasons that people are apathetic or actually opposed to the Bible.

1. The Bible is archaic.

There are 27 books in the New Testament, and most scholars agree that these books were written before 100 A.D., which is one-thousand-nine-hundred years ago. This is the first reason that people oppose the Bible: it is archaic. It is very old. Many of the customs no longer apply. Science has progressed. People transport in cars or planes or space shuttles. We speak instantaneously with live-video-feed to people thousands of miles away. Hospitals use lasers to destroy cancerous cells. I have over 1,000 books on my Kindle smartphone app that is in my pocket. Such marvelous inventions were unfathomable to those living in the first century. How could the Bible be relevant to us?

2. Well, that's your interpretation.

Society is skeptical of Bible interpretations. The Bible has been used by factious groups to promote unholy agendas. As an example, some state that the Bible was used to justify slavery in the pre-civil war era of America and the Christian Crusades of the Middle Ages. Adolph Hitler even used the Bible to subjugate people in the name of religion. Events such as these cause people to question the validity of any interpretation.

Most Christians are unmoved by Scripture abuse, and even willfully engage in its practice. It is not always that motives are malignant; sometimes people just have varying views on how the Bible speaks about ethics, practices, theology, and beliefs. However, the Bible has been abusively used in power-plays that run counter to the Gospel. As the world stands by and observes, Bible-abusers cast a repelling smell that scatters and disgusts. This has caused some to turn away, but the “Well, that's your interpretation” runs deeper than that.

The message of the Bible itself offends. Western culture has developed ethical standards that are largely opposed to traditional biblical moral-



ity. Some Christians and churches are so focused on connecting with non-believers that they have compromised their values. It is important for the church to connect with unbelievers and to be relevant. Common practice for this kind of “Christian” or “church” is to emphasize certain verses

to support their idea and exclude all others (a method of interpreting the Bible some call proof-texting).

Other Christians intent on influencing the culture rather than “losing

it,” throw around their political weight to impose biblical morality (this group has been stereotyped and titled as the “religious right”). People respond to the religious right by saying, “Well, that's your interpretation.” People on both sides of the fence (the tolerants, and the religious rights) exhibit

equally disrespectful behaviors and closed-minded attitudes. Both extremes care little for engagement with the text, and care less for being transformed by it. This, too, has led people of all flavors to develop antipathies toward the Bible.

3. There is a pervasive value of tolerance in the name of love.

Simply stated, everyone is being strongly pressured to forsake traditional biblical morality. The grounds for this is that Jesus' command to “love your neighbor” demands that we accept behaviors regardless of any moral convictions. When Christians refuse to abandon their view on biblical morality, this causes a schism. Some Jesus-followers, in an attempt to avert conflict, surrender their stance on biblical morality. Others don't like their behaviors labeled negatively. The cultural elevation of “tolerance” is causing people to oppose the Bible.



Pastor Dave Buller

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Begin hearing God's voice

Welcome to the 2018 Bible Reading Plan. This month's One Magazine articles focus on the importance of Bible study in the life of a Christian. Christians claim to believe the Bible is God's Word. We claim it's God's divinely inspired, inerrant message to us. Yet despite this, many aren't reading it. A recent Life-Way Research study found only 45 percent of those who regularly attend church read the Bible more than once a week. More than 40 percent of the people attending read their Bible occasionally, maybe once or twice a month. Almost one in five churchgoers say they never read the Bible — essentially the same number who read it every day. My hope is that together we can change that statistic.



Bible Reading Plan
Pastor Steve Dinkel
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We live in a blessed time in human history; with access to God's written word in any format or media we can imagine. The benefits from reading God's word are abundant and profoundly true! Psalm 119 promises that if we deposit God's Word in our hearts — or believe it — it will keep us from sin. The Apostle Paul wrote that the God's word equips us, renews our minds, helps us to prosper, and teaches how to live a life full of God's best. Over the years, I have found that one of the most important elements to consistent Bible study is a doable reading plan. So with that in mind — I submit the following 2018 Bible reading plan. By the end of this year, by spending around 15 minutes per day, 5 days per week, we will read the entire New Testament, and 1/3 of the Old Testament. I've developed this year's plan from the "Books

of the Bible" reading strategy from the International Bible Society (Biblica.org). The Old Testament books are ordered by style and chronology. The New Testament books are ordered by audience, author, and then chronology. Each month I will include a short survey of the month's readings with an occasional suggestion of a Bible study help or resource. My hope is that this year's plan will be engaging, interesting, and enlightening.

Our Old Testament readings begin in the most quoted book of the Bible; the book of Psalms. Most of the Psalms are lyrics written and recited for purposes of worship. We will spend the next six months reading this book. Take time to underline the Psalms that speak to you; there are many encouraging promises found in this book.

For our New Testament readings we will begin in the Gospel of Luke. Luke begins with a preliminary section that introduces the main themes of the whole book by telling the story of Jesus' early life. The book has three main sections; the first 9 chapters describes His ministry in Galilee, the next 10 chapters communicate teachings and ministry during his long journey to Jerusalem, and the final chapters narrate the journey to the cross, resurrection, and the rule of Jesus Christ as Savior.

May the time you invest studying God's Word this year cause you to flourish in your life.

May you hear God's voice speaking through His Word, and as a result prosper in everything you do. Let's begin!

January

1.....□ Psm. 1-2.....□ Luke 1	17.....□ Psm. 22.....□ Luke 13
2.....□ Psm. 3-4.....□ Luke 2	18.....□ Psm. 23-24.....□ Luke 14
3.....□ Psm. 5-6.....□ Luke 3	19.....□ Psm. 25.....□ Luke 15
4.....□ Psm. 7-8.....□ Luke 4	20&21.....Weekend Review
5.....□ Psm. 9-10.....□ Luke 5	22.....□ Psm. 26-27.....□ Luke 16
6&7.....Weekend Review	23.....□ Psm. 28-29.....□ Luke 17
8.....□ Psm. 11-12.....□ Luke 6	24.....□ Psm. 30.....□ Luke 18
9.....□ Psm. 13-14.....□ Luke 7	25.....□ Psm. 31.....□ Luke 19
10.....□ Psm. 15-16.....□ Luke 8	26.....□ Psm. 32.....□ Luke 20
11.....□ Psm. 17.....□ Luke 9	27&28.....Weekend Review
12.....□ Psm. 18.....□ Luke 10	29.....□ Psm. 33.....□ Luke 21
13&14.....Weekend Review	30.....□ Psm. 34.....□ Luke 22
15.....□ Psm. 19-20.....□ Luke 11	31.....□ Psm. 35.....□ Luke 23
16.....□ Psm. 21.....□ Luke 12	

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3 images to guide our understanding of the Bible

The task of Jesus-followers is to read the Scriptures, listen to the Holy Spirit, and then to apply what they know for Jesus and His glory. Here are three images that come from the work of Richard Hays (A Moral Vision of the New Testament) on how to interpret the Bible for application. These 3 images are “root metaphors” and they “serve to focus our attention on the common ground shared by the various witnesses” (Hays 194). In other words, they are primary themes we can find running through the New Testament.

1. Community

The first image is that of a community of people. Just like trees along a path, planted in a specific pattern, and cared for to create a scene of beauty, so also God is and has been creating a covenant community. God creates a people that are set-apart for Himself, and He calls every human being to be a part of it. Those that choose to join Him surrender their agendas, biases, and pride to the Lordship of Christ to become a part. Consider how the following New Testament topics support the over-arching theme of community:

- Spiritual gifts — Every believer has been given spiritual gifts to serve, support, and encourage others.
- “One anothers” — The phrase “one another” occurs throughout the New Testament: forgive one another, serve one another, love one another, encourage one another, etc.
- Church — Jesus’ intent was to create a community of

disciples that would form “the church.” God’s plan was and is to form a community of committed people.

- Body — The church is a body of believers on a mission together for the Kingdom of Jesus.
- Disciples — Jesus trained and spent time with his community of disciples. Intending for them to be united and working together for His mission.
- Family of God — The New Testament refers to believers frequently as “brothers and sisters.” There is a united family comprised of those committed to following Jesus.

God continues to form a covenant community of people devoted to Him. What we believe about right and wrong should be viewed through the lens of community.

2. Cross

Jesus’ tenacity in pursuing the cross and His suffering there are a dominant New Testament theme. “Jesus’ death is consistently interpreted in the New Testament as an act of self-giving love, and the community is consistently called to take up the cross and follow in the way that his death defines. ... To be Jesus’ disciple is to obey his call to bear the cross, thus to be like him. ... Our actions are therefore to be judged not by their calculable efficacy in producing desirable results but by their correspondence to Jesus’ example.” (Hays 197).

- To participate in the fellowship of his sufferings (Philippians 3:10)
- Surrendering power through servant leadership (Mark 10:42-45; Romans 15:1-3; 1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1)

- Saying “no” to sin and “yes” to holy living (Matthew 23; Luke 13:1-9; John 5:14; John 8:11; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Titus 2:11-14)

- Those choosing to live a godly life will be persecuted (Luke 21:12-18; 2 Timothy 3:12)

- Perseverance and long-suffering through difficulties (1 Peter, James 1, Hebrews 11-12, Revelation).

3. New Creation

God, Jesus, the prophets, and the biblical writers all share a conviction: people can change. His Lordship over our lives should make a tangible difference. This is what we hear as people share their testimonies.

Paul warns the church in Galatia that we can no longer live like we used to live (Galatians 5:16-21): “I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.” As Jesus comes on the scene and enters public ministry, the Gospel of Mark records his words: “The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the Good News” (Mark 1:15). Jesus tells people, “Go now and leave your life of sin” (John 8:11). While no one can enter the Kingdom of God based on works, for Jesus, change is not only possible, it is expected.

Forces are honing in on the church and beckoning it to change its views of right and wrong. Forces are at work to change you.

We should return again to the biblical text with humility and prayer. I hope that these 3 images will remind you of important biblical themes when considering issues of morality. Read His Word and experience the life-changing message filled with power and freedom!



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Reading God’s story of love

I have become an enthusiastic fan of the Narrative Lectionary, <http://www.workingpreacher.org/?lectionary=nl> a recently developed four year ecumenical Bible Study and preaching plan developed by Luther Seminary. The Narrative Lectionary reminds me and the congregation I serve of the power of God’s Promise and Presence across time, culture, and circumstance.

Each Fall at what is typically the start of the Program year, the readings begin again in Creation and Genesis and follow the lives and stories of men and women of faith. From September to mid-December the preaching texts begin with the early chapters of Genesis, move through the stories of Israel’s early history, the exodus, the kings, prophets, exile, and return. From Christmas to Easter there is sustained

reading of one of the four gospels. From Easter to Pentecost the texts are chosen from Acts and Paul’s letters. The texts show the range and diversity of voices within Scripture.

I appreciate the invitation to hear the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the prophets, Jesus, and Paul. All of these complex voices within

Scripture enrich our life of faith. As Solomon said so long ago, there is nothing new under the sun. I am struck by the knowledge that the readings always connect to the most daunting issues of this day and point to God’s Way for us now.



The Rev. Celeste Lasich

First Presbyterian Church
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As a Presbyterian, I grew up hearing and studying the Revised Common Lectionary, a three year rotation of daily readings that including one reading from each of the Old Testament, Psalms, Gospels, and Epistles. The rotation was

commendably designed so that each day believers would experience the breadth of God’s Word. The downside for me was that the four

readings often were only loosely connected if at all. Short disconnected readings made it harder to see a story or message in context of time and circumstance.

Narrative Lectionary texts were selected by professors of Old and New

Testament that would lead well to the proclamation of what God is doing in our world and in our lives here and now. The stories tell of eternal human questions and struggles, of hope and disappointment, of sin, suffering, and of God’s saving grace and love. In all these varied contexts, we see God dealing with the complex realities of human life.

The Narrative Lectionary community is presently a small but growing movement to re-center the stories of Scripture as a lens for how we respond to the challenges of joys of our days. If you want to know more, check out the Narrative Lectionary website, download the reading plan, join the Narrative Lectionary Facebook Group, or contact me. Reclaim the joy of knowing intimately we are part of God’s story of love and saving grace.



Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year from the 2017 Participating Organizations of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance!



Marie Sager
Trinity Lutheran
(President)



Karen Harvester
HaysMed
(Vice President)



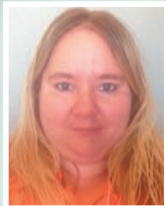
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St. Nicholas



Joanne Wasinger
Hays Good Samaritan Society

Not Pictured

Travis Cassity
The Vine;

Bubba Dowling
KS Dept. of Children/Family Services;

DJ TerHaar
Shepherd's Staff Camp, Rexford



God at work in our world

It was the tradition in the church where I grew up to give a Bible to the third grade Sunday school class when they were promoted to fourth grade. Many, many years later, I still remember the day when I was presented with my Bible. I was so excited to have a Bible of my own. I felt so grown up! We all listened to our teacher as she told us that our Bibles were precious and that we were to take good care of them. In the years that followed, we memorized Scripture verses and learned songs to help us remember the books of the Bible and their order. However, I do not remember spending a lot of time reading my Bible at that age because I had difficulty understanding the meaning of what I read.

During my junior high years, another Sunday school teacher gave us a different Bible. It was a New Testament version of the Living Bible that was just becoming

popular. It was a paperback, had a picture of young people on the front, and the title on the cover was "Reach Out." Some of you may have owned a copy of this Bible. This paraphrase version seemed much easier to read and understand. All of the sudden, I wanted to read my Bible and I read it often. Eventually I read the whole New Testament. Our Sunday school teacher encouraged us to underline important passages or to make notes in the margins if it was helpful. So, I did begin making notations in this Bible, but I occasionally wondered if my grade school teacher would have approved!

I now own many Bibles of multiple

translations like New American Standard (NAS), English Standard (ESV), New International (NIV), New King James (NKJV), and the Contemporary English (CEV). However, I prefer the New Revised Standard (NRSV) and it is the one I use the most in my personal study and in preaching.

I also own several paraphrases like the Living Bible, previously mentioned, as well as Good News for Modern Man, and The Message. Each person has to find the Bible that is easiest for them to use and understand. Translations are most often recommended for study, but for casual reading some prefer the easier read of a paraphrase. The Message has

become popular among young people for that reason. I also recommend the NIV as a good starting point for youth and children.

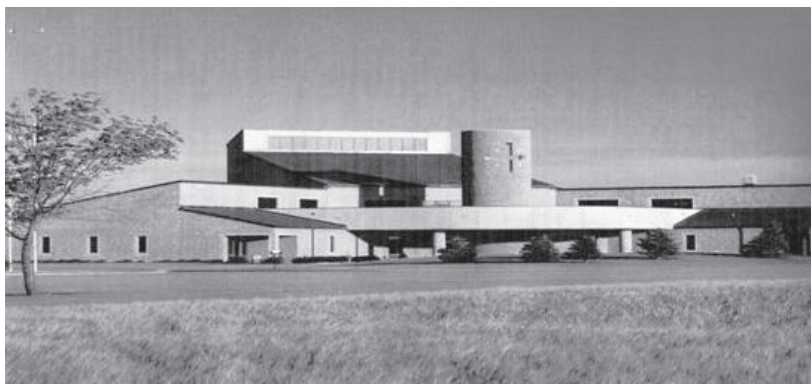
After 50 plus years of reading the Bible, I am constantly amazed at how often I read something new. Passages I have read and studied over and over often provide new insight that I have never before noticed. This happens because Scripture is not just words on a page. It is the living Word of God which has spoken to God's people of all generations. Even after all these years, the more I read Scripture, the more I want to read. For that reason, daily Bible reading is an important practice for those who seek to know God in a personal way. The Bible has been, and will always be, the story of God at work in our world, our comfort in times of distress, and our guide for faithful living.



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St. Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church

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Fr. Jarett Konrade

Mass Schedule:

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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

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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

Liberty Foursquare hosting guest speaker

Dave Steinert will be speaking at Liberty Foursquare Church, 400 E. Seventh, at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 7.

Church Pastor Steve Dinkel said that Steinert attended Faith Bible College in Great Bend, has helped to establish churches, and has ministered throughout the United States.

"Dave's strength in ministry is operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. His ministry is a very encouraging and always well received," Dinkel said.

More information is available from the church office at (785) 625-6245.

Hays Rec staffer to offer fitness tips

Starting the New Year right means finding ways to stay fit, says Gail Wickham with the Hays Recreation Center. She will be discussing the center's fitness programs with the Hays After 5 Christian women's group on Monday, Jan. 8.

The dinner program will run from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Rose Garden Banquet Hall, 2250 E. Eighth.

Wickham also will be giving a demonstration of senior tai chi and yoga, both of which promote one's health and overall well being, said Dave Quillin, wellness director at the center.

Also on the agenda will be inspirational speaker Mary Murphy of Tulsa, Okla. Murphy says she empathizes with those who feel their lives have been molded by the actions and words of others and circumstances beyond their control.

"We are all individually molded to be unique," she says. "No matter what your past, there is hope for your future."

Cost of the event is \$12.50. Reservations are due by Thursday, Jan. 4, to daisymae0917@yahoo.com or by calling (785) 202-1036. Hays After 5 is affiliated with Stonecroft Ministry of Overland Park.

United Way director hoping for pie in the face

In the past year, 16 agencies applied to the United Way of Ellis County for \$414,000 to help their agencies provide services. However, the United Way is only at 70 percent of its goal and is asking for help.

"To help with the current short fall, the United Way has a fun community challenge," said Sherry Dryden, United Way executive director.

The challenge is for every donation given to help reach the goal, a long piece of duct tape will be used to tape Dryden to a wall from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, in the Hadley Center, 205 E. Seventh. Signs will direct people to the event.

If the campaign goal of \$450,000 is met, then Nancy Jeter, campaign chair, will get to put a pie in Dryden's face while Dryden is duct taped to the wall. They invite the public to come and to see if they make their goal.

Just prior to this event, at 4 p.m. the United Way will have a ribbon cutting for the new Wonder Women League



COURTESY PHOTO

Four the Cross gospel group from Wichita will be performing in Hays Saturday evening, Feb. 3, at the Hays First United Methodist Church's Valentine's Banquet. The group consists of Larry Detaine, Vernon Smith, Mark Hall, Richard Meier and Pete Peters.

and the announcement of the league's first project. Dryden said, "This is a group of extraordinary women who are committed to inspire and empower women to effect change in our community."

Individuals may donate ahead of time online at www.liveunited.us or at the United Way office, 205 E. Seventh, Suite 111.

Jeter said that partner agencies, "with the help of the United Way, are able to create change through the valuable services they provide. These services include assis-

tance to those dealing with cancer, providing shelter for families in need of assistance, early intervention services for children, counseling, assistance for individuals with disabilities, providing mentors to at-risk children, and so much more.

"Everyone wins when a child succeeds in school, when families are financially stable, and when people are healthy. It does more than impact our community, it impacts all of us," she said.

NEWS, from 9

Church to hold Valentine's Banquet

The Hays First United Methodist Church, 305 W. Seventh, will be having a Valentine's Banquet from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3.

Cost is \$15 per person, which will include a three-course meal, entertainment, door prizes and a photo booth. Nursery service is available upon request.

Tickets may be purchased at the church office during regular business hours and on Sunday mornings, starting Sunday, Jan. 14, or by calling the church at (785) 625-3408. Reservation deadline is Monday, Jan. 29.

Entertainment will be provided by Four the Cross gospel group from Wichita. The male singing group, which organized in 2011, describes its sound as "a variety of music styles like the Gaither Vocal Band, Gold City, Signature Sound, The Cathedrals and more."

Nordic Choir to perform at two area churches

The Nordic Choir of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, will present a sacred choral concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at the Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria. Admission is \$10.

The 80-member choir will be hosted and fed that evening by members of Trinity Lutheran Church, 2703 Fort St. in Hays. As a thank you, the choir will perform during Trinity's 10:15 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Feb. 4.

The choir annually tours both internationally and in North America and will stop on its way to Denver, Colo. Under the baton of Andrew Last, the choir ends every concert with Tschesnokov's "O Lord God." This will be the choir's first time to perform in this area.

Murder mystery to be staged Feb. 3

The Fort Hays State University Criminal Justice Club will be staging a murder mystery dinner on Saturday, Feb. 3, at Thirsty's Grill & Pub, 2704 Vine St.

"Murder @ Mardi Gras" will be a semi-formal event that will feature a cash bar at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person or \$50 per couple. The ticket price includes admission, dinner, dessert and entertainment. Proceeds will help fund the club's trip next spring to Cleveland, Ohio, to attend the national American Justice Association meeting and competition.

Tickets are available in the Criminal Justice Department in Rarick Hall 233 on the FHSU campus or at Thirsty's. Individuals may contact Kweilin Lucas at ktlucas@fhsu.edu or Tamara Lynn at tjlynn@fhsu.edu with questions or to request tickets. Club members say they are happy to deliver tickets in the local

area.

Church planning Groundhog Supper

The women's ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church will be holding its annual Groundhog Supper from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3.

A freewill offering will be taken at the meal, which will consist of scrambled eggs, sausage and pancakes. Proceeds will go to support the ministry's projects. The church is located six miles north of Ellis on the blacktop road.

Church hosting 'Night to Shine' Prom

Tim Tebow's "Night to Shine" Prom for those with special needs will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9, at Celebration Community Church, located at the junction of Interstate 70 and Highway 183 Bypass.

The prom is one of the ministries of the Tim Tebow Foundation, started by the former football standout in 2010. The ministry is headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla.

The event is designed to provide "an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs, age 14 and older," according to timtebowfoundation.org. "On one night, Feb. 9, 2018, more than 500 churches from around the world will come together to host 'Night to Shine' for approximately 90,000 honored guests through the support of 175,000 volunteers."

The Hays event will feature dinner, dancing and karaoke, said Keshawn Sewell, one of the organizers. Professional photographers and videographers will be on hand to record the event for guests.

Hays Academy of Hair Design, 1214 E. 27th St., will provide free make-up and hair styling from 4 to 5 that afternoon, Sewell said. Volunteers will be available to provide guests with free transportation to the church.

In addition, The Arc of Central Plains Thrift Shop, 600 Main St., is accepting donations of gently used prom dresses, which will be available free of charge to prom attendees.

The church will provide a respite room, supplied with food and massage chairs, for caregivers during the prom, Sewell said.

There is no charge for any of the participants. Individuals in Ellis County and the surrounding area may register an honored guest, volunteer, or donate at www.haysnighttoshine.com.

Sewell said 70 to 80 volunteers are still needed to help set up and tear down, decorate, help with parking, assist with on-site registration, help serve the meal and serve as buddies for each guest during the prom.

Those with questions may contact Sewell at haysnighttoshine@gmail.com or at (620) 480-0782.

Women invited to live stream event

The Women's Ministry at North Oak Community Church invites area women to IF:Gathering, a live stream of a sold-out event in Austin, Texas, on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 9 and 10.

The live stream will be held at the church, 3000 Oak St., from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Doors will open a half hour ahead of time.

Organizers said this international event provides an opportunity for women to wrestle with essential questions of faith, to dream, and to connect with other women of different cultures and denominations.

According to the event's website, "This once a year event simulcast allows women from all around the world to find themselves humbly on their knees, laying down their burdens and lifting up their praise in collective prayer."

Cost of the Hays live stream is \$15 per person, which will include refreshments. Participants will be on their own for lunch. Childcare will not be provided.

Women may register at <https://register.ifgathering.com/event/ifthays>. Emily Buller, one of the organizers in Hays, said scholarships to attend the event are available. She can be reached at (785) 272-7131 or at bullerbunch@gmail.com.



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St. Fidelis Church


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First Presbyterian Church
Thomas More Prep-Marian High School
Messenger

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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 Impact 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

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LUTHERAN
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(LC-MS)

Christ Centered, Family Strong,
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Pastor Rocco Mallardi

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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



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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
tlchays@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