



ONE

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A publication of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance February 2018

News to know

Soup R' Bowl fundraiser Jan. 28

The annual Soup R' Bowl fundraiser for the Humane Society of the High Plains is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, at the Unrein Building at the Ellis County Fairgrounds.

Cost is \$7, which allows attendees to sample all the soups available and get a cup of their favorite. Tickets are available at the door, or may be purchased in advance at the Humane Society, 2050 E. Hwy 40, and at the following businesses: PetSense, 2508 Vine; Back to Nature, 2707 Vine; Fur is Flying, 700 E. Eighth; and Hays Veterinary Hospital, 1016 E. Eighth.

More information is available at (785) 625-5252.

Nordic Choir to perform at two area churches

The Nordic Choir of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, will present a sacred choral concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at the Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria. The event is free and open to the public; a goodwill offering will be taken for the choir.

The 73-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 is stopping on its way to Denver, Colo. Under the baton of Andrew Last, the choir ends every concert with Pavel Chesnokov's "O Lord God." This will be the choir's first time to perform in this area.

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 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."

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.

Homelessness topic of focus group event

The Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition will be holding "a focused conversation on individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Kansas." The event will take place from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Feb. 6, in the Hadley Center, 205 E. Seventh.

A report issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on Dec. 6, 2017, showed that total homelessness in the U.S. increased in 2017 for the first time in 10 years.

Organizers said the event is open to anyone, but is specifically designed for agencies who provide shelter or supportive services for the homeless, law enforcement representatives, city and county government representatives, business and community leaders, elected representatives, faith based organizations and school district representatives.

A firm called Amazing Traditions has been hired to conduct a needs assessment to help better understand how to support the homeless services in Ellis County, and this focus group event is part of that process.

The firm is also scheduling face-to-face or telephone interviews either before or after the focus group event with interested individuals. To schedule an interview, contact Kerri VanMeveren at (816) 260-1067 or kerri@amazingtraditions.com. More information about the firm is available at www.amazingtraditions.com.

More information about the focus group event itself is available from First Call for

Help of Ellis County at (785) 623-2800.

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.

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.

Cover photo of St. Marys Church, Ellis, by Jolie Green

Continued on Page 10

Love your neighbor

By Kelly Parr, Isis Norris
and The Rev. Marie Sager

How do you cope with fear and still love your enemy?

Today when you look at the news you see fear all around you. When you scroll Facebook posts, people are reacting to the unknown. They are only thinking of one perspective.

The Bible tells us that God calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves (Lev. 19:18). But in reality, we should love our neighbor, anyone, more than ourselves. We are called to love how God loves us. There are no conditions, there are no strings attached. We are called to love everybody.

Everyone, no matter their race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or ability, is created in God's image. 1 John 4:11 (NRSV) says, "Beloved,



The Rev. Marie Sager, Kelly Parr and Isis Norris.

since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another." We can love those whom are different from ourselves since they are all a piece of God. Loving our neighbor is an act of loving God.

Another Scripture reminds us that, "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5a NRSV). Love comes in many different ways. Acting out of love can be praying for

victims and their attackers. Loving someone can be bringing food to a neighbor who is ill. Or loving someone may be as simple as smiling at someone.

Martin Luther, a key figure in the Lutheran church, said, "Pray, and let God worry." In praying for others who we may see as an enemy, we are also loving them.

In the Gospel of Matthew, during Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, we hear Jesus tell those gathered that they have heard that they should hate their enemy, but Jesus tells them that they should love them, and pray for those who persecute them (Matthew 5:43-44). This was counter-cultural then, and is now as well. But nevertheless, we are told to share God's love with all, even those that we do not like.

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Enemies, forgiveness, and fear: A surprising twist

“Resentment is like drinking poison and then hoping it will kill your enemies.”

- Nelson Mandela

Loving enemies has never been a popular practice. The atrocities of apartheid in South Africa were numerous and horrific. People experienced the worst of evils, and here comes Nelson Mandela, giving instruction about resentment that causes pause. Many desire the worst of curses on their enemies—especially when the wounds are deep. Mandela is clear: resentment is not the answer.

Jesus, too, gives reasons why we should love our enemies and overcome our fear of them. In this short article, we will look at three teachings of Jesus.

Matthew 6:14 *For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

A simple if...then statement that communicates an instruction that can be profoundly difficult. In my years as a software devel-

oper, if...then statements were frequently used. If a condition is true, then do this. It was so black-and-white. You could never get to this unless the condition was true.

Jesus' words are hard. We cannot rationalize our way around this one. He said if you forgive, then you will be forgiven; if you do not forgive then you will not be forgiven. His words hardly seem compassionate or caring. You don't have to look long

to find Christians that just don't seem to be joy-filled and living in the freedom and abundant life that Jesus promised.

Matthew 18:35 *“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”*

In this second teaching, found in Matthew 18:21-35, Jesus tells a parable. The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant is a story about forgiveness. It ends with a surprising



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twist. God takes forgiveness so seriously that if we don't practice it, He will “turn [us] over to the jailers to be tortured.” To forgive is to show love (1 Corinthians 13:5). Forgive enemies or be tortured by God's jailers...that puts it all in perspective.

Matthew 5:11-12 *“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*

It is hardly common sense. It definitely goes against our feelings. It is even hard to talk about without seeming trite. But Jesus' instruction is clear: when opposition comes our way, when our enemies rise against us, when we are insulted or persecuted, Jesus tells us to get excited and celebrate: you're increasing your collection of heaven

bucks—literally! “Great is your reward in heaven,” Jesus says. Anyplace that is known for streets of gold doesn't hand out chintzy junk. Jesus is saying that the good stuff is coming your way. This kind of treatment is no reason to fear, it is time to rejoice.

This is not a command to be a door mat—to be abused and used by malevolent individuals. Instead, He is telling us how people like Louis Zamperini, Corrie Ten Boom, and the apostle Paul could live with freedom and joy either after or in the midst of the worst of wrongs.

One key to Christian freedom is to forgive those who have hurt you. Freedom is a simple forgiveness decision away. Stop carrying that resentment and bitterness around. It is only weighing you down, stealing your joy. Stop drinking that poison. “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1). Let it go and rest on Jesus' promise that your rewards are stacking up.

Lightning before the thunder

Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.” And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner.” But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant

of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost (Luke 19:1-10).

Zacchaeus as described by the Gospel of Luke knew a couple of things about himself. He knew that he was small for his age, and so he managed to compensate for that. But he also knew that he was something more

than a tax collector, even more than a chief tax collector. As he studied himself, one is led to believe, he did not like what he saw. He was not living up to his potential. Perhaps this man whom he had heard of, this

Jesus, could help him. So he climbed the tree hoping not only to see him, but perhaps be moved by him. He was not disappointed.

It seems that the man in Imagine Dragons' song “Thunder” is the same type of fellow. He knew what he was, and he knew what he could become. As he put it, he



Message at the Top

Fr. Mike Scully

michael.scully@capuchins.org

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

- 1 - “Thunder” / Imagine Dragons Luke 19:1-10
- 2 - “Perfect” / Ed Sheeran Matthew 5:48
- 3 - “What Lovers Do” / Maroon 5 featuring SZA Luke 3:10-15
- 4 - “Feel It Still” / Portugal. The Man John 1:47-50
- 5 - “Havana” / Camila Cabello featuring Young Thug Matthew 11:28-30

knew he was lightning, and what was being presented now in his life was merely the thunder. He fully understood that he was the lightning, not the thunder, capable of accomplishing much more than he was. He was not a yes-man, a follower; he was destined to be on the stage instead of watching from the audience.

“Just a young gun with a quick fuse, I was uptight, wanna let loose. I was dreaming of bigger things and wanna leave my old life behind. Not a yes-sir, not a follower, fit the box, fit the mold, have a seat in the foyer, take a number. I was lightning before the thunder.” Other kids were making fun of him, but now he sings, “I'm smiling from the stage while

you were clapping in the nosebleeds.”

Such is the thought of every leader in our world. There will come a time as she/he grows in which they realize that her/his life could be so much more than it is. Yes, the person may be enjoying life, having a good time, but there are dreams of bigger things always in the mind. The difference between a leader and a follower is that she/he will do something about it.

As Zacchaeus, as the man in Imagine Dragons' song, the leader will do the work of giving away the things of youth, and accepting the challenge of being the lightning, being the person whose desire goes far behind merely making noise or even making money. The leader is one who sees what must be done, and takes up his desire and makes it a reality.

Good and gracious God, Zacchaeus became a true leader when he accepted Your Son into his life. Help us grow in our own maturity and accept the challenge to be better than we are right now. Be with us, we pray.

God loves, teaches individually

Greetings Bible Reader! I hope that you are enjoying this year's reading plan. The plan this year is one of my favorites.

For our Old Testament readings we will continue through the book of Psalms. The book of Psalms is divided into 5 books; each book is a compilation of several ancient collections of songs and poems. We will finish the first book (1-41 which are generally attributed to King David), and journey through most of book 2 (42-72) by the end of February. Book 2 is attributed to several authors; David, sons of Korah, Asaph, and Solomon. Take note of the variety

of the texts in Book 2. It will give you an appreciation of how God loves and teaches us individually, while communicating the reality of His unchanging nature.

For our New Testament readings we will continue into the second part of a two-part volume, the book of Acts. Luke and Acts are written by the same author and communicate the transition of Christianity from a small Jewish community into the establishment of the Church; to all nations. Reading these books together provides immensely captivating reading. Let the story empower you. Keep reading!



Bible Reading Plan

Pastor Steve Dinkel

Liberty FourSquare Church
lcfcsd@ruraltel.net

February

1..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm 36	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 24	17&18.....Weekend Review
2..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm 37	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 1	19..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm. 51
3&4.....Weekend Review		20..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm. 52-53
5..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm. 38	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 2	21..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm. 54-55
6..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm. 39	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 3	22..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm. 56-57
7..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm. 40	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 4	23..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm. 58
8..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm. 41-42	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 5	24&25.....Weekend Review
9..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm. 43-44	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 6	26..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm. 59
10&11.....Weekend Review		27..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm. 60-61
12..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm. 45	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 7	28..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm. 62-63
13..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm. 46-47	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 8	
14..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm. 48	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 9	
15..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm. 49	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 10	
16..... <input type="checkbox"/> Psm. 50	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 11	

Brief

Holy Family Elementary School would like to invite you to the annual chili supper/bazaar on Sunday, Jan. 28 from 4 to 7 p.m. It will be held at the Holy Family Elementary Little Theater, Activity Center and Auditorium, 18th and Vine. Meal tickets are \$7 for adults, \$4 for children (ages 4 to 12) and free for children under 3. The menu includes chili, hot chicken sandwich on a homemade bun, relishes, desserts, coffee and juice. Tickets are available in advance at the HFE school office or at the door the night of the chili supper. Please bring your family and friends for a great meal, lots of kids' games, bingo with prizes, silent auction and a raffle.

There is a new format this year with the raffle. You now have the option to pick the prize which you wish to be entered, so make sure you put the prize

number on the tickets. The prizes this year include cash, gift certificates, Xbox One, Mommy and Me Kitchen set, and much more. You do not have to be present to win a raffle prize. You can purchase them the night of the chili supper.

As always, your support is very much needed to help us maintain a high quality Catholic education for our children. All proceeds from the event will be used to make improvements, purchase equipment and add resource materials for Holy Family Elementary School. The time to invest in the future of our Catholic Schools is now!

Thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday at the HFE Chili Supper/Bazaar.

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Meet the president of ECMA



The Rev. Marie Sager, Trinity Lutheran Church, and her dog, Hercules, at their home. (Photo by Linn Ann Huntington)

Q & A

by
Linn Ann
Huntington

Editor's Note: This is the first in a multiple-part series titled "Get to Know the Officers in the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance (ECMA)." We start with the Rev. Marie Sager, ECMA president. Sager is the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, 2703 Fort St.

Personal Information:

Born: Carrollton, Texas

Raised in: Plymouth, Minn.

Please tell us a little about your childhood.

I have one younger brother, Jacob, who currently lives in California, and my parents still live in Minnesota. Growing up I was very involved in my home congregation, Lord of Life Lutheran (ELCA) in Maple Grove, Minn. I knew from a very young age that I wanted to work in the church, as my faith has always been a large part of my life.

How long have you lived in Ellis County?

I moved to Hays in September of 2015.

Please list your hobbies and interests

outside of work. When I am not at work, I enjoy playing with my dog, Hercules — a Dachshund/Shih Tzu mix — baking/decorating cupcakes, and reading romance novels. I also collect rubber ducks, Nativity sets, and Martin Luther/Lutheran kitsch.

Academic Information:

Please list degrees/certificates held and from where.

- BA in Youth and Family Ministry, minor in Special Education from Augsburg College, now Augsburg University in Minneapolis, Minn.

• Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in Chicago, Ill.

Career Information:

Please list your current job title. The Rev. Marie Sager, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church.

How long have you served in this position? I was ordained on Sept. 19, 2015 in Minnesota, and my first Sunday at Trinity was Sept. 29, 2015.

Please list previous ministry positions held, where, and length of time, starting with the most recent.

Trinity Lutheran Church is my first call as an ordained pastor. However, I completed my internship in the area. I was an intern with Prairie Faith Shared Ministry during the 2013-2014 school year. Prairie Faith Shared Ministry is six congregations working together. The congregations are St. John Lutheran Church, Ellis; Emanuel Lutheran Church, Ogallah, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, WaKeeney; Immanuel Lutheran Church, WaKeeney; Zion Lutheran Church, WaKeeney; and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Ness City.

Please describe when/how you received the call to go into the ministry.

As I mentioned earlier, I had always been involved in church growing up. I knew from a young age that I wanted to work in a church. I first felt called to work with youth, so I decided to get my undergraduate degree in Youth and Family Ministry. But over the course of my studies, I felt the Holy Spirit calling me to work with the whole family. In being a pastor, I am able to be part of the whole family. I enjoy engaging in the faith journeys of multiple generations.

What was the most unusual job you had before you became a minister?

I worked retail. Before seminary I worked at Wilsons the Leather Experts. However working retail helped me to become a better pastor, in getting me “out of my shell” and talking with anyone who came in the door.

What aspect of your current position do you enjoy the most?

I love hearing people’s stories. We each have a story to tell. I also love being part of a liturgical church. For Christ the King Sunday, the final Sunday in the liturgical calendar, this year at Trinity we did the whole liturgical year in an hour. We began with Advent (blue), then the 12 Days of Christmas (white). Then we did the “current” season, the Time after Epiphany (white). After Epiphany is Lent (purple) and then the Easter Season (white). The Easter Season lasts 50 days, until Pentecost (red). And the rest of the year is green to represent the time after Pentecost or Ordinary Time.



ABOVE: The Rev. Marie Sager, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, stands with the “stoles,” or ecclesiastical vestments, that Lutheran pastors wear during the liturgical year, as described in her article. On Christ the King Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017, when this photo was taken, Sager led her congregation through the entire liturgical year in one hour. (Courtesy photo). **BELOW** Pastor Marie Sager displays her Martin Luther bobble-head doll and other Martin Luther memorabilia she collects and keeps on her desk at Trinity Lutheran Church. (Linn Ann Huntington)



You hold a position of pastor that traditionally has been held by men. Have you ever personally received any negative comments or feedback about being a “woman pastor?” What is your response to people who very sincerely believe women should not be pastors?

The desktop background on my work computer

is a copy of a painting “Do Not Be Afraid” by He Qi, with a quote by Jurgen Moltmann, “Without women preachers, we would have no knowledge of the resurrection and went and told the disciples.” For me this is one of the main reasons I am a pastor; I want to share the good news about Jesus Christ and the love of God with all those that I meet. Yes, I have received negative comments from people about being a young and female pastor. However, I try not to let them get me down, as I know that I am who God created me to be. I am Marie, a beloved child of God.

ECMA Information:

Current Position Held: President (June 2017-May 2018)

Please briefly describe how officers are chosen in ECMA.

Since 2014, the president and vice president have been chosen via a rotation schedule. The positions of secretary and treasurer are done on a volunteer basis.

How long have you been involved in ECMA? I was involved during the year I was here on internship, and I have been involved ever since I have returned to the area.

Why do you believe ECMA is important to our community?

Ecumenical, interdenominational work is important in any community. I think it is especially important for Hays and Ellis County because of the number of congregations that are in a small radius of space. Working together brings us together as the body of Christ. And, in being the body of Christ, we are able to see God in each other.

When you became president of ECMA, were there certain goals you wanted to achieve? Please discuss these. One goal I wanted to achieve was more ecumenical relations. At the beginning of my presidency, I encouraged the other members of ECMA to gather informally to get to know one another. I hope these meetings over the summer months (when the board traditionally has not met regularly) helped each of us to get to know who we are working with.

What would you still like to achieve during your presidency? When will your term be over?

Since I believe ecumenical relations are so important, I am working with a few other members of ECMA to plan some joint Holy Week events (March 25-31). My term will be over in May of this year.

Contact information: tlcpr@eaglecom.net; (785) 625-2044.

Small rectangles of light in the darkness

The summer before I entered first grade, my parents moved to Tulsa, Okla. We moved into a neighborhood of small starter homes on the city's south side. Today, I suppose, people would call it an "ethnically diverse neighborhood." The year was 1959, and in the decade following World War II people from many different countries had emigrated into the United States.

Many of the kids I played with were first-generation Americans. Down the street lived Mr. and Mrs. P from Lebanon. Mr. and Mrs. C were from Germany. Mr. and Mrs. D had come from Ireland. They were Catholic, and their daughter attended a Catholic school.

Mr. and Mrs. N were German Jews. They had twin girls a year younger than I, who took Hebrew lessons at their synagogue after school. Mr. and Mrs. N had survived the Holocaust. I didn't know what the Holocaust was until I came home one day after playing at their house and asked my mother why Mr. and Mrs. N had these little numbers on their wrists.

I remember crawling into her lap and sobbing as she told me about Adolph Hitler and Nazi Germany and how six million Jews had been murdered.

"How could anyone be that evil?" I cried.

My mother just rocked me and said, "That's why your daddy and all those other men went to war, honey, to fight Hitler and free all those people."

I stared at my father, sitting across the room. From that day on, I regarded him as a real-live hero.

Daddy was a die-hard Democrat. He believed that "President Roosevelt saved the country," and Daddy was never going to vote for a candidate from any other political party.

More than once I heard the story of Daddy going to CCC camp. CCC stood for Civilian Conservation Corps., which was part of President Roosevelt's New Deal to put the country back to work. Daddy was 15 in 1929 when the bank in his southwestern Oklahoma hometown failed. His

family lost everything—the small business his father ran and their home at the back of the store. They managed to survive the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression largely due to the dollars Daddy sent home from CCC camp.

The one thing Daddy did not like about Tulsa was he said both daily newspapers were Republican. (This was in the day when some cities still had more than one newspaper.) The first thing Daddy did after dinner each evening was read the editorial page, and more than once he would loudly air his disagreements with the views expressed there.

Mother would tell Daddy not to read the editorial page if it was going to make his blood pressure go up.

But Daddy would say, "It's important every day to read or listen to something you do not agree with." Then he would turn to me. "Remember that, Linn Ann. You need to always expand your mind. If you don't ever read or listen to anything that challenges your beliefs, you can't ever be sure of what you believe."

It was a lesson I have tried to take to heart.

Continued on next page

**Linn Ann
Huntington**
lhunting@fhsu.edu



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 Tuesday Spanish 6:30 PM

Reconciliation: Saturday 4 PM and Thursday 5 PM

The diversity in our neighborhood was reflected not just in differences of religion, race, and cultural background, but also in politics. Mr. P from Lebanon, for example, had very different views on the establishment of Israel as a Jewish homeland than did Mr. N, our Jewish neighbor.

As I would listen to the men debate a variety of subjects, I became aware that there are multiple sides to every issue, and it is very important to listen to as many sides as possible. For a little girl who would grow up to be a journalist, that was an important lesson to learn.

On no subject, however, was the neighborhood as sharply divided as it was during the presidential election of 1960. Sen. John F. Kennedy, a Democrat, was running against Vice President Richard Nixon, a Republican. My father, of course, supported Kennedy. Mr. P supported Nixon. One day, I stood near my father as he argued with Jack P over the virtues of each candidate.

“If Kennedy is elected, the pope will be running this country,” Mr. P proclaimed loudly. “Kennedy’s Catholic. His first loyalty is always going to be to the Vatican.”

I didn’t know exactly who the pope was, but I had seen Kennedy on TV walking into church with his wife and holing his little girl’s hand. So, before I knew it, I piped up, “How can somebody who loves his family and worships God not make a good president?”

Immediately there was silence. The men all looked at me.

Then one of them said, “Yeah, Jack, I’d like to hear you explain that to the child.”

Mr. P. just glared at me. Then he turned and stomped off. After that, I tried to steer clear of Mr. P. I was sure he didn’t like me anymore.

We had lived in Tulsa about a year when my younger sister, Susan, was diagnosed with leukemia. I was 7; she was 3. Susan was treated at the largest hospital in Tulsa. At that time, children under the age of 12 weren’t allowed up on the floors to visit patient rooms. So if my parents couldn’t find someone to keep me each evening, I would go to the hospital with them and remain in a small waiting room on the first floor.

Both my parents worked, and they had hired a retired LPN to stay with Susan during the day. My mother spent every night with Susan in the hospital. One cold, winter night, I was awakened by the phone ringing. I remember my father answering the phone, and then he came to rouse me. It was the middle of the night, and the snow lay thick outside. I dressed quickly, and he helped me get my boots and coat on. The he told me, “Now you wait here. I’m going to start the car and get it warmed up.”

I heard the crunch of his boots on the front steps, then the opening of the garage door and the sound of the old motor wheezing as it started. Several minutes passed, but he didn’t return. I rubbed my hand on the frosty windowpane and peered outside. I could see the blur of headlights from our 1952 Plymouth, but Daddy was nowhere to be seen.

Cautiously, I opened the front door and peered out. The neighborhood was dark and silent. I crept down the

steps. Daddy wasn’t in the car. Then across the street, a few houses down, I saw a rectangle of light as a door opened. I could see two figures silhouetted in the doorway, but the voices were muffled. My heart pounding, I quickly crossed the street. The door closed, and a lone figure trudged silently to the next house and knocked on the door.

Another rectangle of light appeared as the door finally opened. By now, I was close enough to catch phrases of the conversation.

“Our baby . . . transfusion . . . I hate bothering you . . . doctors are afraid . . . there’s not enough blood . . . hospital needs volunteer blood donors . . . can you come now?”

I recognized my father’s voice, and my breath caught in my throat. My father was a proud man. In my entire life, I had never heard him ask anything from another human being before. But that cold winter night he went door to door, asking the men in our neighborhood to get up out of their warm beds and drive to the hospital to donate blood so my little sister would live through the night.

And they did. By the time we got to the hospital, many of the men were already there. They looked a little odd to me, until I realized I had never seen them unshaven before.

“I’ll be right back as soon as I get Linn Ann settled in the waiting room,” Daddy told the others said as he lifted me in his arms and wrapped the blanket around me that he had brought with us. The men all smiled and waved at me. Mr. P even gave me a wink. I decided maybe he did like me after all.

My sister lived through that crisis, but there would be other nights when Daddy again would make his journey around the neighborhood, asking the men to come and give blood. And they would always come.

My sister died in January 1962. When I look back on that time, I recall the fear and heartbreak that stretched like a long shadow over my family. But I also recall neighbors caring for me, feeding me latkes (potato pancakes) and tabouli (a Lebanese salad made of wheat) and hearty Irish stew. I remember loud political arguments giving way to soft prayers for my sister’s recovery whispered by people in many languages.

Later, in junior high, I remember attending the twin’s double bas mitzvah, a coming of age ceremony for young Jewish women.

My father initially said he wasn’t going to go to the ceremony. “I am not going to wear one of those little hats (a yamaka that all men put on when they enter a synagogue). It’s silly. I am not going to do it.”

Mother quietly told Daddy that he was. And so he went. We all did.

By that time in my life I had realized that even “real-life heroes” can have their own sets of prejudices and biases. But I also came to see that while it is easy to dislike—or even to fear—groups of nameless, faceless people, it is very hard to dislike people or be suspicious of their ways once you really get to know them. The key, I think, is being blessed with the opportunity to do that.



TOP: Linn Ann Huntington (in back) is shown with her younger sister, Susan, in this photo taken in January 1961. (Courtesy photo) ABOVE: Huntington is shown with her father, William “Buck” Elston, in 1959, the summer the family relocated to Tulsa, Okla.

News to know

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/ifhays>. Registration deadline is Thursday, Feb. 1. 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.

CASA 'Valentine's Event' is Feb. 10

CASA of the High Plains will be holding its "2018 Valentine's Event" at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Robbins Center on the Fort Hays State University campus.

According to the CASA website, "When a child enters the foster care system because his or her home is no longer safe, a judge may appoint a committed volunteer to help them. That volunteer is called a Court Appointed Special Advocate, or CASA.

"CASA volunteers are screened and highly trained and then appointed by judges to represent and advocate for a child's best interests in the child protection system. CASA volunteers are each assigned to help one child or set of siblings at a time, so they can focus on giving that child or sibling group the individualized advocacy and attention they need."

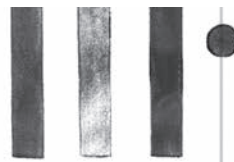
Tickets for the "Valentine's Event" are \$60 each, which includes the meal, entertainment, an open bar and a live and silent auction. Groups may purchase a table of eight for \$420, the price of seven tickets.

Tickets are available at <https://events.ticketprinting.com/event/2018-Casa-Of-The-High-Plains-Valentines-Dinner-25632>. Or, individuals may pay by check. Board member April Terry has more information at anterry2@fhsu.edu.

Hays High School Singers to perform

The Hays High School Chamber Singers, under the direction of Johnny Matlock, will perform for the Hays After 5 Christian women's group on Monday, Feb. 12.

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



IF:GATHERING
2018

February 9 & 10

IFGATHERING.COM



Also on the agenda will be inspirational speaker Bonita Sherburne of Elkhorn, Neb. Sherburne, a special education teacher and cancer survivor, uses humor to share about her life's journey in her talk titled "Livin' and Lovin' It."

Cost of the event is \$12.50. Reservations are due by Thursday, Feb. 8, to daisymae0197@yahoo.com or to (785) 202-1036. Hays After 5 is affiliated with Stonecroft Ministry of Overland Park.

Habitat to deliver flowers as fundraiser

Habitat for Humanity of Ellis County will be delivering flowers for Regeena's Flowers, located inside C.S. Post, 117 W. 11th St., as a Valentine's Day fundraiser.

Habitat volunteers will be delivering flowers on Tuesday, Feb. 13, and Wednesday, Feb. 14. The organization will receive a donation from Regeena's for each flower arrangement delivered. Flowers can be ordered at (785) 628-2030.

Habitat for Humanity is an international organization that builds decent, affordable housing for those in need. The local affiliate has built or refurbished four homes in Ellis County—two in Hays and one each in Victoria and Ellis.

ECMA Board to meet Feb. 14

The Ellis County Ministerial Alliance will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at the First Call for Help office, 607 E. 13th. The editorial board for ONE Magazine will meet at 9 a.m. The full ECMA Board will meet at 10 a.m.

Anyone wishing to make a presentation to the board must schedule it in advance with the ECMA president at president@ourecma.com.

'Amazing Race' fundraiser is March 3

"The Amazing Race: First Call Community Challenge" will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 3.

The challenge will benefit First Call for Help of Ellis County. First Call provides a central access point for people to obtain information about resources and human services within and outside of Ellis County. In addition the organization provides financial assistance for basic needs such as housing.

According to its website, "Preventing homelessness and eviction is our top priority for Ellis County residents, but through donations and support from grants and individuals, we are often able to assist in other ways such as groceries, diapers, or hygiene items."

During the fundraiser, teams of four will solve clues, walk, run and drive to local businesses to complete team challenges, said Linda Mills, executive director for First Call. "We would like to see churches challenging each other, law enforcement teams challenging each other, as well as other groups," she said.

Cost is \$75 per person on each team. Team members must be at least 12 years old. The team raising the most money will win the "Ultimate Fundraiser Award," plus receive a 3-minute head start in the race. All teams raising \$500 or more will also receive time deductions.

Other awards will include the quickest time and best costumes or uniforms. All contestants and volunteers will receive free T-shirts and snacks. In addition, all participants will be treated to a free lunch at the end of the competition.

Registration is available online at firstcallelliscounty.com/AmazingRace or by calling (785) 623-2800. Registration deadline is Friday, Feb. 23.



A Partnership of



Ellis County Ministerial Alliance

and

THE HAYS DAILY NEWS
VOICE OF THE HIGH PLAINS

Can be picked up at the following locations:

Liberty Foursquare Church
Celebration Community Church
Westview Church
Messiah Lutheran Church
First Baptist Church
St. Fidelis Church

St. Nicholas of Myra Church
Hays Christian Church
Cornerstone Southern Baptist Church
First Presbyterian Church
Thomas More Prep-Marian High School
Messenger

St. John Lutheran Church, Ellis

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Adult Bible Study
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Clubs (Aug. - May)
400 E. 7th 625-6245
www.libertyis.com

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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
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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



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in your faith there's
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celebratejesus.org
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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
tlchays@eaglecom.net

**FIRST
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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