

PEACE ON EARTH AND GOOD WILL TO ALL PEOPLE



**INSIDE:**

+ Christmas narrative

+ ECMA News

**ONE**

A publication of the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance • December 2018

*Emily Weaver*



# The annual Christmas edition

Welcome to the annual Christmas edition of ONE Magazine!

Each year, we take a closer look at the birth narrative of Jesus. This year, we will be looking specifically at the story in the Gospel of Luke.

Each writer has taken a section of the holy text and written about something meaningful and from the heart.



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It is my hope and prayer that you will use these devotions to help you as you delve into the Christmas season.

Christmas is not principally about the gifts, food, or even family time together. It is a celebration of the birth of Jesus. Born in a stable, raised as a carpenter, crucified as a criminal, and ultimately resurrected as our King and Savior. Without Jesus our

lives would be without hope; in Him we find our only salvation.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Kevin Daniels  
ONE Advisory Board Chair

## The Angel Visits Mary – Luke 1:26-38

Some people just “have it.” I had a friend in college named John. John was handsome, muscular, always dapper, intelligent, and popular. John and I had some of the best laughs. He is now a successful medical doctor. He came out of the right gene pool. He is great.

Imagine with me for a moment. You are a young man or a young woman. Supernaturally an angel appears before you. \*Cue Twilight Zone music\* The angel says that you will have a son and that he will be “very great” and that “his kingdom will never end.” This sounds like some prophecy from a fantasy novel. But this is not fantasy; it is your real life and you are seeing it with your own eyes and hearing it with your own ears. Your heart is racing.



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The words “He will be very great” reverberate in your mind. The whole event and the words spoken by the angel hit you so hard that you find it hard to concentrate. What were you supposed to do today? It doesn’t matter. My son will be very great! Yes! “I am the Lord’s servant! May everything you have said about me come true!” Yes! Get ready grandpa-to-be and grandma-to-be. This child is going to be epic!

I’m not entirely certain when Mary began believing these words. She ends the conversation with the angel by saying, “May everything you have said about me come true.” But at some point, she knew this was going to happen, and we can almost hear the words echoing in her head: My son is going to be

“very great”! He is going to “have it”!

Most parents want the best for their son or daughter. I have found this to be true even in broken families. Moms and dads desire that their kids have a better life than they had. Even more than this, they want their children to be happy, successful, healthy, and super-athletes. Isn’t this what it means to be “very great”? When they have successes they are our pride and joy. We post the high-light reel of their lives to our Facebook pages and wear it like a badge on our chest: That’s my boy!

But success in God’s wide world is not defined by human achievement standards.

As Jesus grows up, there were times when Mary would think: He is out of his mind (Mark 3:20-35). His brothers would mock him (John 7:3-5). Many of the popular and the wealthy and the leaders of the day would eventually dismiss his claims, insult him, and condemn him to horrible treatment and death. It makes one wonder...

Mary was no different than you or than me in this aspect. I believe she had moments like John the Baptist who later in his life was condemned to prison. Even though God had spoken directly to him about Jesus, he had baptized Jesus, and he had heard incredible stories, he doubted and questioned whether Jesus really was the Messiah (John 7:18-19). I’m not sure that he is my boy. This isn’t what I expected.

*IN THE SIXTH MONTH OF ELIZABETH'S PREGNANCY, GOD SENT THE ANGEL GABRIEL TO NAZARETH, A VILLAGE IN GALILEE, TO A VIRGIN NAMED MARY. SHE WAS ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED TO A MAN NAMED JOSEPH, A DESCENDANT OF KING DAVID. GABRIEL APPEARED TO HER AND SAID, "GREETINGS, FAVORED WOMAN! THE LORD IS WITH YOU!"*

*CONFUSED AND DISTURBED, MARY TRIED TO THINK WHAT THE ANGEL COULD MEAN. "DON'T BE AFRAID, MARY," THE ANGEL TOLD HER, "FOR YOU HAVE FOUND FAVOR WITH GOD! YOU WILL CONCEIVE AND GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, AND YOU WILL NAME HIM JESUS. HE WILL BE VERY GREAT AND WILL BE CALLED THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH. THE LORD GOD WILL GIVE HIM THE THRONE OF HIS ANCESTOR DAVID. AND HE WILL REIGN OVER ISRAEL FOREVER; HIS KINGDOM WILL NEVER END!"*

*MARY ASKED THE ANGEL, "BUT HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN? I AM A VIRGIN."*

*THE ANGEL REPLIED, "THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU, AND THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL OVERSHADOW YOU. SO THE BABY TO BE BORN WILL BE HOLY, AND HE WILL BE CALLED THE SON OF GOD. WHAT'S MORE, YOUR RELATIVE ELIZABETH HAS BECOME PREGNANT IN HER OLD AGE! PEOPLE USED TO SAY SHE WAS BARREN, BUT SHE HAS CONCEIVED A SON AND IS NOW IN HER SIXTH MONTH. FOR NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD."*

*MARY RESPONDED, "I AM THE LORD'S SERVANT. MAY EVERYTHING YOU HAVE SAID ABOUT ME COME TRUE." AND THEN THE ANGEL LEFT HER. (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)*

The Christmas story is a vivid reminder that life doesn’t always turn out like we planned. The movement of the Almighty is not easily discernable nor predictable, but it is inevitable. What God says, God does. This is the foundation stone of our hope. The promises we see in the Bible are the reason that Christians believe that tomorrow will be better. Frankly, how can a positive outlook on life and its end on this planet exist apart from the promises of God? So, put your trust in Him this season. The path to greatness leads to a cross—Jesus said you would have to carry yours if you want to follow him. Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant.” There is an attitude to model.

Know this: after the cross comes the resurrection, and then the Kingdom. I can’t wait to see you there. That will be the greatest Christmas ever.

Be strong in the faith. Worship Him. From my family to yours—Merry Christmas!

## 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](mailto:one@dailynews.net).

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

The columns in ONE represent the views of the author.

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### On the cover

The winner of this month’s coloring contest themed “Peace on Earth and Good Will to All People” was submitted by 10-year-old Emily McEwan from First United Methodist Church.

# Mary Visits Elizabeth – Luke 1:39-45

Mary and Elizabeth, the two women central to the account of Jesus' birth, demonstrate to us what the true spirit of Christmas really is. The true spirit of Christmas is not the spirit of family bonding, or the spirit of giving, or even the spirit of rejoicing. All those things are well and good, but Mary and Elizabeth teach us that the true spirit of Christmas is a spirit of humility. The true spirit of Christmas is expressed by humbly acknowledging and submitting to our place in God's plan.

Even though Mary had not requested a sign, God gave her one. Her relative Elizabeth would also be experiencing a miracle; she was pregnant in her old age. Apparently, Mary left Nazareth shortly after the angel Gabriel's

announcement to her. Her trip south to Elizabeth's home, somewhere in "the hill country . . . of Judah," would probably have covered 50 to 70 miles and taken three or four days.

Upon entering Elizabeth's house one can imagine it as a moment of feeling a massive load come off your back. This was confir-

mation for Mary: No, I'm not crazy. Yes, I did hear the angel right. God is in control. Mary didn't even have to say a word. Before

she could speak, Elizabeth broke out in a Holy Spirit-inspired blessing on Mary and her child.

It is in this blessing that we see an incredible example of the spirit of Christmas. Elizabeth shows humility by recognizing Mary as the most blessed among women. She's humbled by the fact that Mary would come visit her; she doesn't feel deserving. Unlike her

own husband, she says Mary believed that the Lord would deliver on his word. Not only that, she recognizes that the child in Mary's womb is greater than the child in her own womb. She calls Mary, "the mother of my Lord." She admits that when she saw her, the prenatal John did a joyful somersault within her. John is pointing to Jesus even from the womb. Years later, John would confess, "He must increase; I must decrease." One can't help but think that as Elizabeth raised John, her attitude of humility and joy over Jesus reinforced his deference to Jesus.

Both Elizabeth and Mary accept their roles with astonishing submissiveness and equanimity. Their focus is not on comparative superiority. The magnificent role in the arrival of Jesus that God gives to them is not subject to comparison and does not go to their heads. Their focus is on the faithfulness of God in bringing about the deliverance so long promised.

*IN THOSE DAYS MARY AROSE AND WENT WITH HASTE INTO THE HILL COUNTRY, TO A CITY OF JUDAH, AND SHE ENTERED THE HOUSE OF ZECHARIAH AND GREETED ELIZABETH. AND WHEN ELIZABETH HEARD THE GREETING OF MARY, THE BABE LEAPED IN HER WOMB; AND ELIZABETH WAS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SHE EXCLAIMED WITH A LOUD CRY, "BLESSED ARE YOU AMONG WOMEN, AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF YOUR WOMB! AND WHY IS THIS GRANTED ME, THAT THE MOTHER OF MY LORD SHOULD COME TO ME? FOR BEHOLD, WHEN THE VOICE OF YOUR GREETING CAME TO MY EARS, THE BABE IN MY WOMB LEAPED FOR JOY. AND BLESSED IS SHE WHO BELIEVED THAT THERE WOULD BE A FULFILLMENT OF WHAT WAS SPOKEN TO HER FROM THE LORD."*  
(REVISED STANDARD VERSION)

Humility is expressed by knowing and accepting your place in God's plan. You have a place. We all have a place, but your place is different than someone else's place. When we finally get that and stop comparing ourselves with others, and when we start doing what we were called to do, the result is just what we see here—joy. You can't have joy if you're always chafing under the fact that God's plan for you doesn't seem as important as God's plan for someone else.

The spirit of Christmas is the spirit of humility.



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## The Birth of Jesus – Luke 2:1-7

This text segment begins with the phrase “it came to pass.” The Greek word: γίνομαι; or ginomai, pronounced gē’-no-mī, translates as: to become, to be made, of miracles, or to be performed. “It came to pass” is found both at the beginning of verse 1 and verse 6. I believe that “ginomai” being used in verse 1 simply means “to become.” Caesar Augustus made a law that everyone must register in their hometown. When Caesar Augustus said something was going to happen, “it came to pass;” it became so. Publius Sulpicius Quirinus (who names their child this?!) or just Quirinus as verse 2 calls him, was the governor of Syria during this time. He would have been the reason that caused Joseph and Mary to travel from the city of Nazareth to the city of Bethlehem.

The distance between these two places was a journey of about 70 miles and would have taken about three days

to complete (and you thought traveling 70 miles in our world today was long!). Joseph, being a descendent of David, now traveling to Bethlehem, is fulfilling

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the prophecies found in the Old Testament: Micah 5:2; 2 Samuel 7:12–13; Isaiah 7:14.

Can you imagine the struggles that Mary and Joseph must have been having? Mary was towards the end of her third trimester, ready to go in to labor at any moment, and both of them were traveling together for 3 days and about 70 miles as an unmarried couple. Sure, they were engaged to be married, but the people who would have crossed paths with them would not have thought very highly of them. Little did they know these two people were delivering the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Messiah, our Savior. Even though Jo-

seph and Mary were not married, they registered together anyway, while Mary was, “being great with child,” or as we say today, ready to pop.

“It came to pass, ginomai,” only this time, a miracle was taking place. Jesus, the Messiah, the child of the virgin birth, was born! Mary swaddled baby Jesus in clothes and laid him in a manger, a feeding trough, because there was no room for them at the inn. In those times, there weren’t really such things as motels or inns, you normally would have stayed with some extended family or relations. A more accurate translation of ‘inn’ would be ‘guest room’. You would normally stay with extended family in their ‘guest room’ but as it was a busy time the guest room was already full. Most houses would have been shared with the animals that the family kept. Houses had two levels, the upper/mezzanine level where people slept and the ground floor where the animals slept at night and the family

NOW IT CAME TO PASS IN THOSE DAYS, THERE WENT OUT A DECREE FROM CAESAR AUGUSTUS, THAT ALL THE WORLD SHOULD BE ENROLLED. THIS WAS THE FIRST ENROLMENT MADE WHEN QUIRINUS WAS GOVERNOR OF SYRIA. AND ALL WENT TO ENROL THEMSELVES, EVERY ONE TO HIS OWN CITY. AND JOSEPH ALSO WENT UP FROM GALILEE, OUT OF THE CITY OF NAZARETH, INTO JUDAEA, TO THE CITY OF DAVID, WHICH IS CALLED BETHLEHEM, BECAUSE HE WAS OF THE HOUSE AND FAMILY OF DAVID; TO ENROL HIMSELF WITH MARY, WHO WAS BRETROTHED TO HIM, BEING GREAT WITH CHILD. AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHILE THEY WERE THERE, THE DAYS WERE FULFILLED THAT SHE SHOULD BE DELIVERED. AND SHE BROUGHT FORTH HER FIRSTBORN SON; AND SHE WRAPPED HIM IN SWADDLING CLOTHES, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN. (AMERICAN STANDARD VERSION)

lived during the day. The animals were a kind of ‘central heating’ at night keeping the house warm! The “guest room” was often an area on the upper/mezzanine level or even a hut put on the flat roof of the house!

It came to pass! The miracle, baby Jesus, took His first breath. Joseph and Mary could not have possibly fathomed what journey they were about to embark on together. To quote the song “Mary, Did You Know,” “This child that you’ve delivered, will soon deliver you.” I bring you good news of great joy! The Christ, the Lord, our Savior, is born!

## The Angels Appear to the Shepherds – Luke 2:8-14

“Do Not be Afraid”

In this season when every day feels like it brings new alarms and outrages, how do we hear the angel’s words, “Do Not Be Afraid”? As Christians, do we disregard these words as unrelated to our present life and faith? I wonder if such angels were to appear to you tonight, would you be tempted to yell back that only a fool would not be afraid in the present circumstances?

It matters right now how we respond to God’s good news because the angel’s message is no easy reassurance. Just as it did for Mary, for Joseph, for the shepherds, the angel’s words bring comfort, but they also bring challenge. Notice angels never promise that from now on life will be



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simple and easy and carefree. If you’re paying attention to our world, you know this. If you’re paying attention to your life, you know this. Much as we might wish it, the angels never say “Do not be afraid because everything’s going to come up roses.”

Here’s what they do say. Do not be afraid because even in the midst of your

fears, you are not alone, ever. Do not be afraid because even when every day brings new alarms, God is with you. Do not be afraid because even

when your life is turned upside down, you are enfolded in the love and presence of Emmanuel, which is a Hebrew word that means God-With-Us.

Do not be afraid because the Christmas story is the story of God who, with steadfast love, chooses the messiness

and vulnerability of human life. It is the story of God who could have chosen to remain detached from the tumult of human life—but instead chose to take on human flesh— Incarnation. God chose to join us in this human life with all the joys and sorrows it brings.

God could have been born anywhere, at any time, to any family. In Christmas we remember that in Jesus, God choose to be born in an occupied land plagued by violence and oppression. God choose an unwed teenage mother. God choose a tiny rural village few had ever heard of. God choose a risky humble birth far from the security of extended family. God endured a childhood of refugee flight to escape death at the hands of a tyrant. God witnessed through an adulthood of wandering, preaching, and dependence on the charity of others. God’s message of love was met with hate because it was so threatening to those in power. Jesus suffered death on the cross of shame. And, ultimately,

THAT NIGHT, SOME SHEPHERDS WERE IN THE FIELDS NEARBY WATCHING THEIR SHEEP. THEN AN ANGEL OF THE LORD STOOD BEFORE THEM. THE GLORY OF THE LORD WAS SHINING AROUND THEM, AND THEY BECAME VERY FRIGHTENED. THE ANGEL SAID TO THEM, “DO NOT BE AFRAID. I AM BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS THAT WILL BE A GREAT JOY TO ALL THE PEOPLE. TODAY YOUR SAVIOR WAS BORN IN THE TOWN OF DAVID. HE IS CHRIST, THE LORD. THIS IS HOW YOU WILL KNOW HIM: YOU WILL FIND A BABY WRAPPED IN PIECES OF CLOTH AND LYING IN A FEEDING BOX.” THEN A VERY LARGE GROUP OF ANGELS FROM HEAVEN JOINED THE FIRST ANGEL, PRAISING GOD AND SAYING: “GIVE GLORY TO GOD IN HEAVEN, AND ON EARTH LET THERE BE PEACE AMONG THE PEOPLE WHO PLEASE GOD.” (NEW CENTURY VERSION)

God triumphed over even the worst that the world could do.

The message of the angels is no easy, but empty, reassurance. It is something much better, much stronger, much deeper than that. Do not be afraid, the angels carol, because you are part of something much bigger than yourself; because you are claimed and called to a purpose beyond your own comfort; because you are created to live out the kind of love God demonstrated in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel.

# The Shepherds

## Respond – Luke 2:15-20

Have you ever had a chance encounter with a celebrity? You know, you're just walking the aisles at the convenience store and your favorite movie star walks past you on the way toward the fountain drinks? You stare in awe and wonder, not sure what to think as the movie star grabs the 32 oz cup and fills it with Mountain Dew. As the star reaches for the lids, you start to wonder whether you should say something or snap a selfie.

You fumble with your words and stutter out a hello. You look frantically for something for them to sign. The star says a casual hello, poses for your photo, shakes your hand, and walks out of the store.

There's a glow about you now.

Like the hand of God himself came down and touched you – little, insignificant, small town you. You walk up to the cashier and you burst out – “do you know who that was?!! I got an autograph and a selfie!” The cashier, barely looking up from her crossword says, “Good for you,” hands back your change and says, “next, please.”

How could this cashier be so nonchalant, you wonder. The great movie star had just walked in and graced her establishment! Well, probably not her establishment – but still! In the presence of this star the woman stands there unfazed by the touch of greatness gracing the little convenience store you frequent.

But not you.

You are forever changed.

Every time you see the star's movie, this anecdote will spring forth from your lips – your friends will hate hearing about it, but you will not be deterred. Your unwavering devo-

*WHEN THE ANGELS HAD GONE AWAY FROM THEM INTO HEAVEN, THE SHEPHERDS BEGAN SAYING TO ONE ANOTHER, "LET US GO STRAIGHT TO BETHLEHEM THEN, AND SEE THIS THING THAT HAS HAPPENED WHICH THE LORD HAS MADE KNOWN TO US."*

*SO THEY CAME IN A HURRY AND FOUND THEIR WAY TO MARY AND JOSEPH, AND THE BABY AS HE LAY IN THE MANGER.*

*WHEN THEY HAD SEEN THIS, THEY MADE KNOWN THE STATEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN TOLD THEM ABOUT THIS CHILD.*

*AND ALL WHO HEARD IT WONDERED AT THE THINGS WHICH WERE TOLD THEM BY THE SHEPHERDS.*

*BUT MARY TREASURED ALL THESE THINGS, PONDERING THEM IN HER HEART.*

*THE SHEPHERDS WENT BACK, GLORIFYING AND PRAISING GOD FOR ALL THAT THEY HAD HEARD AND SEEN, JUST AS HAD BEEN TOLD THEM. (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)*

tion to your star is parallel to none; you are the number one fan in the world! Everyone must know about the brush with greatness you had, a moment you will never forget; a moment seared into your memory like the birth of your child or the day of your wedding.

I imagine for the shepherds that day they were feeling something similar. They were face to face with God's angelic chorus and were forever

changed. They didn't allow the moment to simply pass them by – they went and shared it with the world!

We can easily get excited about a moment with a celebrity, but do we share our excitement for the day-in and day-out relationship we have with our Creator? Where is the sharing? Where is the fervor? Where is the “I've got to tell you or I'm going to burst” type of urgency?

Unlike the shepherds, we have the daily indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, living within us. Yet we often take it for granted, presumably unaffected by this gift except perhaps on Sunday.

Let's live like we know we are God's chosen people, filled with His Spirit, and share with others the power of God.



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## News to know

### Hays Symphony to perform 'The Messiah'

Handel's masterpiece, "The Messiah," is coming to Hays this holiday season.

The free concert will be performed by the Hays Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Shah Sadikov, joined by the Fort Hays State University Singers and Concert Choir.

The concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 201 W. 13th St.

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

### Library plans Volga German party

The Hays Public Library, 1205 Main St., is kicking off the holiday season with its Volga German Christmas Party from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1.

The event will feature live music from the Hotshots and food from Augustine's Bakery.

### Students to present Christmas show

The Fort Hays State University student chapter of STEM-ED will present "Twas the Night Before Christmas" at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, in the Seibel Lobby of Sternberg Museum, 3000 Sternberg Dr.

The free event is being sponsored by the Science and Mathematics Education Institute.

### Volunteers needed to help build toys

Each year, on the first Saturday in December, the wood shop in the Center for Applied Technology at Fort Hays State University is always humming with activity.

This year will be no different. Once again the department is putting out the call for volunteers to help make 200 wooden toys for children ages 3 through 8 who are part of the Teaming Up for Tots program in Ellis County.

This year's wooden toy is a piggy bank. "The program is designed to spread holiday cheer to local children who may not otherwise receive Christmas presents," said Rachel Harman, senior administrative assistant in the department.

The work will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, and typically concludes by noon, she said. Volunteers may come and go as their schedules allow.

She said all ages are welcome to volunteer, but children 12 years of age and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Jobs include sanding, running parts from station to station, putting on wheels, attaching parts, finishing, and, for those who have experience, running some machine operations.

### 'Angel Trees' awaiting purchasers

All over Hays, Christmas trees have been erected containing pink and blue paper angels. It is Shauna Zweifel's hope that soon all of those angels will disappear.

Zweifel is chairperson for "Teaming Up for Tots" in Ellis County. Each of those angels represents a gift for an underprivileged local child, age birth to 18. Zweifel is confident that Ellis County residents will once again make buying a



**The Department of Applied Technology will be building 200 of these wooden piggy banks for children in Ellis County. In this photo, the acrylic front has not yet been applied. Community volunteers are need on Saturday, Dec. 1, to help with the project. (Courtesy photo)**

gift for one of those children part of their holiday tradition.

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 for a food basket and for gifts for their children. Each child in a qualifying family receives two new gifts, clothing and a toy, Zweifel 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; center court at 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.

As the paper angels are removed from the trees, eventually the remaining angels are consolidated onto the tree at Walmart, Zweifel said, since this store seems to receive the most holiday traffic.

In addition to the "Angel Tree" gifts, all boys and girls aged 3 to 8 will receive a wooden toy manufactured by the Department for Applied Technology at FHSU. This year's toy is a piggy bank. (Please see the item immediately above for information on how volunteers can help construct these toys.)

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. 12. Drop-off locations are Walmart, Maurice's in Big Creek Crossing, First Kansas Bank, and the Paisley Pear, 1100 Main St.

The gifts and the food baskets will be distributed to families on the same day, Saturday, Dec. 15.

Zweifel said the program normally serves between 160 and 180 families, with a total of 400 to 500 kids. In addition to the gifts, the program also provides parents with wrapping paper, boxes and tape. "This way the parents know what their children are getting for Christmas and can wrap the gifts themselves," she said.

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

That's when her 10 committee members must go out and buy the missing gifts. "We have a lot of generous donors," Zweifel said. Financial contributions may be mailed to Teaming Up for Tots, P.O. Box 542, Hays, KS 67601.

### Cathedral Concert is Dec. 2 in Victoria

The annual Cathedral Christmas Concert will be performed at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, at the Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria.

The free presentation will feature the Fort Hays Singers, Concert Choir, and Smoky Hill Chorale, under the direction of Terry Crull; the Hays High School Chamber Singers, under the direction of Alex Underwood; the Fort Hays State University Brass Choir; Brass Quartet; and String Quartet.

Also performing will be FHSU Music faculty members Ivalah Allen and Brad Dawson and organist Tom Meagher.

"As always, beautiful Christmas carols will be sung by all," Crull said.



# ONE COLORING CONTEST

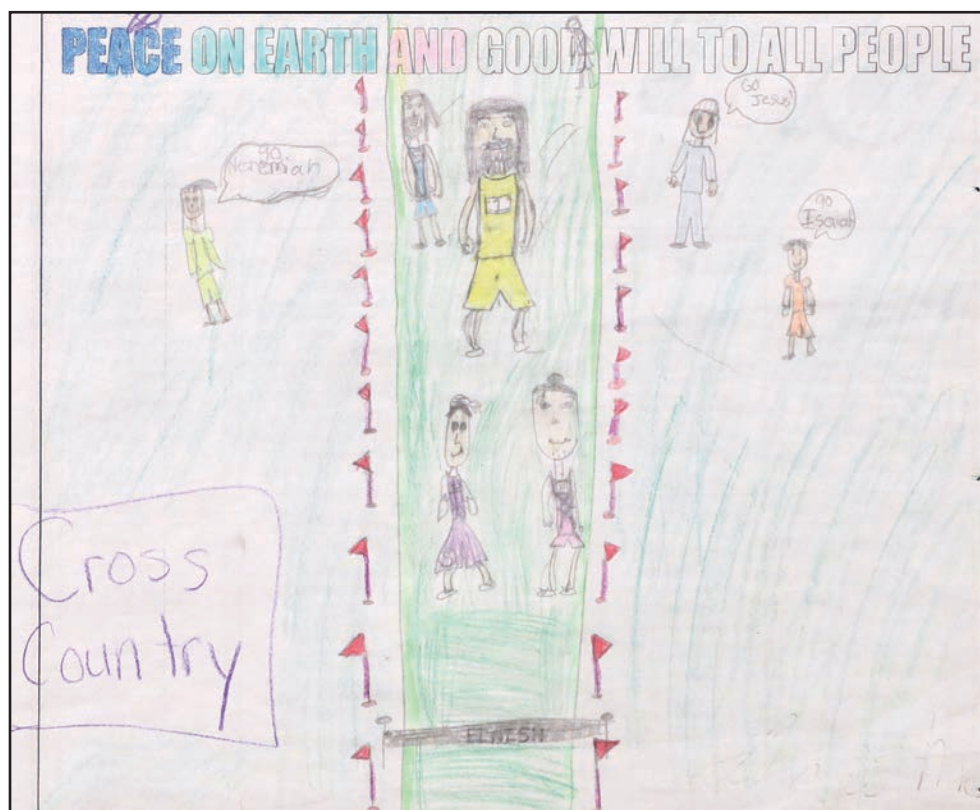
Below are the honorable mention coloring contest winners from this month. The theme was "Peace on Earth and Good Will to All People."



ABOVE: Addison Booze, 7, First United Methodist. BELOW: Lynsi McGroth, 10, First United Methodist



ABOVE: Bryson Dumler, 9, First United Methodist. BELOW: Cailynn Luck, 6, First United Methodist





# Jesus Presented in the Temple – Luke 2:21-24

This passage seems simple enough upon first reading. Mary and Joseph circumcise their newborn son the way that babies are required to be. They name him Jesus, the name given to him by the angel before he was conceived. To this point, the passage seems rather mundane. Mary and Joseph did what they were supposed to do. Soon after, they took Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. It's written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord." His parents offered a sacrifice in keeping with the Law of the Lord. The preferred offering was a lamb, if it could be afforded. Mary gives two young pigeons, or turtledoves; giving us a glimpse into their poor beginnings. Nevertheless, we have also learned that



**Becky Rogowski**  
First Presbyterian  
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they adhere strictly to the law.

Suppose for a moment that you've had a rather unusual year in your life. You are a carpenter making your living at your trade. You have a nice, young girlfriend named Mary. An angel visits your (virgin) girlfriend and informs her she will bear a son and that she will name him Jesus. He informs Mary this is all for God. Your

life stays rather crazy through his

birth, but you hold firm that you're doing the will of God.

This story seems so "out there" when we think logically, right? It is literally happening to the

most ordinary of ordinary people. It sometimes makes me think, "What if it happened to me?" Would I be as accepting as they were? Would I remain calm (after the initial terror)? Would I stay as unassuming as they did? Would you?

Would you start to challenge God as you realize you have very little control over your own life?

The thing that sticks out in this passage is their strict adherence to the laws that were in place. Circumcision was done to rid children of sin. Christ was born "free of sin". Why put their newborn son through the pain and suffering of circumcision if he didn't have sin to be rid of? It was a law. They didn't second-guess it or try to get an exception to it. They did it. It also helped Jesus to be like everyone else. It "normalized" him. It made him more real in the flesh.

They named their son Jesus. It may not have been the name they wanted to name him. We can only speculate by their other law-abiding behaviors that no other names were even considered. The angel said his name would be Jesus and they named him Jesus. Again, no challenging of what they were told to do.

They took him to be presented to the Lord. We know that he already belonged

*ON THE EIGHTH DAY, WHEN IT WAS TIME TO CIRCUMCISE HIM, HE WAS NAMED JESUS, THE NAME THE ANGEL HAD GIVEN HIM BEFORE HE HAD BEEN CONCEIVED.*

*WHEN THE TIME OF THEIR PURIFICATION ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF MOSES HAD BEEN COMPLETED, JOSEPH AND MARY TOOK HIM TO JERUSALEM TO PRESENT HIM TO THE LORD (AS IT IS WRITTEN IN THE LAW OF THE LORD, "EVERY FIRSTBORN MALE IS TO BE CONSECRATED TO THE LORD"), AND TO OFFER A SACRIFICE IN KEEPING WITH WHAT IS SAID IN THE LAW OF THE LORD: "A PAIR OF DOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS." (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)*

to the Lord in a way no other child did. They still adhered to the law and made their sacrifice the best they could and presented their child. Did they act like they were above this law and assume it didn't apply to them? Not in the least. They followed the law. No second-guessing. No exceptions. They did it.

When I find myself on a deserted highway and am certain there are not police nearby, it presents the perfect opportunity to drive my car as fast as I want. There's no harm. Nobody can get hurt. Do I do it? Do you? Would Mary and Joseph try if it were up to them? God knows.

## Simeon Sees Jesus – Luke 2:25-32

Simeon had lived a good life and he hoped that before he died, he would see the long awaited Messiah. Through the Holy Spirit, he received a promise from God that his hope would become a reality. Simeon waited a long time. He was a very old man, but he continued to have hope until that day he was drawn to the temple. There he met Mary and Joseph and receiving the infant Jesus into his arms, the old man offered up his praises to God. Throughout his life he never gave up hope on the promises of God.

This account of Simeon's life near the end of the Christmas narrative is a story of hope. Like Simeon, we all need hope in our lives. Without hope life is a heart wrenching and meaningless existence.

There are reasons so many people

live without hope. Too often we grasp at false hope rather than seeking a hope that lasts. So, what is hope? In order to define true hope, let us begin by identifying what hope is not.

1. First of all, true hope is not wishful thinking. It is natural for us to have wishes, and there is nothing wrong with pursuing some of those wishes. However, we must

also remember that most of our wishes are simply perceptions of what we think will make us happy. But here is a news flash for us: Life rarely caters to what will make us happy. Life marches to a different drumbeat and we seldom end up with the life that we imagined. So, no, true hope is not about wishful thinking.

2. True hope is not profound longing. Longing is simply wishful thinking taken to extreme. In fact, extreme longing often takes the place of prayer. We beg

*IN JERUSALEM LIVED A MAN NAMED SIMEON WHO WAS A GOOD MAN AND GODLY. HE WAS WAITING FOR THE TIME WHEN GOD WOULD TAKE AWAY ISRAEL'S SORROW, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS IN HIM. SIMEON HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT HE WOULD NOT DIE BEFORE HE SAW THE CHRIST PROMISED BY THE LORD. THE SPIRIT LED SIMEON TO THE TEMPLE. WHEN MARY AND JOSEPH BROUGHT THE BABY JESUS TO THE TEMPLE TO DO WHAT THE LAW SAID THEY MUST DO, SIMEON TOOK THE BABY IN HIS ARMS AND THANKED GOD:*

*"NOW, LORD, YOU CAN LET ME, YOUR SERVANT, DIE IN PEACE AS YOU SAID.*

*WITH MY OWN EYES I HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION, WHICH YOU PREPARED BEFORE ALL PEOPLE.*

*IT IS A LIGHT FOR THE NON-JEWISH PEOPLE TO SEE AND AN HONOR FOR YOUR PEOPLE, THE ISRAELITES." (NEW CENTURY VERSION)*

God to answer prayers in the way we think things should be. We have to ask ourselves if our longings will bring us true peace. Will God be honored if what I long for becomes a reality? So true hope is not wishful thinking and it is not about profound longing.

3. True hope is not about optimism. True hope can produce an optimistic outlook, looking at the glass "half full," but optimism cannot produce true hope. Unless optimism is based

on God's word, God's love, and God's grace, then it becomes just a positive outlook on life that has no firm foundation. We know from the parables of Jesus what happens to faith that is not built on a firm foundation. When tough times come, all faith and hope get washed away. Optimism without a basis for that belief is just false hope.

So, now we know what hope is not. What then is true hope? True hope begins with God. On our own, under our own strength and power, our attempts at faithful living may seem hopeless and futile. But with God we are empowered to accomplish more than we could ever imagine. God not only brings the hope of great expectations, God can bring those hopes to life. God can heal the brokenness, the anger, and the hopelessness that plagues our world. God takes the bruised and the battered of the world and makes them, and us, into a people that can offer hope to others.



## Simeon's Blessing – Luke 2:33-35

In Luke's gospel, Simeon is known as the 'good and pious' man who waited faithfully at the Temple in response to God's call to bless the Christ Child, Jesus. But Simeon (and the Holy Spirit) didn't stop there. They also gave a prophetic blessing to his parents as well. Then, after Simeon gave them both a blessing, he said directly to Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will

be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." A prophetic blessing, but also a warning of what was to unfold.

The blessing would have been received with great awe and wonder by Mary and Joseph. Faithfully and humbly they came to the Temple 40 days after Jesus' birth, to fulfill the law of Purification (see Leviticus 12). Luke tells us they were only able

to bring an offering of two doves for this rite, known as an Offering of the Poor, for the purification of Mary, rather than a more expensive offering of a lamb and a dove (see Leviticus 12:8). However, some might argue that the Lamb was there at Mary's rite of purification, but would be sacrificed some 30 years later. And not just for Mary but for all. This Sacrificial Lamb would be destined for the falling and rising of many and would be a sign that would reveal the thoughts – both good and bad – of many. And without question Mary's heart would be pierced by the sacrifice of this Lamb of God.

AND JOSEPH AND HIS MOTHER WERE WONDERING AT THE THINGS SPOKEN CONCERNING HIM, AND SIMEON BLESSED THEM, AND SAID UNTO MARY HIS MOTHER, 'LO, THIS ONE IS SET FOR THE FALLING AND RISING AGAIN OF MANY IN ISRAEL, AND FOR A SIGN SPOKEN AGAINST— (AND ALSO THINE OWN SOUL SHALL A SWORD PASS THROUGH)—THAT THE REASONINGS OF MANY HEARTS MAY BE REVEALED.' (YOUNG'S LITERAL TRANSLATION)

Simeon is one of my favorite figures in Luke's gospel. A faithful and prophetic voice that did not judge outwardly at the sacrificial gifts that Joseph and Mary brought to the Temple, but instead saw the true Gift of God and acknowledged it for who and what The Gift was and is. The Messiah. May we do so as well.

**Rev. Mike Rose**  
First United Methodist  
mikerose994@gmail.com



## Anna Sees Jesus – Luke 2:36-38

As I write this, I have entered my first photo for the 5 State Photography competition held by the Hays Arts Council. The photographs chosen will be displayed beginning at the December art walk. I am excited, but also nervous.

This also got me thinking about prizes. There is a cash prize to the top photographs, but what is a prize? A prize may be money like in the photography competition, or maybe a trophy, or even a purple ribbon. But none of these prizes will last.

The prophet Anna, daughter of Phanu-

el, is one of the only women named in the Gospel of Luke, and we don't even get to "hear" what she says about Jesus. However, her life is a testament to her voice. She spent most of her time on something

many people may consider a waste of time. But in the end she received a prize that will last forever.

After being married only seven years, she becomes a widow. So she decides to dedicate her life to God and went to live in the temple. And it is in the temple that she comes across the infant Jesus. After several decades

THERE WAS ALSO A PROPHET, ANNA THE DAUGHTER OF PHANUEL, WHO BELONGED TO THE TRIBE OF ASHER. SHE WAS VERY OLD. AFTER SHE MARRIED, SHE LIVED WITH HER HUSBAND FOR SEVEN YEARS. SHE WAS NOW AN 84-YEAR-OLD WIDOW. SHE NEVER LEFT THE TEMPLE AREA BUT WORSHIPPED GOD WITH FASTING AND PRAYER NIGHT AND DAY. SHE APPROACHED AT THAT VERY MOMENT AND BEGAN TO PRAISE GOD AND TO SPEAK ABOUT JESUS TO EVERYONE WHO WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE REDEMPTION OF JERUSALEM. (COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE)

ing, or coercing. In her praise to God she is simply sharing how God has worked in her life. How often do we simply share what is going on in our lives, how God has been at work?

This December, this Advent season, a time of hope and anticipation, I invite you to be like Anna. Take some time to praise God for all that God has given you. Take some time to share with those around you how God has been moving and working in your life.

Dear God: We give you thanks for Anna, and for all those women before and since who have praised you by sharing the good news of your love and concern for all people. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**Pastor Marie Sager**  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
pastormarie15@gmail.com



## Jesus Grows in the Grace of the Lord – Luke 2:39-40

The most miraculous event in world history took place when Jesus was born. At his conception the very Son of God began taking upon himself human flesh and blood. God's miracle of grace. "But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons" (GALATIANS 4:4, 5 Evangelical Heritage Version).

**Pastor Timm O. Meyer**  
Living Savior Lutheran  
timmomeyer@ruraltel.net

Each day in the earthly life of Jesus was God's miracle of grace for the salvation of the world. Joseph and Mary "completed everything according to the law of the Lord". Joseph and Mary took their first born son, Jesus, to the temple on the 8th day after his birth. Law fulfilled. Jesus was circumcised.

Law fulfilled. The son of Joseph and Mary was named Jesus. Jesus = save. This infant child would save people from their sins. Af-

ter fulfilling the law's requirements Joseph, Mary, and Jesus returned to Nazareth.

In this sleepy little town of Nazareth Jesus grew up. Jesus went from infancy to childhood to teenager to manhood. Jesus' human body became strong. This mortal flesh that wrapped around the immortal grew and aged naturally.

Jesus was also filled with wisdom. His parents made sure Jesus was at synagogue. They brought him up in the spiritual disciplines of his day. Jesus went from infancy to childhood to teenager

WHEN THEY HAD COMPLETED EVERYTHING ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF THE LORD, THEY RETURNED TO GALILEE, TO THEIR OWN TOWN OF NAZARETH. THE BOY GREW UP AND BECAME STRONG, FILLED WITH WISDOM, AND GOD'S GRACE WAS ON HIM. (CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE)

to manhood. Jesus' mind developed into a perfect and complete grasp about everything spiritual. The wisdom of God lived in Jesus. Jesus was acquainted with the wisdom of the world. It was divine wisdom that filled the mind, spirit, and life of Jesus.

SEE GRACE, 10



## NEWS, from 6

### United Way lists 'Dine-Out Days'

The United Way of Ellis County has announced its "Dine-Out Days" for December and January. The following restaurants will be donating a portion of their proceeds to the United Way's fundraising campaign:

Tiger Burger, Seventh and Main, 5 to 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3.

Arthurs' Pizza and Mexican Foods, 103 W. Ninth in Ellis, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10.

Wendy's, both locations at 1800 Vine and 4235 N. Vine, 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019.

The United Way is celebrating its 65th anniversary in Ellis County and is in the middle of a \$400,000 fundraising campaign. It provides funding to 15 partner agencies in the county. A list of those is available at [www.liveunited.us](http://www.liveunited.us).

### Open house slated at one-room school

The public is invited to attend the Christmas Open House at the Plymouth Schoolhouse, located just south of Sheridan Hall on the Fort Hays State University campus.

From 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4, individuals will have the opportunity to see what education was like in a one-room schoolhouse in the late 1800's. Refreshments will be provided at the come and go event, which is being sponsored by the Science and Mathematics Education Institute.

### Messiah Lutheran plans holiday events

Messiah Lutheran Church, 2000 Main, will be having Advent services at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays from Dec. 5 to

Dec. 19.

Its children's Christmas play will be at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 16. The church will have a Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24.

### Ladies barbershop quartet to perform

Shades of Joy ladies barbershop quartet will be providing special music for the Hays After 5 meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, at the Rose Garden Banquet Hall, 2350 E. Eighth.

The singing group is composed of Jane Rorstrom, Nancy Cunningham, Hannah Barrett and Melody Barton.

Also on the program is inspirational speaker Rosa Bonnecerrea of Salina.

Bonnecerrea, who is legally blind, was given up for adoption as an infant. Adopted by a family with six children, Bonnecerrea lived an abusive life for many years, she says, before she began to feel real love and sight.

Her talk, titled "Once I was Blind," describes the real-life story of God giving sight to the blind.

Tickets for the dinner program are \$12.50. Reservations are required and are due by Thursday, Dec. 6, to (785) 202-1036 or to [daisymae0917@yahoo.com](mailto:daisymae0917@yahoo.com). Hays After 5 is affiliated with Stonecroft Ministry of Overland Park.

### Hunger Action Summit to be held at FHSU

The Western Kansas Hunger Action Summit, will be held from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, at the Black and Gold Room in the Memorial Union at Fort Hays State University.

The free event is being sponsored

by Kansas Appleseed, a non-profit, non-partisan organization headquartered in Lawrence.

Christina Ostmeyer, communications director for Appleseed, said that attendees will gain tools and knowledge to fight hunger, build a culture of health, and make an impact in their community.

This is the first time Appleseed has sponsored a forum of this type in Western Kansas covering many different types of hunger relief programs, Ostmeyer said.

Lunch will be provided. Registration is required at <https://www.kansasappleseed.org/hayshungeractions Summit.html>.

Event partners are the Kansas Health Foundation, Kansas State Department of Education, Kansas Food Bank, Harvesters, Second Harvest, United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, and KC Healthy Kids.

According to its website, Kansas Appleseed "is an advocacy organization dedicated to vulnerable and excluded Kansans. We investigate social, economic, and political injustice in Kansas and work toward systemic solutions . . . The Kansas Appleseed board comprises leading Kansas attorneys and other professionals who volunteer their expertise to improve the fair administration of justice."

### ECMA Board to meet Dec. 12

The Ellis County Ministerial Alliance will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at Liberty Foursquare Church, 400 E. Seventh, in the basement.

The full board will meet at 10 a.m. The ONE Magazine Advisory Board

will meet at 11:45 a.m.

Presentations to the board must be scheduled in advance with the ECMA president at [president@ourecma.com](mailto:president@ourecma.com).

### North Oak plans holiday events

North Oak Community Church, 3000 Oak St., has announced its holiday schedule:

The Children's Christmas Program will be held at 9:50 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, during the Sunday School hour. At 5 p.m. the youth group will have its annual fundraiser dinner and talent show. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to bid on themed baskets.

While the event is free, tickets are required and may be obtained by calling the church at 785-628-8887. ALL of the proceeds from donations and gift baskets will go toward the Youth Mission Fund to raise support for the annual mission trip.

A candlelight Christmas Eve service will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24.

On Sunday, Dec. 30, a combined worship service will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday School will not meet.

**Have a news item you'd like to submit for ONE Magazine? Or perhaps do you have a story idea? Email Linn Ann Huntington at [lhunting@fhsu.edu](mailto:lhunting@fhsu.edu)**

## GRACE, from 9

"God's grace was upon him." Of course, the grace of God was upon Jesus. He was/is God's own Son. But there is much more to this profound, miraculous statement: "God's grace was upon him". Grace means undeserved love. Grace is a fitting, descriptive word for the entire earthly ministry of Jesus. Jesus showered his heavenly Father's undeserved

love upon all people. The truth is God's grace was on and in Jesus for the benefit of the world. For our benefit. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: Though he was rich, for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich" (2 CORINTHIANS 8:9 EHV). Jesus gave up the riches of his perfect life in heaven. He shared

in our humanity that we would be rich. Heaven is our home. This is God's undeserved love for us: Miraculous grace.

In the unimportant town of Nazareth the most important person in history that ever lived grew up. Jesus grew in strength. In divine wisdom. In eternal wisdom. Here in Nazareth Jesus led a quiet life far from the religious

politics that surrounded the temple in Jerusalem. The world's wickedness would eventually take its toll on Jesus. This child of Joseph and Mary, this boy from Nazareth, would grow up to die for the sins of the world.

God's grace came to earth. God's grace comes to us. "In him we also have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of

sins, in keeping with the riches of his grace, which he lavished on us in all wisdom and insight" (EPHESIANS 1:7, 8 EHV). What miraculous riches! What amazing grace!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.



# Another great year is in the books

It's December! Another year in the books! It has been a great year; the Lord has spoken so many things to us this year through His Word. As I was penning this article I'm still soaking in a Scripture reading from this morning (John 17:3) "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." Knowing God, what an honor and a privilege. I continue to stand amazed on how studying God's Word, and taking time to let the Holy Spirit speak it into my heart, changes my perspective. Our struggles and challenges are only temporary, and the "eternal life" found in a relationship with God our Father and His Son Jesus Christ trumps all of my struggles.

Our Old Testament readings this month highlight several examples of how an eternal perspective can change impos-

sible situations. We will finish the book of Esther, which is the story of how the celebration of Purim was established. How often do we think God can't come through, everything is against us, and then suddenly – things change. God is so faithful! Then we will read the entire book of Daniel. Daniel is an amazing example of how faithfulness will keep you. It is one of the most varied books

in the Old Testament. It contains history and prophecy. I love reading it with the book of Revelation; it adds some interesting perspective.

Our New Testament readings will take us through the book of Revelation. Although this book may be one of the most difficult to understand, it has a special purpose in the life of every Believer. This book is a book full of sevens; the letters to the seven churches of the day (1:9-3:22), the seven seals (4:1-8:1), seven trumpets (8:2-11:18), seven signs (11:19-15:4),



**Bible Reading Plan**

**Pastor Steve Dinkel**

Liberty Foursquare Church

lcfcsd@ruraltel.net

## December

1&2...Weekend Review		18..... <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 7.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 12
3..... <input type="checkbox"/> Esther 8.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 1	19..... <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 8.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 13
4..... <input type="checkbox"/> Esther 9.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 2	20..... <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 9.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 14
5..... <input type="checkbox"/> Esther 10.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 3	21..... <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 10.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 15
6..... <input type="checkbox"/> .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 4	22&23...Weekend Review	
7..... <input type="checkbox"/> .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 5	24..... <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 1.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 16
8&9...Weekend Review		25..... <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 12.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 17
10..... <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 1.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 6	26..... <input type="checkbox"/> .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 18
11..... <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 2.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 7	27..... <input type="checkbox"/> .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 19
12..... <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 3.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 8	28..... <input type="checkbox"/> .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 20
13..... <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 4.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 9	29&30...Weekend Review	
14..... <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 5.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 10	31..... <input type="checkbox"/> .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 20-22
15&16...Weekend Review			
17..... <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel 6.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. 11		

seven bowls (15:5-16:21), seven spectacles (17:1-20:3), seven sights of the consummation (20:4-22:5), and then the conclusion. Sometimes reading Revelation with these divisions can clarify what John was seeing and hearing when He was penning this book. The thoughts, ideas, and descriptions are a bit easier to understand in these divisions. I also love to use a variety of translations and study helps as I read through. Remember, vs. 22:7 promises a blessing on those who understand and keep the words of this book. The application of

Revelation is timeless and relevant for our daily walk. I challenge you to look for a gem of truth in each day's readings.

Thank you for reading through the Bible this year. I pray that you've grown. If you've read with me for the past three years, you've now completed the New Testament three times, and finished the entire Old Testament. Congratulations! May the seed of God's Word grow into a greater and greater understanding of the "eternal life" that God has planted in you. Merry Christmas!



## St. Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church

2901 E. 13th, Hays, Kansas, Parish Offices:

(785) 628-1446

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

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](http://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



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12th & Fort 625-9454



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Pastor Kevin Daniels  
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Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.  
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www.hayschristianchurch.org

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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)**

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



**LIBERTY  
FOURSQUARE  
CHURCH**

Pastor Steve Dinkel  
Sunday Services: 10 a.m.  
Wed. Services: 7 p.m.  
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Clubs (Aug. - May)  
400 E. 7th 625-6245  
www.libertyis.com

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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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celebratejesus.org  
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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.

Tuesday Service: R3 Live  
College, 8:00 p.m.

3000 W. 41st St 785-625-6359

www.westviewchurch.tv

**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



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