

Christmas Candlelight Choir Service Planned

DELMONT — The Annual Christmas Candlelight Choir Service of Zion Lutheran Church of Delmont is scheduled for Sunday Evening, Dec. 11, at 7:30 p.m. Choir music, congregational singing and scripture read by Pastor Brian Bucklew will present the old familiar story of Christ's birth. There will be special pre-service music by wind instruments, piano and pipe organ.

Everyone from the community and surrounding area is cordially invited to attend. A fellowship hour in the church basement will follow the service.

Jane Bobzin To Present Organ Recital At UCC

The United Church of Christ-Congregational presents Jane Bobzin in an organ recital on Dec. 11 at 2:00PM at the Church located at 210 W 5th Street.

The recital is entitled "Musical Melodies of Christmas" and will feature Bobzin on the 48 rank Yankton College Memorial Organ.

Ms. Bobzin is a recently retired educator in the Yankton Public School system and enjoys arranging and composing music.

The recital will be dedicated to the Christmas Season and will be followed by a reception in Pilgrim Hall.

There is no charge and the Public is invited to attend.

UCC Presents Special Sunday Worship Music

The public is cordially invited to the United Church of Christ, located at 5th & Walnut, on Sunday for special music and worship. Included at the 10:00 a.m. service the 40-voice adult choir under the direction of Jennifer Powell, accompanied by organist Ted Powell will present several selections including Handel's "For unto us is born" and the "Hallelujah Chorus." At 2:00 p.m. assistant organist Jane Bobzin will present a holiday concert on the magnificent organ. Refreshments are served following each of these services.

On Sunday Dec. 18th the children will give their program at the 10:00 a.m. service.

The choir will again sing at the Christmas Eve service at 7:00 p.m. There will be services on Sunday morning, Dec. 25th, as usual. You are always welcome at the United Church of Christ.

St. Agnes Church To Celebrate Christmas Mass

The Christmas season became more joyful for members of St. Agnes Catholic Church of Sigel this week when the Catholic Chancery Office in Sioux Falls arranged for the celebration of Masses through Dec., including a Christmas Day Mass.

Masses at the country church north of Yankton were suspended two weeks ago when Father Lawrence Marbach became ill. But the bishop has announced that Monsignor Carlton Hermann of Yankton will celebrate Masses for the next three weeks. Monsignor Hermann served the Sigel parish many years ago, and has remained a good friend of the families there.

The sudden suspension of services saddened the 35 families who attend the church, and members said they are very grateful for the opportunity to be together on Sunday mornings in the Christmas season.

Masses will be at 9 a.m. on Dec. 11, 18 and 25. Then the parish will await word from the Chancery Office in Sioux Falls on future assignments of priests. The Chancery and parishes have undertaken a major planning and review process over the past two years.

MMC Plans Spring Tour Of Europe

"The Holocaust in Europe" is the title for a Mount Marty College Education First trip to Europe that will take place May 15th through May 25th, 2012. The destinations include the cities of Berlin, Warsaw, Krakow and Prague. You are also invited to go to the Facebook page entitled European Travel with Mount Marty College to learn about travel opportunities with MMC. Information about this trip is also available under the tab Professor's Tour on the College's website at www.mtmc.edu. Contact S. Cynthia Binder at (605) 668-1463 or cbinder@mtmc.edu or Dr. Rich Lofthus at (605) 668-1462 or rlofthus@mtmc.edu for more information about the 2012 trip.

Who Is The Reason For The Season?

BY TERRY PORT
Calvary Baptist Church

We often hear at this time of the year that Jesus is the reason for the season. I am in full agreement with the intent of those who make that statement. They are encouraging us to get our eyes off of the commercialization of Christmas that has the ability to take us from a God desired spiritual context into a purely materialistic one. Having said that I want to suggest that if we truly understand what Christmas is all about, we will also realize that essential to God's purposes for sending his Son to our world was because of love for us, which means that we are the reason for the season!

The Bible teaches us that each of us is dead in our trespasses and sin. (Ephesians 2:1). God saw our hopeless state and dilemma. Moved by his compassion and love he decided to take action (Romans 5:8). He chose to send Jesus, in human form, who would live in a body, that could be crucified on a cross to receive God's wrath that we rightly deserved. However, as



REFLECTIONS

Jesus became our wrath bearer, God was able to offer us forgiveness of sins, because Jesus had paid the penalty for our sins (Romans 3: 23, 24).

Then even more amazingly he offered us a relationship with him. If we would put our trust fully in Jesus and the work that

he has done in our behalf (1 Peter 3:18), God would give us the right to become his children (John 1:12), give us spiritual life, take up residence within us in his Holy Spirit and empower us to live lives that fulfill his intended purpose for us and bring glory to him.

God began to implement all that would be needed for that to become a reality in our lives with the birth of Jesus in that humble stable over two thousand years ago. Dear friend, if God did not love you so unconditionally, there would be no Christmas. He would have allowed you to wallow in your sin, left you alone and waited to bring eternal judgment upon your sinful life.

However, Christmas says otherwise. Christmas says God loves us, offers us spiritual life, forgiveness, a relationship with him and the promise of spending eternity with him. What he requires of us is that we own our sin, acknowledge our total unworthiness before him, receive his forgiveness made possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and with childlike faith accept his offer to become his child.

My prayer for you this Christmas season is that you have received the gift of Jesus in your life and that you live each day as a forgiven, child of God, living out the purposes of God because Emmanuel, "God with us," is a joyful reality in your life day after day.

Foreign-Born Priests Step Up To Serve

BY PATRICIA MONTEMURRI
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DETROIT — The U.S. Catholic Church is increasingly turning to foreign-born priests to staff its parishes as it struggles with the decline in the number of American men studying to wear the Roman collar.

In 2011, about one-third of priests ordained in U.S. Catholic dioceses were foreign-born, up almost 50 percent from 1999, according to data Georgetown University compiled for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The number of foreign-born seminarians has varied between 20 percent and 30 percent over the last decade.

At the Archdiocese of Detroit's Sacred Heart Major Seminary, there are two seminarians from Australia and England studying to be ordained to work in metro Detroit. Another 10 foreign-born seminarians are at Sacred Heart studying to work for other U.S. dioceses.

Of the 293 priests serving at metro Detroit parishes, for example, more than 50 are foreign-born, hailing from countries such as India, Vietnam, Mexico, the Philippines,

Africa, Poland and Ireland.

The Rev. Sama Muma, an associate pastor at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Temperance, Mich., was born in Cameroon and briefly studied at a Catholic seminary in Uganda. He moved to Detroit after his father immigrated to Detroit in 1995, joining Muma's sister, who came to the U.S. in the mid-1980s for college.

A lingering curiosity about the priesthood led Muma to the Sacred Heart Seminary, and he was ordained a priest in 2008.

He has been in Temperance, which is semi-rural and part Toledo, Ohio, suburb, for two years. At Saturday evening mass, he preaches before 300 parishioners, all of them white and most of them senior citizens, in heavily accented but easily understood English.

More and more, parishioners tell him they are grateful he can serve them.

"Some come up to me to appreciate what I'm doing," Muma said. "They tell me, 'You've improved so much. When you first came here, we didn't understand you.'"

"Most are very happy to see us taking this vocation up, knowing there aren't that many people choosing to be priests."

The Rev. Tim Hogan, who serves as the archdiocese's vicar for clergy, said the archdiocese accepts foreign-born priests for service in the U.S. based on recommendations from other bishops, or through agreements from religious orders of priests, such as the Pallottines, whose members hail from India and Ireland, for example, and serve in several parishes.

The Catholic Church in the U.S. has always relied on immigrant priests, as waves of Germans, Italians, Poles and French, for example, brought over priests from their own communities. But now, many immigrant priests work in parishes where they are contending with American culture or an immigrant culture not their own.

"In general, there's always a bit of anxiety on any move. And then when you throw in the international issues and the language issues ... that ups it," Hogan said of assigning foreign-born priests.

"But once again, when we break through those barriers, they are received well. And they are loved."

CHURCH SCHEDULES

Abundant Life

ABUNDANT LIFE MINISTRIES, 517 Burleigh, Lawrence and Barbara Hladky, pastors, 665-0889. SAT 7pm Praise and worship celebration, SUN. 10am Worship. WED. 7pm Worship. Teens prayer daily 10am.

Alliance of Renewal Churches

LIVING WATER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, Sun. 10am Yankton Middle School (2000 Mulberry) Weds. 7pm Prayer, David Olson, pastor. (605)260-2138.

Assembly of God

ASSEMBLY OF GOD, 801 W. 25th, Jeff Mantz, pastor. 665-8362 (office). SUN. 10am Worship Celebration. WED. 6:30pm Midweek service and Bible study for all ages.

Baptist

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH, 221 W. 3rd, Kevin Caskey, pastor, 665-0066. SUN. 9:30am Sunday School, 10:45pm Preaching Service, 4pm Afternoon Service. THU. 7pm Preaching & Prayer Service.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH, 303 Ohio St., Wakonda. Mike Lindsay, pastor. (605)759-5020. SUNDAY Worship. 11:00a.m. evening 6:00pm WEDNESDAY Bible Study 12:00pm.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, SUNDAY: 9:00 Sunday School for all ages, 10:30 Worship Service. MONDAY: Service broadcast 7:30pm Channels 3 & 98. WEDNESDAY 6:30pm AWANA, 7-8th Grade Youth Group: 7:00pm 9-12th Youth Group, Adult Bible Study. Pastor Jon Cooke, Associate Pastor Rick Slattery, Youth Pastor Jeremy Nelson, Children's Min Dir Laura Kotalik. www.cbchurch.com 2407 Broadway, (605)665-5594.

HARVEST INDEPENDENT BAPTIST, 100 W. 3rd, Mission Hill. Pastor Nathan Martin, 668-0708 (ch.). 665-1481 (home). SUN. 9:30am SS. 10:30am Worship. 5:30pm Worship. WED. 7:00pm Worship.

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Baptist

YANKTON BAPTIST CHURCH, SBC, Pastor Matt Green, 607 East 15th St., Yankton, 665-7587. SUN. 9:30am Bible study, SS; 10:45am Worship. WED. 7pm Midweek service.

Bible Church

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH, Meeting at Pierson Ranch recreation area 10:30am Sundays. From Memorial Day through Labor Day. Call Pastor Joel Fink for more information. (605)760-4701.

Catholic

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH OF CEDAR COUNTY (Immaculate Conception), St. Helena, NE. Rev. Eric Olsen. (402)357-2400. Mass: Saturday 5pm.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH OF CEDAR COUNTY (Sacred Heart), Wyanot, NE. Rev. Eric Olsen. (402)357-2400. Mass times, Sundays at 9am.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH OF CEDAR COUNTY (Sts. Peter & Paul), Bow Valley, NE. Rev. Eric Olsen (402)357-2400. Mass: Sundays 11am.

MOUNT MARTY COLLEGE, Peace Chapel, MMC campus. SUN. 10am Mass with the Sisters in the Bishop Marty Chapel. Public is welcome to attend.

SACRED HEART, 509 Capital, Yankton, Rev. Mark Lichter pastor. 665-3655 (office). SAT. 4:30pm Mass. SUN. 8am, 9:30am, 11am Mass. THUR. 12:30pm, 2:30pm and 7:30pm Confessions.

ST. AGNES PARISH: SIGEL, rural Utica. SUN. 9am Mass, confessions 1/2 hour before Mass.

ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, Bloomfield, NE. Fr. Michael Schmitz SUN. Mass: 10:30am; TUE. Mass: 8am; THUR. Mass: 7pm. Confessions: THUR. 6:30-6:55pm.

ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC CHURCH, 1500 St. Benedict Drive, Yankton, Father Ken Lulf, 664-6214 (church). Masses: SAT. 5pm. SUN. 8:30am&10:30am.

ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH, Menominee, Neb., Rev. David Fulton, pastor. SUN. 8:30am Mass.

ST. BONIFACE CHURCH, rural Freeman. DECEMBER WEEKEND Mass Sundays 9:00 a.m. or call Rev. Mathew Vazhappilly. (605)583-4318.

Catholic

ST. COLUMBA CHURCH, rural Irene. DECEMBER WEEKEND Mass, Sundays 10:30 a.m. or call Rev. Mathew Vazhappilly. (605)583-4318.

ST. GEORGE CHURCH, Scotland, SD. Rev. Mathew Vazhappilly. DECEMBER WEEKEND Mass Saturdays 4:30 p.m. or call (605)583-4318.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC, Fordyce, Neb. Rev. David Fulton. SUN. 10:30am Mass.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC, Lesterville. SUN. 10:30am Mass.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, Constance, Neb., Fr. David Fulton, pastor. SAT. Mass: 7:30pm.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC, Wakonda, Rev. Scott Trayner, 624-2697. SUN. 8:30am Mass.

ST. ROSE OF LIMA, Crofton, Neb. Fr. Michael Schmitz. SAT. Mass: 8:00am & 5:30pm. SUN. Mass: 8:30am. WED/FRI. Masses: 8:15am. Confessions: WED. 11am-11:30am, SAT. 5:5-20pm.

ST. WENCESLAUS, Tabor, (605)463-2336. Rev. Joseph Puthenkutathil, SAT. 6pm Mass. SUN. 8:30am Mass.

THE HOUSE OF MARY SHRINE, 6-mi. W. Yankton, Hwy.52. Masses: Monday 8:30 through October. Masses Saturday 9:00 every Saturday. Rosary Sunday 4:00. Rosary 4:00. Open 7 days a week for prayer. thehouseofmaryshrine.org

YAHWEH-SHALOM CHARISMATIC, St. Benedict Catholic Church. MON. 7:30pm prayer meeting

Christian

KINGSWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 19th & Burleigh, 665-6317. Joseph Mason, Pastor. 9am-SS; Worship 10:15am. Wed.-6pm-Kids games; 7pm Kids for Christ & Adult Bible Study.

Church of Christ

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 1114 West 12th, Yankton, 665-6379. SUN. 9:30am Bible study; classes for all ages. 10:30am Worship.

Church of Jesus Christ

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 2300 Douglas, Yankton. Randy Campbell, (605)565-2016. Family History Ctr 665-0901. SUN. 10am Sacrament meeting.

Episcopal

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 517 Douglas, Yankton. Rev. James Pearson, (605)665-2456. Sunday 9:00 Serenity 10:15 The Holy Eucharist and Sunday School Wednesday noon the Holy Eucharist.

Evangelical

Cornerstone Evangelical Church, Pastor Oliver Omanson, Stewart Elementary School; Morning Service 10:30 a.m. Wednesday College Bible Study 1306 Maple Street. Mike Stephens 665-8750.

EMMANUEL CHURCH YHS Theater, 1801 Summit, Sunday School at 9:30am Worship Service 10:45 am www.emmanuelnyankton.com (605)665-0404.

Lutheran

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH: 305 W. 25th, Yankton, 665-8848. Rev. Dani Jo Ninke. SUN: 8:30am & 10am Worship. SS-9:45am.

FAITH UNITED LUTHERAN, 44874 303rd St., Volin SD 57072, (605)267-2277. SUN. Worship Services 9:30am. Children's Education WED. Evening (WOW) 6:30-7:30pm.

FIRST AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC 300 S. Carpenter St., Tripp. (605)935-6941 9:30am Sunday School; SUN. 10:45 Worship firsthope@santel.net

GAVILLE-BERGEN LUTHERAN Pastor Ralph Egbert. (605)267-4342 (church) Sunday: Bergen Worship-9:00am, SS-10:15am GLC SS- 9:15am, GLC Worship-10:30am.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC 200 South Wilson, Delmont. (605)935-6941. SUN 9am Worship. 10am Sunday school. firsthope@santel.net

Martinus Lutheran Church, Utica. Pastor Dean Schroeder Sunday Divine Service 10:30am (605)589-3195 www.MartinusLutheran.org

Lutheran

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN, 901 Irene. 263-3724. SUN. 9am Worship.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN, LCMC/NALC, Menno. Interim Past 9:00am with brunch to follow; Sunday School 10:20a.m. Questions call (605)387-5256

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN, LCMC, 12th and Elm, Springfield, Rev. Kenneth Johnson, pastor. SUN. 8am Worship. 9am SS. THUR. 7pm Adult Bible study.

PRINCE OF PEACE, Wisconsin Synod, 201 East 25th St., Pastor Werre, 665-4793. Sat. 6pm Worship.

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South Dakota Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, MAIN STREET LIVING television program, 10a.m. (CST) on KDLT-NBC; and 11a.m. (CST) on KAUN-PAX; and 10a.m. (MST) on KKRA-PAX.

St. John Lutheran Church, Tyndall. Pastor Dean Schroeder. Sunday Divine Service: 8:30am (605)589-3195. www.StJohnsTyndallLCMS.org

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS), 1009 Jackson. David Gunderson, Pastor. SUN. 8am Worship, 9:15am Education Hour, 10:30am Worship.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, 403 Broadway, Yankton, 665-7415. Saturday-5:30p.m. Worship; Sunday-8:15a.m./10:45a.m. Worship; 9 a.m.-Breakfast; Classes-9:30a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Hartington/Crofton, NE, Justin Wise, interim pastor; (402)254-6606. SUN. 9am Worship (Hartington), 10am SS (Hartington), 11am Worship (Crofton).

TRONDHJEM LUTHERAN CHURCH (AFLC), rural Volin. 263-3841. SUN. 9:15am; 10:30am Worship.

Non-Denominational

FAITH ALIVE, 501 Cedar St., Yankton. 665-4797. Contemporary Worship & Family Values. SUN: 10am service. WED. 7pm Care-Cells "Small Groups For Building Relationships" Various Locations.

Non-Denominational

GLORY CHRISTIAN CENTER, 901 E 11th St. Yankton. Gail Ryken, pastor, 665-2369. SUN. 10am Service. WED. 6pm Prayer. GC School, call (605)665-1988.

Presbyterian

PEACE PRESBYTERIAN (PC/USA), 206 E. 31st. 665-0448. Rev. Dr. Nelson Stone & Rev. Marilyn Stone. Sun-10am worship. Coffee to follow. SS for kids 10:30am. Aired at 8pm Fri. on Ch. 3 & 98.

Reformed

RIVERVIEW REFORMED, 17th St. & Burleigh, Rev. Rodney Veldhuizen, pastor. 665-9204. SUN. 9:30am Worship, 10:15am SS. WED. Youth group & adult choir.

Seventh-Day

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST, 722 Locust St., Yankton, 665-1032. SAT. 9:30am Sabbath School, 11am Worship. 665-4496, 665-4881. Pastor George Shaver Home phone (605)369-5496.

United Church

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Newcastle, Neb., 303 Highway 12, Rev. Gary Kimm, pastor. SAT. 6PM Church school, 7PM Worship. Second THUR. 2PM Ladies Aid.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, 301 W. Franklin, Hartington, NE, (402) 254-6563 or 664-5310, Rev. Gary Kimm, pastor. SUN. 8:15am Church school, 9am Worship.

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL UCC, 103 S. Elm St., Coleridge, Neb., (402) 283-4824 or 664-5310, Rev. Gary Kimm, pastor. SUN. 9:30am Church School, 10:30am Worship.

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL UCC, 103 S. Elm St., Coleridge, Neb., (402) 283-4824 or 664-5310, Rev. Gary Kimm, pastor. SUN. 9:30am Church School, 10:30am Worship.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, (Congregational) 210 West 5th St., Yankton. (605)665-7320 Dr. Richard W. Jensen, Pastor. SUN. 10am Worship, 11am-Fellowship, 11:05am Church School.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Crofton, Neb., 412 W. Main St., (402)388-4124, Pastor Les Parmenter. SUN. 10:00am Worship.

United Methodist

GLORY UNITED METHODIST, Yankton. Rev. Ron Johnson Pastor. 665-2991. Sunday, Contemporary Worship 9:00; Trad. 10:30. Childcare 8:45-11:45. 8:30 UM Hour, KYNT.

GAYVILLE-VOLIN UNITED METHODIST, Rick Pittenger, pastor. 624-2179. 9am Worship Service. 10:00am Sunday School.

WAKONDA, IRENE, VIBORG, UNITED METHODIST, Pastor Mark Gronseth. SUN. 8:30am Worship at Wakonda; 9:45am Worship at Irene; 11am Worship at Viborg.

KYNT 1450 AM Radio

KYNT 1450 AM Radio SAT. 10:30am "Saturday Morning Live." SUN. 8:30am United Methodist Hour. 9:05am "God's Good News." 9:30am St. John's Lutheran Church

WNAX 570 AM Radio

WNAX 570 AM Radio. Lutheran Shows-6:30am, 8am, 11am. Wings of Healing-7:30am. Words of Hope 8:30am. Prop. Ref. Church-8:45am. Voice of Prov. 9:30am. Hr. of Hope 10am.ChristianCrusaders-10:30am.

MIX 106 FM Radio

CLASSIC HITS 106 KVHT FM Radio SUN.-THUR. 10:05PM "Family Radio Rosary" with Bishop Robert Carlson.

ESPN Radio 1570

ESPN RADIO 1570 SUN. 10:30AM Trinity Lutheran Church, Vermillion, worship.

Knology

KNOLGY. MON. 6:30pm St. John's Lutheran; 7:30pm Yankton Baptist. TUE. 6:30pm Trinity Lutheran. WED. 8:30pm Antioch Baptist; 7:30pm Grace Bible. THUR. 8pm Assembly of God. FRI. 7pm