

Christmas Concert & Carols Dec. 20

The public is invited to a “Community Christmas Concert & Carols” at 6 p.m. Sunday evening, Dec. 20, at Discovery Church, 205 West Third Street in downtown Yankton.

With a blend of traditional and contemporary Christmas music along with the recounting of the story of the coming of the Messiah, the public is invited to share in this celebration of the birth of Jesus. Music for this event will be provided by the Discovery Church Worship band with vocals by Jon & Pam Cooke & Lindsey Swanstrom.

Following the concert, Gathering Grounds, Discovery’s in-house coffee shop, invites everyone to an open house featuring coffee, hot chocolate and Christmas treats.

‘Christmas Is Coming’ Music Event Slated

SPRINGFIELD — “Christmas Is Coming” to Emmanuel Reformed Church in Springfield on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. It will be a night of jubilant music celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It begins with musical selections by the preschoolers. The adult and children’s choirs will then present a high energy and dynamic musical with beloved carols and worship songs.

Fellowship and refreshments will follow.

A free-will offering is asked.

Support Group For Divorced And Widowed Set

The Divorced, Widowed and Separated Support Group will be starting again on Monday, Jan. 11, 2016. The group is a process designed to help those who have experienced any of these life change moments and would like some help processing those changes.

The group is faith based, but non-sectarian and is open and available to anyone who sees themselves in one of these times in their lives.

The group meets at the Riverview Reformed Church building at 1700 Burleigh Street Yankton, on Monday evenings at 7 p.m., and will meet for nine weeks.

If you would like more information or to register, call the Family Education and Counseling Center 605-260-9284, or visit www.feccinc.com.

Pope Enters 80th Year Popular As Ever — But With Criticism

BY NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis entered his 80th year on Thursday amid hopes among his critics that it will be his last — at least as pope.

While Francis remains enormously popular among most rank-and-file Catholics, a small but vocal group of conservatives who have never much cared for his radical agenda have grown increasingly strident in criticizing the pope now that there is little doubt left about his priorities.

They have taken aim at the just-concluded synod on family issues, where the divisive issue of Communion for the civilly remarried took center stage. They have raised alarm at Francis’ call for a more decentralized church and his loosening of the Vatican’s marriage annulment process. They have winced at his environmental alarmism, wondered what’s in store for Catholic orthodoxy in this Holy Year of Mercy and blasted as sacrilege the recent screening of nature shots on St. Peter’s Basilica.

Reflections

Christmas Stories ...

BY REV. RODNEY VELDHUIZEN
Riverview Reformed Church

If you know me at all, you know I love a good story.

As I thought about what to write in this space at this time of the year, I began to ponder all kinds of things to say. Things that could be said, should be said, or maybe things that should be left alone.

Instead, let me try and brighten or give a little different perspective on Christmas with a couple of stories that I have enjoyed at various times either by including them in a sermon or just reading.

An actual story is told by a young couple in Brooklyn, George H. Thomas, Jr. and his wife. They had a little boy also named George who was 4 years of age.

One day near Christmas, they were walking down the street when an old man with a beard went by them. Little George ran after the old man and tugged on his coat tail, and said, “Santa, will you please bring me a teddy bear for Christmas?”

The parents were embarrassed. The old man just wryly winked at the boy, patted him on the head, and went on his way.

On Christmas morning, there was a knock on the door even before little George was out of bed. There stood the old man, white beard and all, with a teddy bear in his hands. He gave it to the surprised young parents and simply said, “I didn’t want the little fellow to be disappointed.”

As he walked on back down the steps they said, “Good-bye, Rabbi Podolsky. Have a Merry Christmas.”

It would probably have been more appropriate if they had wished him Happy Hanukkah, but the essential sentiment was the same. The Rabbi wanted to bring joy into a young boy’s life.

I remember my first Christmas adventure with Grandma.

I was just a kid. I remember tearing across town on my bike to visit her on the day my big sister dropped the bomb: “There is no Santa Claus,” she jeered. “Even dummies know that!”

My Grandma was not the gushy kind, never had been. I fled to her that day because I knew she would be straight with me. I knew Grandma always told the truth, and I knew that the truth always went down a whole lot easier when swallowed with one of her world-famous cinnamon buns. I knew they were world-famous, because Grandma said so. It had to be true.

Grandma was home, and the buns were still warm. Between bites, I told her everything. She was ready for me.

“No Santa Claus?” she snorted. “Ridiculous! Don’t believe it. That rumor has been going around for years, and it makes me mad, plain mad. Now, put on your coat, and let’s go.”

“Go? Go where, Grandma?” I asked. I hadn’t even finished my second world-famous, cinnamon bun.

“Where” turned out to be Kerby’s General Store, the one store in town that had a little bit of just about everything. As we walked through its doors, Grandma handed me \$10. That was a bundle in those days.

“Take this money,” she said, “and buy something for someone who needs it. I’ll wait for you in the car.”

Then she turned and walked out of Kerby’s.

I was only 8 years old. I’d often gone shopping with my mother, but never had I shopped for anything all by myself.

The store seemed big and crowded, full of people scrambling to finish their Christmas shopping. For a few moments, I just stood there, confused, clutching that \$10 bill, wondering what to buy, and who on earth to buy it for. I thought of everybody I knew: my family, my friends, my neighbors, the kids at school, the people who went to my church.

I was just about thought out, when I suddenly thought of Bobby Decker. He was a kid with bad breath and messy hair, and he sat right behind me in Mrs. Pollock’s grade-two class. Bobby Decker didn’t have a coat. I knew that because he never went out for recess during the winter. His mother always wrote a note, telling the teacher that he had a cough, but all we kids knew that

Bobby Decker didn’t have a cough, and he didn’t have a coat.

I fingered the \$10 bill with growing excitement. I would buy Bobby Decker a coat! I settled on a red corduroy one that had a hood to it. It looked real warm, and he would like that.

“Is this a Christmas present for someone?” the lady behind the counter asked kindly, as I laid my \$10 down.

“Yes,” I replied shyly. “It’s for Bobby.”

The nice lady smiled at me. I didn’t get any change, but she put the coat in a bag and wished me a Merry Christmas.

That evening, Grandma helped me wrap the coat in Christmas paper and ribbons (a little tag fell out of the coat, and Grandma tucked it in her Bible) and wrote, “To Bobby, From Santa Claus” on it — Grandma said that Santa always insisted on secrecy. Then she drove me over to Bobby Decker’s house, explaining as we went that I was now and forever officially one of Santa’s helpers.

Grandma parked down the street from Bobby’s house, and she and I crept noiselessly and hid in the bushes by his front walk. Then Grandma gave me a nudge.

“All right, Santa Claus,” she whispered, “get going.”

I took a deep breath, dashed for his front door, threw the present down on his step, pounded his doorbell and flew back to the safety of the bushes and Grandma. Together we waited breathlessly in the darkness for the front door to open.

Finally it did, and there stood Bobby. Fifty years haven’t dimmed the thrill of those moments spent shivering, beside my Grandma, in Bobby Decker’s bushes.

That night, I realized that those awful rumors about Santa Claus were just what Grandma said they were: ridiculous. Santa was alive and well, and we were on his team. I still have the Bible, with the tag tucked inside: \$19.95.

It is my wish that you all have a Merry Christmas, and find a way to brighten someone else’s Christmas.

CHURCH SCHEDULES

<div>Abundant Life Ministries ABUNDANT LIFE MINISTRIES, Pastors Butch and Barbara Hladky, 517 Burleigh, Yankton. (605)665-0889. Open for prayer daily FRI. Shabbat Service 6pm Youth Service 7pm. SUN. 10am Worship.</div> <div>Alliance of Renewal Churches Living Water Christian Fellowship, Sunday 10am Yankton Middle School (2000 Mulberry) Wed 7pm Prayer. David Olson, pastor. 605-260-2138.</div> <div>Assembly of God FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD 801 W. 25th 605-665-6362 (office) SUN 10am Bible teaching sermons WED 6:30pm Midweek services and Bible study for all ages. www.yanktonassembly.com</div> <div>Baptist ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH, 100 E. 6th St., Kevin Caskey, Pastor, 605-665-0066. SUN. 9:30am Sunday School, 10:45am Preaching Service, 4pm Preaching Service WED 7pm Preaching Service.</div> <div>BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH 301 Ohio St., Wakonda. Dr. Calvin Jones, pastor. 605-267-1100 SUNDAY Worship 11am.</div> <div>CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, 2407 Broadway, Yankton (605) 665-5594 SUNDAYS: 9am Sunday School for all ages, 10:30am Worship Service MONDAYS: Service broadcast 7:30pm Channels 3 & 98. WEDNESDAYS: 6:30pm AWANA, 6:45pm The Pursuit Youth Group (Grades 7-12), 7pm Adult Bible Study. Interim Pastor Ralph Porter, Associate Pastor Rick Slattery, Youth Pastor Adam Ansel, Children's Ministry Director Laura Kotalik www.cbchurch.com</div> <div>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.</div> <div>Yankton Baptist Church, SBC, 607 East 15th St., Yankton, SD. 605-665-7587. SUN 9:30am Bible study, SS; 10:45 am Worship. WED 7:00pm Midweek service.</div>	<div>Bible Church Grace Bible Church, Meeting at Pierson Ranch Amphitheater (below dam on Hwy. 52). 10:30am Sundays. Memorial Day through Labor Day. Call Pastor Joel Finck for more information. 605-760-4701.</div> <div>Catholic Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, St Helena, NE. Rev. Eric Olsen. 402-357-2400. Mass: Saturdays 5pm. Through November.</div> <div>SACRED HEART CATHOLIC 509 Capitol, Yankton, Rev. Larry Regynski. 665-3655 (office). SAT 4:30pm Mass SUN 8am, 9:30am, 11am MASS THUR 12:30pm, 2:30pm and 7:30pm Confessions.</div> <div>Sacred Heart Catholic Church Wynot, NE. Rev. Eric Olsen 402-357-2400. Mass times, Sundays 9am. Through November.</div> <div>Sacred Heart Monastery Sunday 10am Mass in the Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel. Public is welcome. Mount Marty College 4pm Sunday Mass in the Peace Chapel, when school is in session.</div> <div>St Rose of Lima, Crofton, NE. Father Michael Schmitz. SAT Mass 8:00am & 5:30pm. SUN Mass 8:30am. Wed/Fri Masses 8:15am. Confessions Wed 11-11:30am Sat 5-5:20pm.</div> <div>St. Agnes Parish Sigel rural Utica. Mass time: Every 2nd, 4th Sunday at 10:30am in winter & 8:30am in summer. Confessions ½ hour before Mass. Father Steven Jones.</div> <div>St. Andrews Catholic Church, Bloomfield, NE. Fr. Michael Schmidt. Sunday Mass-10:30am; 2nd, 4th, 5th, Tuesday Mass 8:00am; Thursday Mass-8:00am</div> <div>St. Benedict Catholic Church, 1500 St. Benedict Drive, Yankton. Father Ken Lulf, 605-664-6214 (church). Masses: SAT-5:00pm. SUN 8:30am & 10:30am</div> <div>St. Boniface Catholic Church, Menominee, NE. Rev. James Keiter, SUN 8:30am. 1st SAT of month 8:00am</div> <div>St. Boniface Idlylwide, rural Free-man, SD: Sunday Mass 11:00am 605-327-3438 www.stbonifacesd-parishesonline.com</div> <div>St. Columba Mayfield, rural Irene, SD. Saturday's at 5:30pm Holy Mass.</div> <div>St. George Scotland, SD: Holy Mass Sundays 9a.m. 605-583-4318. www.parishesonline.com/stgeorgescotlandsd</div> <div>St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Fordyce NE. Rev James Keiter. SUN 10:30am Mass. Mon, Tues, Wed, 8:00am Mass. 1st Friday 8:00am Mass</div> <div>St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Lesterville. Mass time: Every 1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday 10:30am winter & 8:30am summer. Confessions ½ hour before. Father Steven Jones</div>	<div>Catholic St. Josephs Catholic Church, Constance, NE. Rev. James Keiter. SAT 7:30pm Mass.</div> <div>St. Leo Catholic Church Tyndall Saturday 5:30pm Mass; Sunday 8:30am Mass. Confessions 45 mins before each Mass. Father Joseph Forcelle.</div> <div>St. Patrick's Catholic Church Wakonda, SD. Father David Roehrich, Sunday 8:30am Mass.</div> <div>St. Vincent Catholic Church Springfield, SD. Sunday 10:30am Mass. Confessions ½ hour before. Father Joseph Forcelle.</div> <div>St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church. Tabor, SD Mass times: Winter Saturday 5pm & Sunday 8:30am. Summer Sunday 10:30am. Confessions SAT 4-4:30pm. Father Steven Jones.</div> <div>Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Bow Valley, NE. Rev. Eric Olsen 402-357-2400. Mass: Sundays 11am. Through November.</div> <div>The House of Mary Shrine, 6 miles West of Yankton, Hwy. 52 Masses: 9am. every Sat. & Mon. April-Sept. Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary before Masses. Rosary: Sunday 4pm. Open 7 days a week for prayer. thehouseofmaryshrine.org</div> <div>Church of Christ CHURCH OF CHRIST, 1114 West 12th, Yankton, 605-665-6379. SUN 9:30am Bible Study; classes for all ages. 10:30am Worship. WED Bible Study 7pm KDLT-TV 9am Sundays.</div> <div>Church of Jesus Christ CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 2300 Douglas, Yankton, Michael Maxwell 402-586-2345. Family History Ct. 605-665-0901. SUN. 10am Sacrament meeting.</div> <div>Episcopal CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH Sunday 9am Serenity, 10am The Holy Eucharist & Sunday School. Mondays 10:30am Centering Prayer. Wednesdays 7pm Meditation.</div> <div>Evangelical Please Recycle When Done Reading!</div> <div>EMMANUEL CHURCH We gather together for worship every Sunday at 9:30 AM at the Yankton Middle School (2000 Mulberry). www.emmanuelnyankton.com (605)760-1143.</div> <div>Redeeming Grace Bible Church, 13th Burleigh, Pastor Raymond Solberg, Assoc. Steve McHone. 605-665-6317. 9am-SS; Worship 10:15am, 6pm Bible Study, Wed.-6:30pm kids for Christ/Adult Study.</div>	<div>Lutheran CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH NALC: 305 W. 25th, Yankton, 605-665-8848. Rev. Dani Jo Ninke. SAT 5:30pm worship service. SUN 9am worship service.</div> <div>FAITH UNITED LUTHERAN, 44874 303rd St., Volin SD 57072, 605-267-2277. SUN. Worship Services 9:30am. Childrens Education WED. Evening (WOW) 6:30-7:30pm.</div> <div>FIRST AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC 300 S. Carpenter St., Tripp. 605-935-6941 9:30am Sunday School; SUN. 10:45 Worship firsthope@santel.net</div> <div>GAYVILLE-BERGEN LUTHERAN 605-267-4342, Bergen Worship-9:00 am, Sunday School-9:00 am Gayville Worship-10:30 am, Sunday School 9:15 am.</div> <div>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC 200 South Wilson, Delmont. 605-935-6941. SUN 9am Worship. 10am Sunday school. Firsthope@santel.net</div> <div>Martinus Lutheran Church, Utica. Pastor Dean Schroeder. Sunday Divine Service 10:30am 605-589-3195. www.MartinusLutheran.org</div> <div>Our Redeemer Lutheran rural Irene. 605-263-3724. Sunday 9am Worship.</div> <div>Our Savior's Lutheran, LCM/MNALC, Menno. Pastor Theresa Jacobson Office 605-387-5241. Worship Saturdays 7pm.</div> <div>Our Savior's Lutheran, LCMS, 12th and Elm, Springfield. Rev. Kenneth Johnson, pastor. Sun. 8am Worship. 9am SS. Thur. 7pm Adult Bible study.</div> <div>Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Synod, 201 E. 25th Street, Yankton. Pastor Winfried Schroeder 605-665-4793. Sunday 9:15am. Worship; 10:15am Bible Study</div> <div>South Dakota Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, MAIN STREET LIVING television program, 10am (CST) on KDLT-NBC; and 11am (CST) on KAUN-PAX; and 10am (MST) on KKRA-PAX.</div> <div>St. John Lutheran Church, Tyndall. Pastor Dean Schroeder. Sunday Divine Service; 8:30am; 605-589-3195. www.StJohnsTyndallILCM-SD.org</div> <div>St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS), 1009 Jackson. Pastor David Gunderson. SUN 8am Worship, 9:15am Education Hour, 10:30 am Worship.</div> <div>Trinity Lutheran Church, Hartington/Crofton, NE. Amanda Jertson pastor; (402)254-9606. SUN 9am Worship (Hartington), 10am SS (Hartington), 11am Worship (Crofton).</div> <div>Trinity Lutheran Church, 403 Broadway Yankton, 665-7415. Contemporary Service SAT 5:30pm & Sun 8:15am. Traditional Service SUN 10:45am. Sunday school 9:30am.</div>	<div>Lutheran Trondhjem Lutheran Church (AFLC), rural Volin. 605-263-3841. Sunday 9:15am; 10:30am Worship</div> <div>Vangen Lutheran Church, Mission Hill. 605-665-5426. Worship 10:30am. Sunday School 9:30am.</div> <div>Non-Denominational DISCOVERY CHURCH 205 W 3rd Street, Yankton. (605)689-2211. Pastor Jon Cooke discoverychurchoffice@gmail.com SUN: 9am Sunday School, 10:30am worship, WED: 6:30pm Discovery Zone for Kids, Adult Bible Study and Youth Group. www.discoverychurchyankton.org</div> <div>FAITH ALIVE, 501 Cedar St., Yankton. 665-4797. Contemporary Worship & Family Values. SUN: 10am service. WED. 7pm CareCells "Small Groups For Building Relationships" Various Locations.</div> <div>GLORY CHRISTIAN Center, 901 E 11th St. Yankton. Gail Ryken, pastor, 605-665-2369. SUN. 10am Service. WED 6pm Prayer. GC School, call (605)665-1988.</div> <div>Restore Church Bible Teaching, People Reaching, 208 W. 21st St (Stewart School Gym, behind Hy-Vee), 605-660-9702. Services Sunday 5:30 p.m. Jeff Mueller, Pastor. Restoreyankton.com</div>	<div>United Church of Christ Pilgrim Congregational UCC, 103 S. Elm St., Coleridge, NE. 402-283-4824 or 664-5310, Rev Gary Kimm, pastor. Sun 9:30am Church School, 10:30am Worship.</div> <div>United Church of Christ Crofton, NE, 412 W Main St., (402)388-4124. Pastor Woodrow Weidner SUN 10:00am Worship.</div> <div>United Church of Christ (Congregational) 210 West 5th St. Yankton, SD 605-665-7320 Pastor Molly Carlson. SUN 10:00am Worship. 11:00am Fellowship.</div> <div>United Methodist FIRST UNITED METHODIST, Yankton. Rev. Ron Johnson, Pastor, 207 W. 11th St. 665-2991. Contemporary Service Sunday: 8:30am 9:45am Sunday school. Traditional Worship Service 11am.</div> <div>First United Methodist. Wakonda, Irene, Viborg: Pastor Judy Saylor. SUN 8:30am Worship at Wakonda; 9:45am Worship at Irene; 11am Worship at Viborg.</div> <div>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.</div> <div>WNAX 570 AM Radio WNAX 570 AM Radio. Lutheran Shows-6:30am, 8:00am, 11:00am. Wings of Healing-7:30am. Words of Hope 8:30am. Prov Ref Church-8:45am. Voice of Prop-9:30am. Hr of Hope 10am Christian Crusaders-10:30am.</div> <div>MIX 106 FM Radio Classic hits 106 KVHT FM Radio SUN.-THUR. 10:05PM Family Radio Rosary with Bishop Robert Carlson.</div> <div>ESPN Radio 1570 ESPN Radio 1570 SUN. 10:30AM Trinity Lutheran Church, Vermillion, worship.</div> <div>Please Recycle!</div>
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