

RELIGION DIGEST

McNeill's To Perform At Grandview Reformed

John and Susan McNeill will perform a gospel music program at the Grandview Reformed Church in Armour at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21. The concert will include favorite hymns and country gospel songs. A coffee time will follow. All are invited. 369-2371.

MVCA Kindergarten Open House Monday

Missouri Valley Christian Academy will be hosting a Kindergarten Open House from 2-3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 21 and from 7-8 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 22. This will be an opportunity for families with a child entering kindergarten this fall to come and see what MVCA has to offer both spiritually and academically for their family. For more information about MVCA please go to www.mvcamustangs.org.

Scientist Will Present Evidence For Faith

Former skeptic Dr. Don Bierle will be presenting the evidence that changed his mind from doubt to confidence about the Christian faith in Yankton on Sunday, Feb. 21. Bierle's revealing presentation of FaithSearch will be held at the Kingsway Christian Church from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Kid's Crossing Explores The Transfiguration

Kid's Crossing will explore the story of the transfiguration of Christ as part of the Main Street Living program Sunday, Feb. 21. The featured speaker will be Rev. Kenneth Soyk from Faith Lutheran Church in Parkston. The sermon theme is "God's Powerful Word." The Main Street Living Choir will provide the hymns. The program is interpreted for the hearing impaired.

The Main Street Living morning worship telecast may be seen at 10 a.m. on KDLT 10. Additional information may be found on the web site, www.mainstreetliving.com.

TLC 'Souper' Women's Lenten Bible Study

"Souper" Women's Lenten Bible Study: The Sign of Jonah Lenten Bible study will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church on Tuesdays during Lent. The study follows Jonah on his journey of faith and provides us with Lenten concepts that guide us on our journey with Jesus on the way to the cross.

Join us from Noon-1 p.m. for a "souper" lunch and Bible study. Meeting Tuesdays from February 23 to March 30. Please contact Pam at 665-7415 or e-mail pam.tlc@iw.net for details.

Methodist Church Annual Turkey Supper Set

The First United Methodist Church is hosting an Annual Turkey Supper on Saturday, Feb. 27 from 4:30-7 p.m. The meal includes: Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, cranberries and cake.

Tickets can be purchased at the FUMC church office or at the door the day of the supper. For more information call 665-2991 or email firstumc@iw.net

Stiegelmeier To Speak At Leadership Summit

The Calvary Baptist Church, Yankton, is privileged to welcome John Stiegelmeier, head football at South Dakota State University, for a men's leadership summit to be held Monday, March 1.

The evening will begin with a tailgate meal beginning at 6 P.M. followed by a program featuring Coach Stiegelmeier. Members of the community are welcome to attend this event. Tickets are available at the church office at 2407 Broadway Ave., Yankton, or by calling (605)665-5594.

To Bless Or Not To Bless, That Is The Question...

REV. LANCE LINDGREN
Pastor, Vangen Lutheran Church

I receive a fair amount of spiritually inspirational and patriotic-type of e-mail messages from friends and relatives. A lot of it is exceptionally good in and of itself, and I do appreciate receiving most spiritually-related inspirational messages. I know too, that a vast majority of those messages are merely "forwards" from someone else in the chain of passing the message on to others, without the slightest thought about some of its instructional content.

The problem I have with some of those messages, though, is with the instructions at the end, that are made to get you to keep forwarding the message. For instance, I once received a very nice spiritually inspiring message; but it was sadly tarnished with this ending statement: "Pass this message on to seven people except you and me. You will receive a miracle tomorrow. If you choose not (to), then you refuse to bless someone else. Don't ignore (this) and God will bless you."

Well, first of all, I wonder what miracle will I receive? And why the mystery? I think to myself: "I've already received the miracle - the miracle of life! I've been receiving it (thanks be to God) for a number of decades now!" Secondly, I wonder, what sort of "additional" blessing could I receive from God by passing that message on? God has already



REFLECTIONS

claimed me and blessed me in baptism, and has assured me with the promise of salvation through his Son, Jesus Christ!

What really perplexes me, and offends me about such a statement, is that if I choose not to forward the message on, I, in effect, am refusing to bless someone else! Such a statement (actually an accusation!) is flat out intimidatingly false! It's intimidating in the way in which it attempts to make someone feel guilty, should a person decide not to pass the message on!

Let me explain: I bless all sorts of people every day. We all do, all the time. I bless my friends, relatives, even my parishioners. (at least I like to think I do!) I bless them in all manner of ways, not the least of which includes proclaiming the gospel!

The important thing is, we "bless" others by being their friend, parent, offspring, sibling, spouse, etc. But most importantly, we bless others when we love those significant people in our lives for who they are, and permit them to live their life, without attempting to control them into a state of "co-dependency!"

We're all "blessed to be a blessing" some how, some way; and no one should be intimi-

dated to think otherwise by a statement that says, if we don't pass on the e-mail message we received, we refuse to bless someone else! Such a tactic only perpetuates the stigmatism of "false guilt" which is rampant in today's society. Such guilt does not need to be heaped on unsuspecting people who are gentle and caring enough in their own right and own way to be a friend - a true friend to other people. Nor do we need e-mail messages trying to control our lives, however slyly, in the manner I'm addressing here.

It should be noted too, that such a statement could also very well be interpreted as containing a "pre-emptive curse." Just as God says he will bless those who bless us, God also says he will curse those who curse us. (Genesis 12:3)

We, of course, do enjoy our freedom of speech; but when such freedoms are improperly exploited in a manner that's demeaning or offensive to other people, then it's no longer a responsible exercise of freedom of speech. It becomes an attack against another person's dignity, respect, and integrity as a human being, let alone as a child of God.

I am a child of God - a redeemed sinner through God's love and grace. I am a blessing to others, and I will bless other people in my life through who I am, and as fits the occasion, be it with words, actions, or just being present with them! And with that, God's blessings to all!

Spiritual Conference In Columbus Feb. 27

COLUMBUS, Neb. — A spiritual conference, "My People Come to My Heart through Jesus' Blood," will be held at St. Isidore Catholic School, 3821 20th St., Columbus, Neb., on Saturday, Feb. 27. Spiritual director is Fr. Rodney Kneiff.

Registration and continental breakfast starts at 8 a.m. in St. Isidore School. Praise and Worship music begins at 8:30 a.m. with the first conference presentation at 9 a.m.

A Healing Mass will be held at St. Isidore Church, 3821 20th St., Columbus, with Praise and Worship music beginning at 7:15 p.m. Saturday evening. Mass follows at 7:30 p.m.

This conference is sponsored by the Servants of the Heart of the Father. To pre-register, or for more information contact Merline or Deacon Kelly at: 402-246-9219, or e-mail: sothoff@aol.com.

Pioneer Polar Plunge Fund-Raiser Feb. 27

VIBORG — The annual Pioneer Polar Plunge Fund-Raiser will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, at the Swan Lake Christian Camp, located 2 miles north and 1 1/2 miles west of Viborg.

All funds raised will be used for renovations at the Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home. All participants receive Polar Plunge T-shirt and free lunch.

For more information, contact Brendyn Richards at (605) 326-5161, e-mail richardb@sanfordhealth.org or visit www.pioneermemorial.org.

Fish Fry and Bake Sale, March 5

Annual St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Crofton, Neb. fish fry and bake sale will be held on Friday, March 5, 2010, with serving from 5:00-8:30 p.m. This is an all you can eat fish fry.

Healing Trauma At Rachel's Retreat Vinyard

Healing the Trauma of Abortion. Strictly confidential. A safe, loving, non-judgmental environment. Scripture based retreat exercises. Open to men & women of all faiths but sponsored by the Catholic Church and includes the sacraments. Call 605-988-3775 or 1-800-700-7867 for registration materials & more information or email mmergen@sfscatholic.org.

Divorce Care For Adults And Kids Planned

DivorceCare, a divorce recovery seminar and support group meets in the Chapel of Calvary Baptist Church, 2407 Broadway in Yankton each Tuesday at 7 p.m. If you are divorced or separated, you are invited to attend. DivorceCare provides the opportunity to experience healing, learn important life skills following divorce and do so in a safe context of strong support with others who do understand.

DivorceCare features nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics. Seminar sessions include "Facing My Anger," "Facing My Loneliness," "Depression," "New Relationships," "KidCare" and "Forgiveness." Please contact Keith or Denise DeLong at 605-664-5252 if you have any questions.

If you have children ages 5-12 a DivorceCare 4Kids program is also offered on Tuesday nights in the Youth Theater beginning at 6:45 p.m. You can call the church at 605-665-5594 and ask for Laura Kotalik, Director of Children's Ministry, for further information or to register your children. DivorceCare4Kids is the only peer support group, under the supervision of trained adults, in the area for children whose parents have experienced divorce.

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 Worship Middle School (2000 Mulberry) Weds. 7pm Prayer. David Olson, pastor. (605)260-2138.

Assembly of God

ASSEMBLY OF GOD, 801 W. 26th, Jeff Maritz, pastor, 665-6362 (office). SUN. 10am Worship Celebration, WED. 7pm Midweek service and Bible study for all ages.

Baptist

***CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**, 2407 Broadway, Yankton. (605)665-5594. Rev. Jon Cooke, Pastor Jeremy Nelson, and Pastor Terry Paul. Laura Kotalik. SUNDAY Feb. 21 8:30 AM Intercessory Prayer 9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages 10:30 AM Worship Service "The Rebellion Part 2" MONDAY Feb. 22 7:30 PM Service broadcast on Channels 3 & 98 TUESDAY Feb. 23 6:45 PM Divorce Care for Kids 7:00 PM DivorceCare WEDNESDAY Feb. 24 6:45 AM Men's Prayer Time 9:00 AM Joy in the Morning 11:30 AM Mid-day Meal 5:45 PM Wednesday Meal 6:00 PM Intercessory Prayer 6:30 PM AWANA 7:00 PM 7-12th Grade Youth Group 7:30 PM Adult Bible Study THURSDAY Feb. 25 10:00 AM Children's Story Time 7:00 PM Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM GriefShare 7:00 PM Fire by Night FRIDAY Feb. 26 5:30 PM Parents' Time Out 7:00 PM Cruisin' 24/7.

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH

221 W. 3rd. Kevin Caskay, 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 12noon.

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Baptist

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. 7:30pm Worship.

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, 31102 Walleys Drive (Corner of Hwy. 52 and Walleys Drive, just east of Gavin's Point Dam road), Yankton. Joel Finck, pastor, 463-2070. SUN. 10am Worship.

Catholic

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH OF CEDAR COUNTY (Immaculate Conception), St. Helena, NE. Rev. Eric Olson, (402)357-2400. Sat 8pm, Sun 11am.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH OF CEDAR COUNTY

(St. Peter & Paul), Bow Valley, NE. Rev. Eric Olson (402)357-2400. Sun 9am.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH OF CEDAR COUNTY

(Sacred Heart), WYDOT, NE. Rev. Eric Olson. (402)357-2400. Sat 5pm Mass.

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 Paul Josten, 664-6214 (church). Masses: SAT. 5pm. SUN. 8:30am.

ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Menominee, NE. Rev. David Fulton, pastor. SUN. 8:30am Mass.

Catholic

ST. BONIFACE CHURCH, rural Freeman. For weekend Mass info see church bulletin or Rev. Matthew Vazhappilly. (605)583-4318.

ST. COLUMBA CHURCH

rural Irene. For weekend Mass info see church bulletin or Rev. Matthew Vazhappilly. (605)583-4318.

ST. GEORGE CHURCH

Scotland, SD. Rev. Matthew Vazhappilly. For weekend Mass info see church bulletin or call (605)583-4318.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC

Lesterville. SUN. 10:30am Mass.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC

Fordyce, Neb. Rev. David Fulton. 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. WENCESLAW

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

THE HOUSE OF MARY SHRINE

6-mi. W. Yankton, Hwy.52. Masses: 1st Saturday 9:00am, Monday 8:30am, Rosary: 4:00 Sunday. Open 7 days a week for prayer. thehouseofmaryshrine.org

Charismatic

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.

Christian Science

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY, Sixth St. and Douglas St., Yankton. SUN. 9:45am Worship.

Church of Christ

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 1114 West 12th, Yankton, 665-6979. 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. 10am History Ctr 665-0901. SUN. 10am Sacrament meeting.

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Episcopal

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 517 Douglas, Yankton. Rev. James Pearson, (605)665-2456. Monday through Thursday: 8:30 Morning Prayer Sunday: 9:00 Serenity, 10:00 SS. 10:15 Holy Eucharist/Wednesday: Noon Holy Eucharist, 7:00 choir rehearsal.

Evangelical

EMMANUEL CHURCH Yankton HS Theater, 1801 Summit, Sunday Worship @ 11 am (Sunday School for all ages at 10 am), Pastors Dan Freng & Jeremy Mulder. (605)665-0044.

Faith Alive

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

Jehovah's Witnesses

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, 2215 Douglas, 664-2249. SUN. 10am Public Bible lecture, 10:35am Watchtower. WED. 7:30pm Bible Study, 8pm Ministry School, 8:35pm Service meeting.

Lutheran

CALVARY LUTHERAN, Irene. 263-3527. SUN. 9:30am Worship. 10:45am SS.

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

305 W. 25th, Yankton, 665-8848. Rev. Dani Jo Ninke. SUN: 8:30am AND 10:45am Worship. SS-9-45am.

FAITH UNITED LUTHERAN

4474 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

300 S. Carpenter St., Tripp. (605)935-6941. Pastor Mike Jacobson. SUN. 10:45am Worship (Holy Communion first and last Sundays), 9:30am Sunday School.

GAYVILLE-BERGEN LUTHERAN

Pastor Ralph Egbert. Phone number: 267-4342 (church) Sunday BLC 9am; Sunday School 10:15am; Gayville Sunday School 9:45am; GLC 10:45am.

HOPE WITHIN CHURCH

200 South Wilson, Delmont. (605)935-6941. Pastor Mike Jacobson. SUN. 9am Worship (Holy Communion first and last Sundays), 10am Sunday School.

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN

rural Irene. 263-3724. SUN. 11am Worship.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN

29219 431st Ave., Menno. Rev. Bradley Danielson. SAT. 7am Men's prayer breakfast. SUN. 9am Worship. 10:30am SS.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN

LCMS, 12th and Elm, Springfield. Rev. Kenneth Johnson, pastor. SUN. 8am Worship. 9am SS. THUR. 7pm Adult Bible study