

Who's Going To Heaven

BY WILLIAM KERR

For The Press and Dakotan

You may recall that in a previous article some time ago I made a short comment about this subject. I have had a request to enlarge upon what I said then. So here goes.

In the Bible there are lots of things said about who is going to heaven and who is not. I am going to deal primarily with what Jesus said on the subject as I consider him the best informed. But first a bit of background.

We all know about the 10 Commandments, but all of us are not aware that the Jews of that day treated over 600 Old Testament statements as laws and breaking any one of them is a sin. At each year's end in Biblical times, they brought to the temple in either cash, animals or crops an amount to make up for the sins they had committed and thereby be once again "righteous," meaning eligible for heaven. (Jesus' dying for our sins makes us eligible. He can be considered the final perfect temple sacrifice for all people for all time.)

God had chosen the Jews to demonstrate to the world that righteous living could bring peace and joy to the world abundantly. Well, after several centuries and no significant improvement in the behavior of even his "chosen people" He seems to have decided that more help was needed. So, he sent a hybrid being, Jesus, who was both human and divine to teach us all how to live joyfully at peace with each other.

As I read again the four gospels I was struck by the way Jesus seemed to change as he pursued his mission to lead people to live the life God wanted for them. At the beginning he sounded very Old Testament-like. But then being a Jew he would, wouldn't he?

"Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them." (Mt. 5:17)

"Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven." (Mt. 5:20)

Those who will be blessed are those who are poor in spirit, the meek, those who mourn, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. (Mt. 5:3-10)

He then tightened some of the heavier sins: Murder (5:22); ... *whoever says 'You fool!' shall be liable to the hell of fire.*

Adultery (5:27): ... *everyone who has looked at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin pluck it out ... Better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.*

Divorce (5:31): ... *every one who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, makes her an adulteress; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.*

Swearing (an oath - 5:34): ... *Do not swear at all ... Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.*

"An eye for an eye" (5:38) ... *If anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.... (6:14) 'For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.'*

"Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." (5:43): ... Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you ... For if you love those who love you ... Do not even the Gentiles do the same?" You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

How would you like to live by those rules as laws? And, that's no where near 600 that the Jews find in the Old Testament. "You really do not want to be held to those 600+."

(Mt. 9:35) *"Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity."*

As he taught and healed and interacted especially with the ordinary people of that day he came to see their plight between the civil and religious authorities as a rough row to hoe, never mind the 600+ laws. So that near the end of his life he spoke less about sin and more about loving thy neighbor when he talked about Judgement Day.

(Mt. 25:31-46) *'When the son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me., I was sick and in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, my brethren, you did it to me. Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they will also answer, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee? Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'* ("The least" = the poor and powerless)

Since we humans are great at fooling ourselves we cannot be absolutely, positively sure that we "truly believe", or are really "born again" and maybe even we that we are among the blessed, but this last way to qualify for heaven is clear as a bell! No way to kid ourselves on this we either do or we don't help those in distress. And it's not that difficult. Even those of us who have limited material resources can volunteer our time and ourselves to some helping project. And there is even a great reward here on earth. If we routinely help those in distress we will feel good about ourselves and become convinced it is right!

Hunhoff Named SHS 2012 HOF Inductee

Sacred Heart School recently announced the newest inductee into their Hall of Fame. This year, Dick Hunhoff was chosen based on his long-standing history of building up the Sacred Heart community and living the Gospel values taught at the school.

Dick is the husband of the late Jean Hunhoff who was a Sacred Heart School teacher for 8 years, and the grandparent of Reid, Kendra, and Walker Hunhoff, all Sacred Heart School students. He has a son Greg, who lives in Sioux Falls, and Jeff (Meredith), who lives in Yankton. Dick is also a member of the YCCDO Board and a Blue Ribbon member.

Dick is one of those volunteers that contribute countless hours of service to make our school great. Within the past 5 years, SHS has invested in 21st century learning with the addition of interactive whiteboards in the classrooms, and Dick has installed many of these in the classrooms at Sacred Heart Elementary and Sacred Heart Middle School.

Dick serves as a wonderful example for all of us. When something is needed, Dick steps forward, whether to help erect a fence along Capitol Street to ensure the safety of our middle



COURTESY PHOTO

Sacred Heart School recently announced that Dick Hunhoff was chosen to be inducted into the school's Hall of Fame. Hunhoff is pictured with his family.

school children during the construction project at Sacred Heart, or being a volunteer driver to shuttle students when needed. He helped to renovate the Kingsway Christian Church and convert it into the Sacred Heart Parish Office and Yankton Catholic Community Development Office, and has helped for many years with the Knights of Columbus breakfast.

Dick is very involved at his parish, St. Benedict, serving on

the funeral committee and for the past ten years has helped count money every week.

His Christian example doesn't stop at his parish or Sacred Heart School. He has served on the Riverboat Days Committee for many years, putting in countless volunteer hours to make the yearly event a success.

We are proud to recognize Dick Hunhoff as the 2012 Sacred Heart School Hall of Fame Award winner in recognition of his Christian example.

RELIGION HAPPENINGS

'Praying The Scriptures' Retreat Set

The Peace Center at Sacred Heart Monastery is hosting a weekend retreat, entitled "Praying the Scriptures: The Ancient Art of Lectio Divina" on Feb. 17-19. The retreat will be led by Sisters Jeanne Ranek and Doris Oberembt. Persons of all faiths are invited.

For more information or to register, contact joanne.dickinson@mtmc.edu, 605-668-6292. A brochure is available on line at www.yanktonbenedictines.org/Center.html.

Fat Tuesday Spaghetti Feed Planned

The Yankton Catholic United Financial Council invites the public to its annual Fat Tuesday All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Feed at 4:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, at the Sacred Heart Parish Center in Yankton on Fifth and Capital.

The menu includes spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread sticks, dessert, coffee and juice.

The proceeds will go to support religious education programs of Sacred Heart and St. Benedict parishes as well as those attending the Steubenville Youth Conference in Ohio.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed Offered

VERMILLION — St Paul's Episcopal Church, 10 Linden St., Vermillion, will host a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, Feb. 21, running from 5-7 p.m.

A free-will offering will be asked. For more information, contact Stanley May at 605-670-6736 or smay@usd.edu.

Turkey Supper Planned For Feb. 25

Yankton's First United Methodist Church, 207 West 11th Street, will host its annual turkey supper on Saturday, Feb. 25, running from 4:30-7 p.m.

The meal includes: turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, cranberries and cake. Tickets will be sold at the door the day of the supper. For more information, call 605-665-2991.

World Day Of Prayer Event Set

GAYVILLE — Gayville-Volin United Methodist Church will host a World Day of Prayer event at 2 p.m. Friday, March 2.

Women, men and children in more than 170 countries and regions will celebrate World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 2. The women of Malaysia have chosen the theme "Let Justice Prevail." They open the service for 2012 with the greeting "selamat datang" — or "peace and welcome" — a reminder that harmony as a people is rooted in peace and welcome. The women name fair and just governance as the basis for peace. The stories chosen by the women of Malaysia give credence to the suffering that empowers their prayer. A clear message emerges: It takes courage, compassion and active engagement for justice to prevail. On March 2, let us resolve to work with God and with each other to create a world in which each gender, race, culture, religion and state is honored, nurtured and empowered.

All are welcome!

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. 665-6362 (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 12Noon.

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 7:00pm, 7-8th Grade Youth Group: 7:00am 9-12th Youth Group, Adult Bible Study. Pastor Jon Cooke, Associate Pastor Rick Slattery, Youth Pastor Jeremy Nelson. 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.

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, Call Pastor Joel Finck for meeting times an locations. Regular meetings: Sunday morning 10:30am; Wednesday Bible Study 7pm. (605)760-4701.

Catholic

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

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

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

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

Catholic

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

ST. BONIFACE CHURCH, rural Freeman. FEBRUARY WEEKEND Mass Sundays 10:30am or call Rev. Mathew Vazhappily. (605)583-4318.

ST. COLUMBA CHURCH, rural Irene. FEBRUARY WEEKEND Mass, Sunday 9am or call Rev. Mathew Vazhappily, (605)583-4318. Christmas Eve Mass: Dec. 24th 7pm.

ST. GEORGE CHURCH, Scotland, SD. Rev. Mathew Vazhappily. FEBRUARY WEEKEND Mass Saturday 4:30pm or call (605)583-4318.

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. WENCESLAUS, Tabor, (605)463-2336. Rev. Joseph Puthenkuthalil, 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

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.

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 am 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 Stevens 665-8750.

EMMANUEL CHURCH YHS, Theater, 1801 Summit, Sunday School at 9:30am Worship Service 10:45 am www.emmanuelyankton.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 firstshope@santel.net

GAYVILLE-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. firstshope@santel.net

Lutheran

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

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN, rural 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, LCMWS, 12th and Elm, Springfield. Rev. Kenneth Johnson, pastor. SUN. 8am Worship. 9am SS. THUR. 7pm Adult Bible study.

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.

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

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 Wiese, interim pastor; (402)254-6606. SUN. 9am Worship (Hartington), 10am SS (Hartington), 11am Worship (Crofton).

TRONDHEIM 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 Fr. 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, Worship Services: Saturday 9:30am & 11am. 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.

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

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

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