

# God Is Looking For Messengers

BY PASTOR KWEN SANDERSON  
St. Dymas Lutheran/MDSP

Mark 1:9- "In those days, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan."

The setting for this incident is a small village in west, central Galilee, called Nazareth. The time is about 26 A.D. A Jewish mother, who has been widowed for many years, has been concerned for her oldest son. She has decided to talk with him. The conversation is now in progress.

"Yeshua, my son, I know that you are a good boy, but you are 30 years old now. All the other young men in the village your age, are married now. Haven't you noticed that the village girls have been looking at you? Believe me, since your father died—may God rest his soul—you have been a good provider for your brothers and sisters, and me. Your woodwork is every bit as good as your father, Joseph's—God rest his soul. I appreciate that your work has brought in money to support us. Joseph would have been proud of you. Don't you think it's time for you to think about getting married, and having some children?" Yeshua knew this talk was going to come sometime. He had been thinking about it for a longtime.

Yeshua responded, "Mother, I understand your concern. I am aware that some of the village girls would make good wives and mothers. But, you know that even from the time that I was born, God has something in mind for me to do, beyond getting married, and having a family. I'm not sure what it is, but I need to wait. God will show me."

Yeshua's words jogged Mary's memory. She remembered how strange it was when an angel spoke to her about her son's unusual birth. She was a virgin, who gave birth to a baby! She remembered how strange was the night of his birth in Bethlehem. Even as a boy, his thoughts seemed to be in the heavens; miles away. He was a strange boy. She remembered that day in the Jerusalem temple, when he was 12 years old. He had been missing for 3 days, and yet, seemed oblivious to his parent's concern when they finally found him. He seemed more like 112, than 12.

"Yeshua, my son, maybe you need to take some time to ponder and pray. Your cousin, John, he is east of



REFLECTIONS

Jerusalem, baptizing people. You haven't seen him for a long time. Why don't you go and see him, and talk with him. The two of you, even from your birth, you had a special friendship.

People say he's a prophet now. Imagine that! After 450 years; a prophet, and my own nephew! May God be praised! Being an obedient son, Jesus did as his mother asked.

When Yeshua got to the Jordan River, in the south, where cousin John was baptizing, he thought he should also be baptized. He thought he should also be among those people who should be prepared when God broke into Israel's life with his Kingdom. That's what John was saying, so he wanted to be ready. One problem! When cousin John saw him, he got the strangest look on his face. He said, "I need to be baptized by you." Yeshua didn't have a clue what he was talking about. Cousin, or no cousin, Yeshua assured John that he wanted to be baptized. So, baptized he was!

When Yeshua came up from the muddy Jordan River water, he saw a white dove come down from heaven, and a voice said, "You are my beloved son. With you, I am well pleased." Woo! He wasn't prepared for this. And, to add to his bewilderment, a gut-wrenching power came over Yeshua. It's message seemed to say that he should go out into the desert, to fast and pray. For what? This was way beyond what he thought. He just wanted to talk to cousin, John.

If this was the answer to his search, then he would go. So, go he went. After 40 days of fasting and praying, and a direct visit from Satan, himself, Yeshua understood what he had to do. As they say, the rest is history; Bible history, that is.

How about you? What do you think God would like to do with your life? Are you willing to wait, and ponder, and pray? Go ahead! Open your heart, if you dare! God is still looking for messengers to bring in His Kingdom.

# Celebrating The Real Joan Of Arc

BY NANCY GOLDSTONE  
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On Jan. 6, people around the world will come together to celebrate the 600th anniversary of the birth of St. Joan of Arc, the brave peasant girl from the French countryside who in 1429 lifted the English siege of Orleans, walloped the enemy army and led her king to be crowned at Reims. French President Nicolas Sarkozy plans a special visit to the village of Domremy, her birthplace. There will be a parade at 6 o'clock in New Orleans, a French pilgrimage retracing the route that led to Joan's martyrdom at the stake in Rouen, prestigious classical music concerts and ceremonial viewings of Carl Theodor Dreyer's silent-screen masterpiece, "The Passion of Joan of Arc."



nothing unusual in this. People in the 15th century did not celebrate individual birthdays, and there was certainly no need to record so mundane an event for a member of the lower classes, and a female to boot. Instead, the

general populace celebrated saints' days. Ironically, if Joan had been delivered on the Feast of the Epiphany, there would have been a chance that her family would have remembered the occasion and that she would have grown up with this knowledge. Nothing would have made Joan happier than to have been born on an important religious holiday. She would have jumped at the chance to fling this information in her inquisitors' faces had it been true. As she did not do so, the Feast of the Epiphany is actually one of the few dates of the year that can be reasonably ruled out as the date of her birth.

The source for the Jan. 6 date was a French aristocrat by the name of Perceval de Boulainvilliers. Perceval was a member of the royal court who fancied himself a poet. He had not known of Joan's existence until she showed up unannounced in Chinon and begged to see the dauphin. What he did know was that she had ended the siege of Orleans in a week and that this victory, the first sign of life in years in the dauphin's otherwise moribund campaign against the English, could be used to coax allies into the French camp.

The dauphin desperately needed troops, money, supplies and political support, so to help his sovereign, Perceval wrote a letter to the wealthy duke of Milan

that took the nature of a sales pitch. It was Perceval who, taking poetic license, fabricated the date of Joan's birth. He imbued not only this event but her entire childhood with picturesque details — for example, he claimed that as a girl, Joan never lost a single sheep, which was probably true, as the family kept cattle — intended to surround his subject with an otherworldly aura of mysticism. Over time, this date, like so much of the legend deliberately fashioned around Joan, was accepted as historical fact.

Which is a shame because of all the stories in the world, Joan's is one of the least in need of embellishment. She should not be remembered because she showed the dauphin some trinket, or was an illegitimate member of the French royal family, or revealed secrets that no one else knew (all of which are, like the Jan. 6 date, almost certainly mythological). What makes Joan an iconic figure, as inspirational today as she was six centuries ago, was her faith, her unswerving dedication to her cause and, above all, her astounding bravery. It was this bravery that was demonstrated at her very first battle when, as the wounded French soldiers, bloodied and disheartened, streamed back to the safety of the walls of Orleans, 17-year-old Joan rushed out into the crush of arrows and swords to give battle.

Those of us who lived through 9/11, and who remember the members of the New York City Fire Department and other rescue squads charging up the staircases of the towers as everyone else fled down, will recognize this particular brand of courage.

That is why the story of Joan of Arc resonates, why people all over the world are still drawn to her, and why her memory, if not her birthday, deserves to be celebrated on Jan. 6.

## RELIGIOUS HAPPENINGS

### 'Courageous' To Be Shown At Calvary

The film "Courageous," a movie about law enforcement officers, our everyday heroes who protect and serve the public, will be shown at 7 p.m. Jan. 13-14 at Calvary Baptist Church, 2407 Broadway.

Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

### Faith United To Hold Soup Feed Jan. 15

VOLIN — Faith United Lutheran Church, 44874 303rd Street, rural Volin, will host a chili/chicken noodle soup feed on Sunday, Jan. 15, after the morning service. The feed runs from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Free will donations accepted. All proceeds going toward the Volin Food Pantry.

### Support Group To Begin Meeting At MMC

Divorced, Separated and Widowed — a support group sponsored by Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton — will meet at Roncalli Center, Mount Marty College, Yankton, at 7 p.m. each

Monday beginning Jan. 16.

The support group is a nine-week program created to help divorced, separated and widowed persons work through and deal with the different stages of grief in their lives. The book, "Rebuilding When Your Relationship Ends," will be used as a text to provide a guide in understanding and adjusting to the ending of a love relationship and to rebuilding self-esteem and positive relationships with those around them.

For more information, call Carol Hamvas 665-7158.

### MVCA Spotlight On Kindergarten To Be Held

Missouri Valley Christian Academy will be hosting its "Spotlight on Kindergarten" at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23, at Christ the King Lutheran Church (305 W. 25th St.)

Parents will receive information about MVCA and the kindergarten program while the children take part in special, planned activities with MVCA's kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Karen Frederick.

A meal will be provided, so RSVP to 665-4470.

For more information visit the school's website at www.mv-camustangs.org.

# CHURCH SCHEDULES

Abundant Life	Baptist	Catholic	Church of Christ	Lutheran	Non-Denominational	United Methodist
<b>ABUNDANT LIFE MINISTRIES</b> , 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.	<b>YANKTON BAPTIST CHURCH</b> , SBC, Pastor Matt Green, 607 East 15th St., Yankton, 665-7587. SUN. 9:30am Bible study, SS; 10:45am Worship. WED. 7pm Midweek service.	<b>ST. BONIFACE CHURCH</b> , rural Freeman. JANUARY WEEKEND Mass Saturday 5pm or call Rev. Mathew Vazhappily, (605)583-4318.	<b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> , 1114 West 12th, Yankton, 665-6379. SUN. 9:30am Bible study; classes for all ages. 10:30am Worship.	<b>HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> , AFLC 200 South Wilson, Delmont. (605)935-6941. SUN 9am Worship. 10am Sunday school. firsthope@santel.net	<b>FAITH ALIVE</b> , 501 Cedar St., Yankton. 665-4797. Contemporary Worship & Family Values. SUN: 10am service. WED. 7pm Care-Cells "Small Groups For Building Relationships" Various Locations.	<b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST</b> , 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.
<b>Alliance of Renewal Churches</b> <b>LIVING WATER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP</b> , Sun. 10am Yankton Middle School (2000 Mulberry) WEDs. 7pm Prayer. David Olson, pastor. (605)260-2138.	<b>GRACE BIBLE CHURCH</b> , Call Pastor Joel Finck for meeting times an locations. Regular meetings: Sunday morning 10:30am; Wednesday Bible Study 7pm. (605)760-4701.	<b>ST. COLUMBA CHURCH</b> , rural Irene. JANUARY WEEKEND Mass, Saturday 7pm or call Rev. Mathew Vazhappily, (605)583-4318. Christmas Eve Mass: Dec. 24th 7pm.	<b>Church of Jesus Christ</b> <b>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b> , 2300 Douglas, Yankton. Randy Campbell, (605)565-2016. Family History Ctr 665-0901. SUN. 10am Sacrament meeting.	<b>Martinus Lutheran Church</b> , Ulica. Pastor Dean Schroeder Sunday Divine Service 10:30am (605)589-3195 www.MartinusLutheran.org	<b>GLORY CHRISTIAN CENTER</b> , 901 E 11th St. Yankton. Gail Ryken, pastor, 665-2369. SUN. 10am Service. WED. 6pm Prayer. GC School, call (605)665-1988.	<b>GAYVILLE-VOLIN UNITED METHODODIST</b> , Rick Pittenger, pastor. 624-2179. 9am Worship Service. 10:00am Sunday School.
<b>Assembly of God</b> <b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> , 801 W. 25th, Jeff Mantz, pastor, 665-6362 (office). SUN. 10am Worship Celebration. WED. 6:30pm Midweek service and Bible study for all ages.	<b>HOLY FAMILY CHURCH OF CEDAR COUNTY</b> (Sacred Heart), Wyo- not, NE. Rev. Eric Olsen. (402)357-2400. Mass times, Sundays at 9am.	<b>ST. GEORGE CHURCH</b> , Scotland, SD. Rev. Mathew Vazhappily. JANUARY WEEKEND Mass Sunday 9:30am or call (605)583-4318.	<b>Episcopal</b> <b>CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b> , 517 Douglas, Yankton. Rev. James Pearson, (605)665-2456. Sunday January 8:00 Serenity, 10:15 The Holy Eucharist. Wednesday January 11 Noon The Holy Eucharist. Thursday 3:30 Holy Communion at Majestic Bluffs.	<b>OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN</b> , rural Irene. 263-3724. SUN. 9am Worship.	<b>PEACE PRESBYTERIAN</b> (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.	<b>WAKONDA, IRENE, VIBORG, UNITED METHODIST</b> , Pastor Mark Gronseth. SUN. 8:30am Worship at Wakonda; 9:45am Worship at Irene; 11am Worship at Viborg.
<b>Baptist</b> <b>ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH</b> , 221 W. 3rd, Kevin Caskey, pastor, 665-0066. SUN. 9:30am Sunday School, 10:45pm Preaching Service, 4pm Afternoon Service. THUR. 7pm Preaching & Prayer Service.	<b>HOLY FAMILY CHURCH OF CEDAR COUNTY</b> (Immaculate Conception), St. Helena, NE. Rev. Eric Olsen. (402)357-2400. Mass: Saturday 5pm.	<b>ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC</b> , Lesterville. SUN. 10:30am Mass.	<b>Evangelical</b> <b>Cornerstone Evangelical Church</b> , Pastor Oliver Omanson, Stewart Elementary School; Morning Service 10:30 a.m. Wednesday College Bible Study 1306 Maple Street. Mike Stevens 665-8750.	<b>OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN</b> , LCMC/NALC, Menno. Interim Past 9:00am with brunch to follow; Sunday School 10:20a.m. Questions call (605)387-5256	<b>PRINCE OF PEACE</b> , Wisconsin Synod, 201 East 25th St., Pastor Werre, 665-4793. Sat. 6pm Worship.	<b>KYNT 1450 AM Radio</b> <b>KYNT 1450 AM Radio SAT</b> . 10:30am "Saturday Morning Live." SUN. 8:30am United Methodist Hour. 9:05am "God's Good News." 9:30am St. John's Lutheran Church
<b>BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH</b> , 303 Ohio St., Wakonda. Mike Lindsay, pastor, (605)759-5020. SUNDAY Worship. 11:00a.m. evening 6:00pm WEDNESDAY Bible Study 12Noon.	<b>MOUNT MARTY COLLEGE</b> , Peace Chapel, MMC campus. SUN. 10am Mass with the Sisters in the Bishop Marty Chapel. Public is welcome to attend.	<b>ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> , Constance, Neb., Fr. David Fulton, pastor. SAT. Mass: 7:30pm.	<b>EMMANUEL CHURCH YHS</b> Theater, 1801 Summit, Sunday School at 9:30am Worship Service 10:45 am www.emmanuel-yankton.com (605)665-0404.	<b>OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN</b> , LCMs, 12th and Elm, Springfield. Rev. Kenneth Johnson, pastor. SUN. 8am Worship. 9am SS. THUR. 7pm Adult Bible study.	<b>SEVENTH-DAY</b> <b>SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST</b> , 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.	<b>WNAX 570 AM Radio</b> <b>WNAX 570 AM Radio</b> . Lutheran Shows-6:30am, 8am, 11am. Wings of Healing-7:30am. Words of Hope 8:30am. Prov. Ref. Church-8:45am. Voice of Prop.-9:30am. Hr. of Hope 10am.ChristianCrusaders-10:30am
<b>CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH</b> , 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.	<b>ST. AGNES PARISH: SIGEL</b> , rural Ulica. SUN. 9am Mass, confessions 1/2 hour before Mass.	<b>ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC</b> , Wakonda, Rev. Scott Trayner, 624-2697. SUN. 8:30am Mass.	<b>Lutheran</b> <b>CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> : 305 W. 25th, Yankton, 665-8848. Rev. Dani Jo Ninke. SUN: 8:30am & 10am Worship, SS-9:45am.	<b>South Dakota Lutheran Church</b> Missouri Synod, MAIN STREET LIVING television program, 10a.m. (CST) on KDLT-NBC; and 11a.m. (CST) on KAUN-PAX; and 10a.m. (CST) on KKRA-PAX.	<b>MIX 106 FM Radio</b> <b>CLASSIC HITS 106 KVHT FM</b> Radio SUN.-THUR. 10:05PM "Family Radio Rosary" with Bishop Robert Carlson.	
<b>HARVEST INDEPENDENT BAPTIST</b> , 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.	<b>ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> , Bloomfield, NE. Fr. Michael Schmitz SUN. Mass: 10:30am; TUE. Mass: 8am; THUR. Mass: 7pm. Confessions: THUR. 6:30-6:55pm.	<b>THE HOUSE OF MARY SHRINE</b> , 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	<b>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> , 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.	<b>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> , Hartington/Crofton, NE, Justin Wiess, interim pastor; (402)254-6606. SUN. 9am Worship (Hartington), 10am SS (Hartington), 11am Worship (Crofton).	<b>ESPAN Radio 1570</b> <b>ESPAN RADIO 1570</b> SUN. 10:30AM Trinity Lutheran Church, Vermillion, worship.	
<b>YANKTON DAILY PRESS &amp; DAKOTAN</b> Printing Company 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD • 665-7811	<b>ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> , 1500 St. Benedict Drive, Yankton, Father Ken Lulf, 664-6214 (church). Masses: SAT. 5pm. SUN. 8:30am&10:30am.	<b>CHRISTIAN</b> <b>KINGSWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> , 19th & Burleigh, 665-6317. Joseph Mason, Pastor. 9am-SS; Worship 10:15am. Wed.-6pm-Kids games; 7pm Kids for Christ & Adult Bible Study.	<b>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> , Hartington/Crofton, NE, Justin Wiess, interim pastor; (402)254-6606. SUN. 9am Worship (Hartington), 10am SS (Hartington), 11am Worship (Crofton).	<b>TRONDHEIM LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> (AFLC), rural Volin. 263-3841. SUN. 9:15am; 10:30am Worship.	<b>UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> , Crofton, Neb., 412 W. Main St., (402)388-4124, Pastor Les Parmenter. SUN. 10:00am Worship.	

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