

Cowboy Church Service Set For WJ Ranch

FORDYCE, Neb. — WJ Ranch will offer a cowboy church service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 13. The WJ Ranch is located 7 miles south of Yankton. Messages will be shared from horseback along with great gospel music and fellowship. The coffee will be on. All are welcome and invited. See www.schiferlswjranch.com.

Lakeport Church Annual Celebration Set

Lakeport Church will have its Annual Celebration on Sunday, Sept. 20. Mass time will be 10:30 a.m. with Fr. Steven Jones officiating. This year will be dedicated to the organists that played for the celebrations-Florence Sutura, Carla Bain and Violet Povandra.

If you know a family name that should be dedicated in the future call: Leona Cwach, (605) 665-7956. The church is located west of Yankton on the west side of Bruce Schwarz farm. The motto is "Restoring the Past for the Future." A potluck dinner will be held at the American Legion Hall in Tabor after mass. Bring a dish to share and your table service (plate, cup, silverware etc.) Coffee and cold drinks will be furnished.

If you bought a Janousek book, there are two pages to add to the book, call Lone Cap, (605) 661-4066.

A clean-up day is set for Sunday, Sept. 13, at 1 p.m. Please bring cleaning supplies and a snack to share. Any questions, call Leona Cwach, (605) 665-7956.

Divorced, Widowed Support Group To Start

The Divorced, Widowed and Separated Support Group of Yankton will be starting again Sept. 14.

This 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.

St. Boniface Annual Fall Supper Set

FREEMAN — The St. Boniface, Idylwilde Annual Fall Supper will be held Sunday, Oct. 11, at the church, located at 28703 444th Ave. near Freeman. Serving is from 4:30-7:30 p.m. This event is sponsored by the St. Boniface Altar Society.

'We Are The Monks' Set For Local Church

"We Are The Monks" featuring the husband and wife duo, Trent and Shellie Monk, will be leading worship at Discovery Church at 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning, Sept. 6. The Yankton community is invited to attend. Discovery Church is located in downtown Yankton at 205 West 3rd St.

"We Are The Monks" will also be appearing at LifeLight in Sioux Falls on Saturday, Sept. 5 at 4 p.m. Check out "We Are The Monks" and their music at their website http://www.wearethemonks.com/.

Pope: Priests In Holy Year Can Absolve 'Sin Of Abortion'

BY FRANCES D'EMILIO
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis is applying his vision of a merciful church to women who have had abortions, easing their path toward forgiveness and saying he realizes some felt they had no choice but to make "this agonizing and painful decision."

In a letter published Tuesday by the Holy See, Francis said he was allowing all rank-and-file priests to grant absolution during the Holy Year of Mercy he has proclaimed, which runs Dec. 8, 2015 until Nov. 20, 2016.

The Roman Catholic Church views abortion as such a grave sin that it put the matter of granting forgiveness for an abortion in the hands of a bishop, who could either hear the woman's confession himself or delegate that to a priest who is expert in such situations.

Now, Francis is making it possible for women to bypass this formalized process in the approaching special Year of Mercy while putting the stress on "contrite" hearts.

In a statement after the pope's letter, the Vatican made clear that "forgiveness of the sin of abortion does not condone abortion nor minimize its grave effects. The newness is clearly Pope Francis' pastoral approach."

In the United States, many bishops already allow priests to absolve women who have had abortions, while in other dioceses, bishops have reserved the decision for themselves, said the Rev. James Martin, editor-at-large of the Jesuit magazine America.

The pope's directive on Tuesday "reminds priests of the need for mercy, and it also takes a very pastoral tone toward women who have had an abortion," Martin said.

New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan, who will be hosting Francis in the city later this month during the papal U.S. pilgrimage, noted that priests in his diocese have had the authority to forgive the sin of abortion for about three decades.

"I hope that this announcement by the Holy Father will encourage many people to come forward to find the true peace and healing through this beautiful and tender Sacrament of Reconciliation," Dolan wrote on his blog.

Francis made clear he isn't downplaying the gravity of abortion, which the church essentially views as equivalent to

murder. But he emphasized that abortion is an intensely personal, often anguished choice for women.

"The tragedy of abortion is experienced by some with a superficial awareness, as if not realizing the extreme harm that such an act entails," Francis wrote. "Many others on the other hand, although experiencing this moment as a defeat, believe that they have no other option."

Francis drew on decades of pastoral experience with faithful in his native Argentina, including as Buenos Aires archbishop.

"I have met so many women who bear in their heart the scar of this agonizing and painful decision," the pope wrote.

"I am well aware of the pressure that led them to this decision," Francis said. "I know that it is an existential and moral ordeal."

"The forgiveness of God cannot be denied to one who has repented, especially when that person approaches the sacrament of confession with a sincere heart in order to obtain reconciliation with the Father," the pope said.

That is why he has decided to concede to all priests "the discretion to absolve of the sin of abortion those who have procured it and who, with contrite heart, seek forgiveness for it," Francis said.

His words found welcome on his home continent.

In Brazil, which counts more Catholics than any other nation and where abortion is permitted only when a woman's life is endangered, polls routinely show well over two-thirds of Brazilians think their abortion laws should stay strict.

But Renata Maia, a 36-year-old mother of two, welcomed the pope's move as she walked up the steps of a church in Rio de Janeiro.

"While I'm against taking a life, I also know that women who have had abortions need forgiveness," Maia said.

Rosangela Talib, a coordinator at the Sao Paulo-based group Catholics for the Right to Decide, welcomed the development, but said "it would be far more important if it didn't have an expiration date."

"It should be permanent, not just during the Year of Mercy," she said.

Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, executive director of a New York-based abortion rights organization, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, called it significant the pope "recognizes the need to talk about abortion." But she said

Francis' statement perpetuates the idea that women who have an abortion should be ashamed.

"We reject any attempt to impose judgment or shame on someone based on deeply personal decisions about health, pregnancy and whether to become a parent," Gonzalez-Rojas said.

Maureen Tilley, a theologian at Fordham University, noted that under some circumstances, a woman who has had an abortion is automatically excommunicated if she wasn't under coercion or suffering from a psychological problem that affected her decision-making.

To be readmitted to the church, it's customary for the woman to be asked to perform some penance, such as making a pilgrimage, along with seeking absolution. Some 30 million faithful are expected to come to Rome on Year of Mercy pilgrimages.

"We haven't seen any doctrinal changes, but by emphasizing mercy, Francis can affect the way people see the Church," University of Notre Dame theology professor Candida Moss, said in an emailed comment. "And a change in tone can, in this case, amount to a change in character."

Popes have been calling holy years since 1300, for special blessings and the forgiveness of sins. Those who can be urged to make a pilgrimage to Rome, while others who can't travel are asked to participate by performing an act of penance. These jubilees are typically held every 25 or 30 years, but the pope has the discretion to call them at any time. The last jubilee was in 2000, called by Pope John Paul II.

Almost lost in the intense attention Tuesday over the pope's comments on abortion was Francis' reaching out to a schismatic group of ultra-conservative, traditionalist Catholics, as he is determined to stress what unites instead of what divides.

Francis wrote that priests of a breakaway group, the Fraternity of St. Pius X, can absolve faithful of their sins in this special time.

"This Year of Mercy excludes no one," Francis said, expressing hope that "near-future solutions" may bring full community with the group's priests and superiors. Those who approach these priests in the Holy Year "shall validly and licitly receive the absolution of their sins," Francis said.

CHURCH SCHEDULES

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.

Alliance of Renewal Churches

Living Water Christian Fellowship, Sunday 10am Yankton Middle School (2000 Mulberry) Wed 7pm Prayer. David Olson, pastor. 605-260-2138.

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

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.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH 301 Ohio St., Wakonda. Dr. Calvin Jones, pastor. 605-267-1100 SUNDAY Worship 11am.

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

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.

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.

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.

Catholic

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, St Helena, NE. Rev Eric Olsen. 402-357-2400. Mass: Sundays 11am. Through August.

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.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church Wynot, NE. Rev. Eric Olsen 402-357-2400. Mass times, Saturdays 5:00pm. Through August.

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.

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.

St. Agnes Parish Sigel rural Utica. Mass time: Every 2nd, 4th Sunday at 10:30am in winter & 8:30am in summer. Confessions 1/2 hour before Mass. Father Steven Jones.

St. Andrews Catholic Church, Bloomfield, NE. Fr. Michael Schmitz. Sunday Mass-10:30am; 2nd, 4th, 5th, Tuesday Mass 8:00am; Thursday Mass-8:00am

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

St. Boniface Catholic Church, Menominee, NE. Rev. James Keiter, SUN 8:30am. 1st SAT of month 8:00am

St. Boniface Idylwilde, rural Freeman, SD: Sunday Mass 11:00am 605-327-3438 www.stbonifacesd-parishesonline.com

St. Columba Mayfield, rural Irene, SD. Saturday's at 6:30pm Holy Mass.

St. George Scotland, SD: Holy Mass Sundays 9a.m. 605-583-4318. www.parishesonline.com/stgeorgescotlandsd

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

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Lesterville. Mass time: Every 1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday 10:30am winter & 8:30am summer. Confessions 1/2 hour before. Father Steven Jones

Catholic

St. Josephs Catholic Church, Constance, NE. Rev. James Keiter. SAT 7:30pm Mass.

St. Leo Catholic Church Tyndall Saturday 5:30pm Mass; Sunday 8:30am Mass. Confessions 45 mins before each Mass. Father Joseph Forcelle.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church Wakonda, SD. Father David Roehrich, Sunday 8:30am Mass.

St. Vincent Catholic Church Springfield, SD. Sunday 10:30am Mass. Confessions 1/2 hour before. Father Joseph Forcelle.

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.

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Bow Valley, NE. Rev. Eric Olsen 402-357-2400. Mass: Sunday 9:00am. Through August.

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

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.

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.

Episcopal

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH Sunday 9am Serenity, 10am The Holy Eucharist & Sunday School. Mondays 10:30am Centering Prayer. Wednesdays 7pm Meditation.

Evangelical

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.

Redeeming Grace Bible Church, 19th 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.

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.

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.

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

GAYVILLE-BERGEN LUTHERAN 605-267-4342, Bergen Workshop 9:00 am, Sunday School-9:20 am Gayville Workshop-10:30 am, Sunday School 9:15 am.

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

Our Redeemer Lutheran rural Irene. 605-263-3724. Sunday 9am Worship.

Our Savior's Lutheran, LCM/NALC, Menno. Pastor Theresa Jacobson Office 605-387-5241. Worship Saturdays 7pm.

Our Savior's Lutheran, LCMS, 12th and Elm, Springfield. Rev. Kenneth Johnson, pastor. Sun. 8am Worship. 9am SS. Thur. 7pm Adult Bible study.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Synod, 201 E. 25th Street, Yankton. Pastor Winifred Schroeder 605-665-4793. Sunday 9:15am. Worship; 10:15am Bible Study

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

St. John Lutheran Church, Tyndall. Pastor Dean Schroeder. Sunday Divine Service; 8:30am; 605-589-3195. www.StJohnsTyndallLCM-S.org

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS), 1009 Jackson. Pastor David Gunderson. SUN 8am Worship, 9:15am Education Hour, 10:30 am Worship.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Hartington/Crofton, NE. Amanda Jertson pastor; (402)254-9606. SUN 9am Worship (Hartington), 10am SS (Hartington), 11am Worship (Crofton).

Trinity Lutheran Church, 403 Broadway Yankton, 665-7415. Contemporary Service SAT 5:30pm & SUN 8:15am. Traditional Service SUN 10:00am.

Lutheran

Trondhjem Lutheran Church (AFLC), rural Volin. 605-263-3841. Sunday 9:15am; 10:30am Worship

Vangen Lutheran Church, Mission Hill. 605-665-5426. Worship 10:30am. Sunday School 9:30am.

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, 7:00pm Youth Group. WED: 6:30pm Discovery Zone for Kids. 6:45pm Adult Bible Study. www.discoverychurchyankton.org

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.

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.

Presbyterian

Peace Church (PCUSA), 206 E. 31st. Rev. Jennifer Swier, 605-665-0448. Sunday 11:30am worship. Coffee 11am. Aired at 8pm Fri. on Ch. 3 & 98.

Reformed

Riverview Reformed Church, 17th St & Burleigh, Yankton. Reverend Rodney Veldhuizen, pastor. 605-665-9204. SUN. 9:30am Worship, 10:15am SS. Wed. youth group & adult choir.

Please Recycle!

Seventh-Day Adventist

Seventh-Day Adventist, 722 Locust St., Yankton. 665-1032. Worship Services: Saturday 9:30am & 11am. Pastor Nick Osborn (605) 760-7791. Yankton Fruit Program. Yanktonfruitprogram.org

United Church of Christ

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Newcatle, NE, 303 Hwy. 12. Rev. Gary Kimm, pastor. SAT 6pm Church school, 7pm Worship. Second THURS. 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, NE. 402-283-4824 or 664-5310. Rev Gary Kimm, pastor. Sun 9:30am Church School, 10:30am Worship.

United Church of Christ

United Church of Christ Crofton, NE. 412 W Main St., (402)388-4124. Pastor Woodrow Weidner SUN 10:00am Worship.

United Church of Christ (Congregational) 210 West 5th St. Yankton, SD 605-665-7320 Pastor Molly Carlson. SUN 10:00am Worship. 11:00am Fellowship.

United Methodist

FIRST UNITED METHODIST, Yankton. Rev. Ron Johnson, Pastor, 207 W. 11th St. 665-2991. Wednesday: 7pm - Contemporary Service Sunday: 10am - Traditional Worship Service. Through 9/6/15.

First United Methodist. Wakonda, Irene, Viborg: Pastor Judy Saylor. 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, 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.

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.

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