

hope, you give up believing in people made in God's image. In fact, when you give up hope, you give up believing that you are made in God's image.

Qualities of generosity, sharing, loving a neighbor as one's self are thrown out the window. It is about me and mine, no one else. Bang on my steel trap door all you want but you can't come in, you can't have food, and I deny you all hope.

See, hopelessness is contagious. It feeds on itself. Soon, as the conversations shift to these topics and we start talking about "New World Orders", or the crash of the global economy no one is thinking about what God might be doing. It is as though we believe that the world is truly in the hands of politicians, big money people, and terrorist groups.

I don't have a single fear that some group is going to start a war that is the final battle on earth before we blow it into tiny pieces. From what I can read in Scripture, the end of the world comes exactly on the day God determines it will and not a day before that.

When I truly believe that God is in control of the future, all of the extremes move aside. I am not saying you can't plan for old age, but I do contend you don't need to go bury a shipping container in the woods and learn which weeds are edible.

Does this mean that the economy can't collapse? Of course it can. Does it mean that there will never be another war, not at all. What I am suggesting is that you and I are much better served to spend our time and energies on speaking of our confidence in God than our fears for America. I believe our world needs the message of hope in Scripture more than it needs camo clothing and racks of AK47s.

So the next time the topic turns to cattle prices, commodity futures, or global collapse... mention God.

*Grace and Peace,*

*Carl*



St John Church of Christ  
A Family of God

February 1, 2015

There are those who face this life without hope. The folks I am thinking of attempt to control all that they can. They plan as far into the future as they can see. They cover every base, attempt to hedge themselves against every emergency, while becoming furious at anything that threatens their plan.

On one extreme you have "preppers", those who feel they must hoard food, ammunition, clothing, along with any other future need in a remote location with hidden tunnels, booby trapped doors where they can hunker down and survive the coming collapse of the world order. They guard themselves against others knowing the location or even that the plan is in place. They have their "bug out" bags prepared and are ready to fight their way to this hidden location. They trust themselves, not a future and not God.

I've wondered, what gets someone there? How do you go from being a happy-go-lucky pre-teen to someone who sees a future living in a bunker fighting off friends and neighbors over the last remaining items of value?

One thing is that these "survivalists" or "preppers" see this world as a real important place to stay. They want be able to defend themselves against "Mad Max" and live an existence where everyone around them is the enemy. Remember, when you give up

St John Church of Christ  
609 N Pearl  
P. O. Box 241  
St John, KS 67576

*Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.*

SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service – 9:30 am  
Bible Study for all ages – 10:00 am  
Worship Services – 10:45 am  
WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study – 7:30 pm  
Youth Group – 7:30 pm (at Carl's)  
ELDERS: Richard Brensing, Teddy Gingrich,  
Loyd Ratts, Terry Sallee, George Shelton  
DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel  
TREASURER: Richard Brensing

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## WORSHIP ORDER FOR FEBRUARY 1, 2015

SONG LEADER: Richard Brensing  
GATHERING SONG: No. 71 – As the Deer  
WELCOME: Tom Turner  
SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9 (Kade Kinnamon)  
SONGS: No. 536 – Higher Ground Medley  
--No. 537- Here We Are But Straying Pilgrims (vs 1, 2)  
--No. 538- My Hope is Built on Nothing Less (vs 1, 2)  
--No. 539- Higher Ground(vs 1, 4)  
No. 497 – Whispering Hope  
No. 777 – Father, Hear the Prayer We Offer (vs 1)  
PRAYER: Terry Sallee  
SONG: No. 364 – Come, Share the Lord  
COMMUNION: Jerry Kinnamon  
Orrin Feril  
Clint Kinnamon  
Gary Hornbaker  
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril  
SONG: No. 853 – When We All Get to Heaven  
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)  
SONG: No. 907 – Hark, the Gentle Voice (vs 1)  
PRAYER: Ned Marks

(CCLI #2440129)

### WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship today – please come again!

### LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The next lesson will be about Ruth and is planned for Saturday, February 21st at 9:00 am here at the church building. Joy will be leading the study and Lory will prepare a light breakfast. Please make plans to attend!

### YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!

There will be a celebration in honor of Loyd Ratts' 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00 – 5:00 pm at the IOOF Lodge here in St John.

### WOMEN WALKING WITH GOD CONFERENCE

This annual event will be held April 17-18 in Wichita at the Hartman Arena. Several ladies from here are already registered to go, but registrations are still being accepted for any more who would like to commit to attend. Please see Janet if you are interested.

### SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to Bruce Goodwin's family on the passing of his mother, **Marjorie Goodwin**, this past week. Memorial services will be held in York, NE on Saturday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>.

Church website: [www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org](http://www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org)

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Garland Mansel 2/6

### PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please provide updates to Janet)

**Vesta Shelton** (George's sister-in-law) suffered a stroke last week, involving the optic nerve; may possibly affect her vision

**Maggie Harris** (Lisa Cornwell's mother) short stay in the hospital in Lawrence last week.

**Harper & Mason Sallee** – are both recovering from pneumonia

**Lyndsey Dryden** – ongoing recovery from a serious auto accident

**Jason Stadalman** – recent auto accident

**Carol Gingrich** – pacemaker in the near future

**Dennis Rosenbaum** – recovering from surgery for a detached retina

**Pete Witt** – now in Hospice care

**Dena Mansel** – health concerns

**Cody Dick** – cancer; undergoing treatments

**Roger Dick** - cancer

**Jonathan Batten** – as he continues chemotherapy

**Charlene Lyons** (Chet's sister-in-law) – as she continues to recover from surgery

**Theo Birkett** (Tara's mother)

**Jim Sorensen** (Tara's brother-in-law; monthly chemo for brain tumor)

**Eldon Ivy** (Marilyn's brother) – health concerns

**Jim Soukup** (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])

**Wilbur Kinnamon** – Leisure Homestead in Stafford

**Myron Brensing** – HomePlus in Stafford

**Bonnie Guthrie** (Kay's mother) – HomePlus in Stafford

**Vic & Phyllis Staub** – Kenwood Plaza

**Laura Wyatt** – Kenwood Plaza

**Margaret Marks** (Ned's mother)