

Church Page Reflection: Mud Remover

By Sarah Dixon Young

‘Tis the season for mud here in the thawing north country. No less than four vehicles were stuck in my driveway this week, and the drabness of pre-spring below matches the grey sleet clouds above. But, today, I saw a robin, and ice still sparkles when the light shines on it. My family has really enjoyed Randall Goodgame’s newly released “Scripture Hymnal,” and one of the Scriptures he set to music is Psalm 34:4-5: “I sought the Lord, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces



Young shall never be ashamed.” I hummed it as I contemplated a muddy puddle, and I was delighted to discover that the word “radiant” in the Hebrew means “to sparkle” like light playing on the top of a flowing stream. Sometimes, the shame

of my sin and perversion makes me think that others can read it like mud smeared on my face. I cannot hide it. It bogs me down. It keeps me from knowing the fullness of joy. It makes me want to hide in a muddy hole. This week, I also cleaned out the drain in my shower. I will spare you the gruesome details, but it reminded me of the work of ministry, helping others navigate the ugliness and shame of sin. I had the drain tool, black, twisted, and spiky, in one hand and really wished I had grabbed a glove for the other before beginning. But once you have your hands dirty in ministry, it’s too late to separate yourself

from the ugly reality of sin. But then, today, I saw the robin, and the Lord lead me to a mud puddle that had the sparkling radiance of ice floating atop it, bringing Psalm 34 to mind. Author Dorothy Sayers wrote, “Believers in Christ expect to be saved, not from danger and suffering, but in danger and suffering... beneath the coruscations of their joy, the blackness and squalor of the pit open and run down to the center.” I had to look up “coruscations.” Merriam-Webster says it means “glitter, sparkle, flash.” Sparkling, again. The radiance that God supplies for us doesn’t just cover over our shame,

however. It removes and replaces it. Because we look to Him, the muddy shame is gone, and we sparkle, like ice crystals reflecting His light. Jesus never intended for His disciples to wallow in the mud of our own sin, the sin of others, or the sin of the world. Instead, He commands us to look to Him for mud remover so that we can reflect His radiance to a weary world—even in the midst of mud season. *Radiance: A Poem to Worship* By “I fill my dormant soul with bird song on the day when I first see robins. Even carrion crows add their voice

as the ice still hushes water, and I try to use my new word: “Coruscations,” but I will have to wait until the sun is brighter.” Sarah Dixon Young uses stories everyday to share the love of Jesus with her family, friends, and neighbors. She lives in Fort Totten, ND with her husband, Paul, and their four children. She is the author of five books, many articles, and more Sunday School lessons than she can count. You can follow her adventures or get in touch at www.SarahDixonYoung.com

For Christians Holy Week is coming April 13 - 20

Each year in early spring, Christians across the globe celebrate their faith on Easter. Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, an event which is described in the New Testament. Mass on Easter Sunday annually attracts millions of the faithful. However, many days during the week preceding Easter Sunday, often referred to

as Holy Week, also bear significance to faithful Christians. **Palm Sunday** Palm Sunday begins Holy Week and commemorates the entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. Upon entering the city, Jesus was greeted by crowds waving palm branches. That is why Christians receive palm branches or palm crosses

during Palm Sunday Mass. **Holy Wednesday** Holy Wednesday draws attention to the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples. Holy Wednesday services may feature Tenebrae, a religious service characterized by the extinguishing of candles. That portion of the service is meant to symbolize darkness, which is

what “Tenebrae” means in Latin. **Maundy Thursday** The Last Supper is commemorated on Maundy Thursday, which also commemorates the Washing of the Feet (Maundy). The Last Supper was Jesus’s final meal with his apostles before his crucifixion. According to Christian scripture, Jesus



See HOLY | 5

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

ASSEMBLY OF GOD River of Life 1903 Hwy 20 Devils Lake 701-662-4582 www.riverlife.us Sunday: 10 a.m. worship	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS 20th St. & Lincoln Ave. Devils Lake Sunday: 10 a.m. Sacrament at 11 a.m.	LIGHTHOUSE ASSEMBLY OF GOD Fort Totten, N.D. 701-766-4826 Sunday 10:30 a.m.	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 515 Fourth St. Devils Lake 662-7558 Monday -Friday at 12:00pm Tuesday at 10:00am at Odd Fellows Wednesday at 10:00am at Eventide Friday at 9:30am at St. Joseph School Saturday at 8:30am & 5:00pm Sunday at 7:30am, 9:00am & 11:00am	ST. WILLIAMS CATHOLIC CHURCH Maddock, N.D. 438-2668 Wednesday: 7 p.m. Mass. Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Mass. Mass at 5 p.m. on the first Friday of the month.
ASSUMPTION OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH Starkweather, N.D. 292-4301 Sunday: Mass: Rotating 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. with St. Mary's, Munich Call 682-5178 (Munich).	DAKOTA BAPTIST CHURCH West Highway 57 Fort Totten Church - 766-4516 Sunday: 11 a.m. worship.	MORNING STAR PARISH 701-262-4714 www.morningstarparish.com Worship services at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. rotating: American, Pekin, Warwick, Sigdal and Sheyenne Lutheran	ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH St. Michael, ND 58370 766-4151 Sunday Mass: 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.	SEVEN DOLORS CATHOLIC CHURCH Fort Totten 766-4314 Sunday: 11 a.m. Mass. Daily Mass: 7 a.m.
BDECAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Tokio, N.D. (2 miles south of Tokio, near Woodlake) 294-2283 www.bdecanpresbyterian-church.org Worship: at 11 a.m., Sunday school kids K - 5 grade during worship, potluck meal after	EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT Sixth Street and Fifth Avenue Devils Lake 11 a.m. Morning prayer 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays Holy Eucharist- 4th Sunday	NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP North Junction of Hwy. 15 & 20 Rural Hamar 262-4470 Sunday: 10:30 a.m. worship service	ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA 601 6th St. NE Devils Lake, ND 662-4911 9:30 a.m. Worship (September - May) Summer: 8:30 a.m. at Retreat Center 11 a.m. at St. Olaf (June - August)	WEBSTER CHAPEL Webster, N.D. Worship is at 9 a.m. the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays.
BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH 1312 East Walnut St. Devils Lake 662-3758 www.bethelfree.com Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.	FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 601 Fifth St. NE Devils Lake Sunday 9:30 a.m. worship	OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA 612 14th Ave. NE Devils Lake, N.D. 662-5112 Sunday: 10 a.m. Service Wednesday: 6 p.m. Service	ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 7th St. & 7th Ave. 662-2245 Devils Lake Missouri Synod Worship: 11 a.m. Dial-a-Devotion: 662-3158.	WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 501 Fifth St. NE Devils Lake, 662-3584 Sunday worship 11:00 a.m.
CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH Tokio Saturday: 7 p.m. Mass all year round.	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 311 5th Ave. NE Devils Lake 701-230-1332 Sunday: 10:30am and 6 p.m.	PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (NALC) 1700 Fifth Ave. NE PO Box 1041 Devils Lake, N.D. 662-3565 Worship Sunday 9:30 a.m.	ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH Fort Totten, N.D. 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sundays, 4th Sunday - Morning Prayer	ZOAR FREE LUTHERAN Hampden, North Dakota Pastor Craig Wentzel May through August Worship Sundays 9 a.m.
CHURCH OF GOD (SEVENTH DAY) 607 Fifth St. S.E. Devils Lake Saturday: 2 p.m.	GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Lakota Missouri Synod Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.	ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH Esmond, N.D. 249-8360 Tuesday-Saturday: Weekday Mass at 9 a.m. Saturday: 5 p.m. Mass. Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mass.	If you would like to make changes or corrections to this ad, please contact Louise at loleson@cmpapers.com	
	HIGH PLAINS MINISTRY Nekoma, Lawton, Concordia, and Our Redeemer's	ST. JEROME'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Crow Hill District Hwy. #57, One mile N. Saturday: Mass 5 p.m.		
	LAKOTA LUTHERAN CHURCH LAKOTA, ND 247-2777 Sundays: 10 a.m.			

This week's listing brought to you by the following local businesses:

-Devils Lake Journal & the Country Peddler
516 4th St., 662-2127

-Jerome W wholesale
1115 2nd Ave. NE, 662-5366

-Nordic Fiberglass & All Employees

-Glibertson Funeral Home
Hwy2West

-Altru Health System
1001 7th St NE, 662-2158

-Eventide Senior Living Communittes

-Leevers Foods
323 5th St. NE, 662-4945

-Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 756
314 3rd Ave NE, 662-4117

-First United Bank
323 5th St NE, 662-4024