

Church Page Reflection: A Prayer Listen

By Sarah Dixon Young

“Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil,” the Preacher wrote in his book of Ecclesiastes.

This past Saturday, there were a lot of things I could have been doing, but I participated in a prayer drive with a group from my church.

A prayer drive is where you walk or drive (or bike or run) through your community and pray for the people, places, events, and



Young

spiritual conditions.

We went to the playground where we will have neighborhood Bible clubs for children. We prayed at the school. We joined hands at the government

buildings, the jail, a housing neighborhood, in each district of the reservation, and at the church.

I thought that the afternoon spent in prayer would help me make a list of the ministry activities and events I could accomplish during the summer. I came with an attitude of a fool, sacrificing just to get things done so I could cross them off my list.

God invited me there to listen.

An elder joined us for prayer. In my community, we would call her “Kunsi,” Grandma. After we made several stops, this dear woman shared this:

“When I take my coffee out on my deck in the morning, I go to meet with God. I give Him a hug. I tell him I am depending on Him. I read His words, and He tells me that all I have to do is stay close to Him. He is the vine. We are the branches. He will make us fruitful, no matter what season we are in.”

She gives Him a hug. I thought of the suffering the woman had seen in her life, and I thought of the times that I knew of that she would have needed that heavenly hug. It made me think of my own spiritual poverty. How many times had I needed that hug from

the Lord? How many times had I rushed right past it to get down to business? She had learned to sit and listen.

The Lord lamented when He told the prophet Jeremiah, “My people did not listen or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck, that they might not hear and receive instruction... Every one of you follows his stubborn, evil will, refusing to listen to Me.”

When we returned to the church to share what the Lord had shown us during our prayer time, I did not share. I listened.

Some of the other ladies admonished us with this

verse: “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you. Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you...”

This summer, the Lord simply wants me to draw near and listen.

“Come, let us return to the Lord; for He has torn us, that He may heal us... after two days, He will revive us; on the third day, He will raise us up, that we may live before Him. Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord.”

Reflection: The Ascension of the Lord into Heaven

by Deacon Jeffrey Vaagen, St. Joseph Catholic Church

“He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.”

Happy Easter... Yes, it is still Easter! We have one more week of Easter until we celebrate the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost! This week we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord!

Following the account of the Ascension in the Acts of the Apostles 1:3 that the

risen Jesus appeared for 40 days from the Resurrection on Easter Sunday until his Ascension into heaven. The Ascension has traditionally been celebrated on this fortieth day of Easter. The Church observes the Feast of the Ascension this year on Thursday, May 29, 2025. However, in some Catholic dioceses and in some Christian denominations, this celebration is transferred to the following Sunday, June 1, 2025, the Seventh Sunday of Easter. This is often done to allow for broader

participation among the faithful.

In a homily on the importance of this celebration, Saint Augustine, one of the earliest and greatest theologians of the Church, described the importance of the Ascension by saying; *“The Ascension is that feast which confirms the grace of all the feasts together; without which the profitability of every feast would have perished. For unless the Savior had ascended into heaven, his Nativity would have come to nothing ...*

and his Passion would have borne no fruit for us, and his most holy Resurrection would have been useless.”

This plan, God’s Plan of Salvation, was ultimately fulfilled through these four events in the life of Jesus; by his Passion (his suffering), his Death, his Resurrection, and ultimately his Ascension. This is called the Paschal Mystery and it is these mysteries that are so essential to our Christian belief.

The Ascension of Jesus

can and should be a source of strength and encouragement for each of us. Think of the times when we have felt alone or even abandoned? Perhaps we feel doubts in our own journey of Faith. When we feel that way remember that we have the Son of God, Jesus Christ, seated at the right hand of God the Father, to intercede for us, praying for us.

By His Ascension, Jesus has not deserted us but has made it possible for the Holy Spirit to enter all of

us, in all times and places. When we have the perception that Jesus is absent in our lives, know that our Lord is fully present to us, participating in every moment of our lives. It really makes it possible for each of us to be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, even in the simplest of ways, into the mission of Jesus Christ.

This mission is not given to a select few but to all who believe. It is given to

See REFLECTION | 5A

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	DAKOTA OYATE LUTHERAN CHURCH 294-2361 Tokio, N.D. 11 a.m. worship	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)	TRINITY-BERGEN AFLC LUTHERAN CHURCH PO Box 46 Starkweather Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion every Sunday
BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH 1312 East Walnut St. Devils Lake 662-3758 www.bethelfree.com Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.	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	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.	WEBSTER CHAPEL Webster, N.D. Worship is at 9 a.m. the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays.
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.	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.	ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH Fort Totten, N.D. 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sundays, 4th Sunday - Morning Prayer	WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 501 Fifth St. NE Devils Lake, 662-3584 Sunday worship 11:00 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. JEROME'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Crow Hill District Hwy. #57, One mile N. Saturday: Mass 5 p.m.	ZOAR FREE LUTHERAN Hampden, North Dakota Pastor Craig Wentzel May through August Worship Sundays 9 a.m.	If you would like to make changes or corrections to this ad, please contact Louise at loleson@cmpapers.com

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	