

Reflection: Another Chicken Parable

by Sarah Dixon Young

The weather has been warm enough to move my chickens out of the coop and into the chicken tractors.

Chicken tractors are mobile coops that roll around the yard.

After a whole winter cooped up in the coop, the chickens should have been very happy to graze green grass and feel the Spring breezes.

But they weren't.

They went from laying eight or nine eggs a day to none. I thought maybe the stress of being caught (my eight year old helped) kept them



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from laying, but after two weeks with only one or two eggs, I knew they didn't like being out of their box.

I tried different feed, different routines, and different straw in their

nest boxes. Nothing worked, and eggs are expensive! I wondered if I would have to move them back into their winter coop after all.

Finally, my husband helped me put a roof over the nest boxes. Immediately, they got back into egg production. Now, we're back to normal.

I was thinking about my chickens at church this morning. Worship is so different than our regular routines. Quiet is so different than the noise that intrudes on every moment. Fellowship is the opposite of the quarrelsome cattiness

we're used to.

It was potluck Sunday, and several young people quickly offered to help in the kitchen. I was appreciative of their offer to help, but I also reassured them that all the food was ready and encouraged them to focus on worship.

"Worship?" said one, "I don't even know how to do that."

None of us do if we keep our minds on the places we've come from. I found myself singing a secular song as I walked from the kitchen to the sanctuary, and that's when I thought about my chickens.

I can't produce spiritual fruit because God pushes me right out of the boxes I have put myself in. I liked the comfortable familiar, the noise of my own making, but He says, "Be still and know that I am God."

Just like a chicken flourishing in the freedom of green, grassy meadows, once the Lord has taught my heart to worship Him, I should never want to go back to the coop. Instead of taking my coop-ish thinking with me into worship, I should take the renewed mind He's given me to all my other settings.

Jesus taught that exact

truth when He said:

"Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin...So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

We've been freed from the confines of our former ways of thinking and doing things so that we can offer the gift of our worship to God. When we worship, God remakes our hearts and minds so that we can glorify Him in all of our daily routines.

He covers us, like my husband adding a roof to the nest boxes, so that we will be secure enough in Him to produce fruit.

What is the Jewish Festival, Shavuot?

(AP) - Sunday afternoon's attack in Boulder, Colorado, took place hours before the start of a major Jewish festival, Shavuot.

Authorities say a man threw two incendiary devices into a group holding one of its regular rallies in solidarity with Israeli hostages in Gaza. Twelve people were injured and the FBI described the violence as

a "targeted terror attack."

What is Shavuot?

Shavuot (pronounced Shah-voo-OTE), Hebrew for "weeks," has been observed since biblical times. It marks the passing of seven weeks (49 days) from the holiday of Passover, with Shavuot falling on the 50th day.

In biblical times, Shavuot was an agricultural festival, when Israelites would bring harvest offer-

ings to the temple.

Today, it's primarily commemorated as the traditional date on which God gave the Torah — the law that forms the heart of the Jewish Scriptures — to Moses on Mount Sinai, as described in the Bible.

The 50-day time period gives the festival its Greek name, Pentecost, which is also the name for a holy day on the Chris-

tian calendar.

When is Shavuot?

Shavuot falls on the 6th of Sivan on the Jewish calendar, which reckons days as beginning at sundown. This year, Shavuot began Sunday evening and continues for one or two days, depending on tradition.

For Jews inside Israel and for Reform Jews, the festival lasts for one day. Other traditions

outside of Israel observe Shavuot for two days, ending Tuesday evening this year. (The variation stems from different traditions on when to observe lunar holidays, which historically were based on moon observations in ancient Israel.) Shavuot typically falls in May or June on the Gregorian calendar.

How is Shavuot observed?

Jews celebrate with readings of the biblical book of Exodus, including the Ten Commandments. Some mark the occasion with all-night readings from the Torah and other religious texts. Observant Jews refrain from work on Shavuot. The biblical book of Ruth, about a woman who embraces the Jewish faith, is often read and studied.

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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.	FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 601 Fifth St. NE Devils Lake Sunday 9:30 a.m. worship	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	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 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.	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
	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.		
	HIGH PLAINS MINISTRY Nekoma, Lawton, Concordia, and Our Redeemer's			
	LAKOTA LUTHERAN CHURCH LAKOTA, ND 247-2777 Sundays: 10 a.m.			

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

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1001 7th St NE, 662-2158

-Eventide Senior Living Communittes

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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