

# Reflection: On Praying for Your Pastor

By Sarah Dixon Young

I prayed for my pastor today.

He had crawled up into the church's playground equipment and was scrubbing graffitied profanity with a magic eraser.

As I watched him scrub, I thought of the many times people brought him their sins, cloaked as problems to be solved. Instead of offering magic erasers, my pastor gave the Gospel Truth that Jesus is the only One who can forgive sins, and repentance is all that is needed.

I prayed for my pastor today.

He was cooking the potluck meal in the church kitchen while he worked



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on his sermon. Stirring mashed potatoes for shepherd's pie, he prepared a spiritual feast for the sheep as well. He yearned for them to sink their teeth into the meat of the Scripture and not just be satisfied with milk.

While they listened, he

fed them, and while they ate, he fed them, even as he was being fed by the Good Shepherd.

I prayed for my pastor today.

He rose early to take a church member to have surgery in a distant town. While checking in at the hospital, he saw more church attendees whom he prayed with. He encouraged them all to be as spiritually healthy as possible so that they would be ready anytime they encountered times of physical ailment.

Then, he hurried home to ride with his family to his own son's football game in a different distant town.

He didn't count the

miles he put on his vehicle that day. They were all miles spent following Jesus.

I prayed for my pastor today.

He got a late night call from someone who was drunk. He gave them some sleepy counsel and prayed with them. He awoke to another need to counsel those in marriage crisis. Even while counseling, his phone lit up with more need.

Jesus had compassion for the crowds. They were like sheep without a shepherd, but then, Jesus became that Good Shepherd and commanded his under-shepherds to tend and feed His sheep. I know

my pastor can't shoulder all those needs on his own, and so, I pray that he places every burden on the shoulders of Christ.

I prayed for my pastor today.

He was reroofing our church. Keeping out leaks, protecting the flock, and providing a sturdy covering takes time, attention, and sweat equity. He poured in all three.

It made me think of the unseen hours he covers the congregation in prayer.

I prayed for my pastor today.

It is Pastor Appreciation Month, after all, and my pastor is my husband. I know better than anyone else that he needs the

Lord's help to do all the things that he does, and it is such a privilege to stand firm beside him in prayer.

Have you prayed for your pastor today? Make Pastor Appreciation Month the month you start.

*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](http://www.SarahDixonYoung.com)*

## Schwarzenegger backs Vatican initiative to ‘terminate’ global warming

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Arnold Schwarzenegger downplayed the Trump administration's climate skepticism Tuesday and threw his weight behind the Vatican's environmental initiative, saying individual choice, local regulations and the Catholic Church's moral leadership were far more important to “terminate” global warming.

Schwarzenegger was at the Vatican to head-

line a three-day climate conference marking the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark 2015 environmental encyclical, Laudato Si (Praised Be). The document, one of Francis' main legacies, cast saving God's creation as an urgent moral imperative and launched a broad, grassroots movement that Pope Leo XIV has fully embraced and made his own.

Schwarzenegger, the

former Republican governor of California, has devoted time to environmental causes since leaving political office in 2011. His Schwarzenegger Climate Initiative is one of the backers of the Vatican conference, which is being held at the Holy See's newly inaugurated environmental educational center in Castel Gandolfo south of Rome.

At a news conference, Schwarzenegger was asked

about President Donald Trump's recent comments to the U.N. General Assembly, where he falsely said that climate change was a “con job.” Trump has long been a critic of climate science and policies aimed at helping the world transition to green energies like wind and solar. His administration has rolled back landmark regulations, withdrawn climate project funding and instead bolstered support

for oil and gas production in the name of an “American energy dominance” agenda.

“Don't use the federal government as an excuse,” Schwarzenegger told the Vatican briefing. “It's an easy way out.”

He recalled his legal battles with the Bush administration over California's environmental regulations when he was governor, and a particular victory where “we said ‘Hasta

la vista, baby.’” Schwarzenegger said, quoting his famous line from “Terminator 2.”

Schwarzenegger said far more important were individual choices about turning off lights when you leave a room and state policies promoting solar power. With its 1.4 billion people, 400,000 priests the Catholic Church also has a critical mass of people who can back environmental initiatives, he said.

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

<b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> River of Life 1903 Hwy 20 Devils Lake 701-662-4582 <a href="http://www.riveroflife.us">www.riveroflife.us</a> Sunday: 10 a.m. worship	<b>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS</b> 20th St. & Lincoln Ave. Devils Lake Sunday: 10 a.m. Sacrament at 11 a.m.	<b>LIGHTHOUSE ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b> Fort Totten, N.D. 701-766-4826 Sunday 10:30 a.m.	<b>ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 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	<b>ST. WILLIAMS CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 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.
<b>ASSUMPTION OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Starkweather, N.D. 292-4301 Sunday: Mass: Rotating 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. with St. Mary's, Munich Call 682-5178 (Munich).	<b>DAKOTA BAPTIST CHURCH</b> West Highway 57 Fort Totten Church - 766-4516 Sunday: 11 a.m. worship.	<b>MORNING STAR PARISH</b> 701-262-4714 <a href="http://www.morningstarparish.com">www.morningstarparish.com</a> Worship services at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. rotating: American, Pekin, Warwick, Sigdal and Sheyenne Lutheran	<b>ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> St. Michael, ND 58370 766-4151 Sunday Mass: 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.	<b>SEVEN DOLORS CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Fort Totten 766-4314 Sunday: 11 a.m. Mass. Daily Mass: 7 a.m.
<b>BDECAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> Tokio, N.D. (2 miles south of Tokio, near Woodlake) 294-2283 <a href="http://www.bdecanpresbyterian-church.org">www.bdecanpresbyterian-church.org</a> Worship: at 11 a.m., Sunday school kids K - 5 grade during worship, potluck meal after	<b>DAKOTA OYATE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 294-2361 Tokio, N.D. 11 a.m. worship	<b>NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP</b> North Junction of Hwy. 15 & 20 Rural Hamar 262-4470 Sunday: 10:30 a.m. worship service	<b>ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA</b> 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)	<b>TRINITY-BERGEN AFLC LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> PO Box 46 Starkweather Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion every Sunday
<b>BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH</b> 1312 East Walnut St. Devils Lake 662-3758 <a href="http://www.bethelfree.com">www.bethelfree.com</a> Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.	<b>EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT</b> Sixth Street and Fifth Avenue Devils Lake 11 a.m. Morning prayer 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays Holy Eucharist- 4th Sunday	<b>OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA</b> 612 14th Ave. NE Devils Lake, N.D. 662-5112 Sunday: 10 a.m. Service Wednesday: 6 p.m. Service	<b>ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 7th St. & 7th Ave. 662-2245 Devils Lake Missouri Synod Worship: 11 a.m. Dial-a-Devotion: 662-3158.	<b>WEBSTER CHAPEL</b> Webster, N.D. Worship is at 9 a.m. the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays.
<b>CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Tokio Saturday: 7 p.m. Mass all year round.	<b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 601 Fifth St. NE Devils Lake Sunday 9:30 a.m. worship	<b>PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (NALC)</b> 1700 Fifth Ave. NE PO Box 1041 Devils Lake, N.D. 662-3565 Worship Sunday 9:30 a.m.	<b>ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b> Fort Totten, N.D. 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sundays, 4th Sunday - Morning Prayer	<b>WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 501 Fifth St. NE Devils Lake, 662-3584 Sunday worship 11:00 a.m.
<b>CHURCH OF GOD (SEVENTH DAY)</b> 607 Fifth St. S.E. Devils Lake Saturday: 2 p.m.	<b>GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 311 5th Ave. NE Devils Lake 701-230-1332 Sunday: 10:30am and 6 p.m.	<b>ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Esmond, N.D. 249-8360 Tuesday-Saturday: Weekday Mass at 9 a.m. Saturday: 5 p.m. Mass. Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mass.	<b>ZOAR FREE LUTHERAN</b> 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 <a href="mailto:loleson@cmpapers.com">loleson@cmpapers.com</a>
	<b>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> Lakota Missouri Synod Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.	<b>ST. JEROME'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Crow Hill District Hwy. #57, One mile N. Saturday: Mass 5 p.m.		
	<b>HIGH PLAINS MINISTRY</b> Nekoma, Lawton, Concordia, and Our Redeemer's			
	<b>LAKOTA LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> LAKOTA, ND 247-2777 Sundays: 10 a.m.			

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

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