

Reflection: Searching Before They’re Lost

By Sarah Dixon Young

My church hosted a 3 on 3 basketball tournament at our local recreation center over the weekend.

There was a great turn-out, and it was fun to see the young folks competing and laughing. Several people shared their testimonies. Jesus, the Good Shepherd who goes looking for lost sheep, was doing just that on Saturday afternoon.

I was helping in the kitchen, mixing kool-aid and handing out cookies. I had gotten there late because a young woman had gone missing near my house, and we had helped to look for her. We had been seeking a lost person physically, but



Young

those at the rec center event were searching for lost people spiritually.

One of the children at the event ran into the rec center kitchen and hurriedly whispered to me that there was a baby wandering alone outside.

I followed her out, and there stood a little one I know, dressed only in a dirty pampers. I scooped her up and took her in. We wrapped her in a blanket, and I took her home to my house to bathe and find some clothes.

The little one had wandered a half mile, past houses and dogs, across roads and a playground, past the football field and the school, until she reached the rec center parking lot. No one even knew to look for her because no one knew she was missing.

As I drove into my driveway, I could see the planes and drones and people still looking for the young

woman who was known to be missing.

As I washed the little one in my care, I thought about the many young people at the rec center who are lost even as they laugh and eat cookies and play basketball.

No one knows they are missing. No one considers them lost except for the Christians sharing their testimonies through the loud speakers. The Christian believers know what it is like to be cold and alone, lost without hope, confused and hurt. They also know what it is like to be found.

We sing the familiar hymn because we know the depths of its truth:

“Amazing grace, how

*sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now, I’m found!
Was blind, but now I see!”*

If only more of our community members would know what it is like to be found by Christ before they are truly lost! If only parents would trust the counsel Jesus gives for parenting, how many little ones would be spared the hurt and pain they experience! If only more ears would listen to the loving call of the Good Shepherd, there would be less wailing over lost ones unrecovered and more rejoicing that they have

been redeemed.

Jesus is seeking you. He offers comfort, real help, and His presence. Don’t choose to stay lost. Come to the Light and be found.

Then you can help us search for others- even before they are lost.

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

Reflection: ‘November and the Year of Grace’ by Fr. Bernie Pfau

by Fr. Bernie Pfau, Fargo Diocese

I welcome the month of November, with its seasonal colors and cool temperatures, and I’m ready for winter to come and go! I love our four seasons of the year here in the northern part of the country and I have no desire to escape to warmer lands during the winter season.

We have just celebrated All Saints Day and All Souls Day (Nov. 1/2) with a greater awareness of our ancestors

who have passed away and our own eternal calling. We have so much to be thankful for and Thanksgiving Day, only three weeks away, invites us to be grateful for our blessings as people of this Nation and as Children of God. I hope you appreciate the month of November as much as I do!

November also closes out the “Year of Grace” in our Liturgical Calendar, which began in Advent, 2024, and concludes with the Feast of Christ the King of the Uni-



Pfau

verse, Nov. 23, 2025. This past Year of Grace presents

us with the Gospel of Luke, the third Gospel listed in the Bible. The next Year of Grace will focus on the Gospel of Matthew, beginning on the First Sunday of Advent (November 30). Mark’s Gospel will be the focus of the Liturgical Year in 2026-2027. For the past 50 years main-line Protestant Churches and the Roman Catholic Church have been following the three-year cycle of Scripture readings which allows the Faithful to experience the Proclamation of the main

teaching of the Gospels every three years. John’s Gospel is used during this three-year cycle, but doesn’t have its own year. This cycle of readings has benefited Christian unity and a common bond among Christian Churches.

Every year we live is a blessing from God, but if we live with the Word of God that we hear every Sunday of the year, we will more likely walk in the presence of the Lord. A number of people study the Scriptures assigned to each week before

they attend church services on Sunday and realize the richness of the Word for their daily living. This could also be a practice family members adopt for use at mealtime, or at night time prayer.

Bring the Word of God into your homes and you will notice a great change taking place in family relationships. The “Year of Grace” is meant for all people and inviting the Word into your home assures you of that special help only God can give. God’s Blessings!

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.			

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