

# Reflection: Abolish Death

By Sarah Dixon Young

Calls to abolish ICE grew louder this weekend as another protestor lost his life when he interfered with Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers.

It is difficult to watch the video footage.

We all want to put the bullet back in the gun, the words back in the mouth, the forbidden fruit back on the tree. As onlookers, we yearn to do away with the hand that picked the fruit, the lips that spoke the words, the finger that pulled the trigger. We think that if we abolish them, the problem will be stopped. We are as wise as gods, knowing right from wrong. What fools we are.

The root of the problem



Young

has always been the same. Sin brought death into the world. We've always wanted our sin without consequences. Abolish consequences. Abolish cost. Abolish pain, grief, and woe so that we can just live our lives in a perpetual state of euphoric pleasure grabbing, bowing to the

idol of self.

God allowed death as the ultimate consequence so that He could show His steadfast love and faithfulness in abolishing it. In death, we find our need for life.

Throughout history, we've heard about the abolition of slavery, the abolition of abortion, and even recently here in North Dakota, the abolition of property tax. We like bringing unpleasant things to an end.

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy from prison, where he interacted with men on a power trip as well as men who'd lost their power. He encountered the criminal who'd been abolished and the government officials who needed to be

abolished. He recognized the truth that immoral men will want to abolish everyone but themselves.

C.S. Lewis, in his book The Abolition of Man, wrote, "I am very doubtful whether history shows us one example of a man who, having stepped outside of traditional morality and attained power, has used that power benevolently."

As Paul contemplated the Gospel that had brought him to that prison, he yearned for the abolition of death. He knew his chances weren't good with Nero as emperor. He'd seen the martyrdom of brothers and sisters in Christ. He'd even approved of the executions before his own spiritual transformation took place. The writing

was on his proverbial wall, you might say.

But his hope wasn't in a benevolent government, a moral police officer, or an effective protest. He didn't write to Timothy about taking any kind of action on this earth. He wrote of the abolition to end all abolitions.

He wrote of "our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel."

Do what Paul did.

He trusted God and wrote, "But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me."

Paul knew that no riot could take the abolition

of death away from him. He knew that no death sentence could remove him from the safety of Christ's hand. Angry protesters, pepper spray, famine, or sword, could not separate him from the love of God in Christ Jesus his Lord.

Abolish death! The rest will take care of itself.

*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)*

## The origins of Easter Sunday

Easter takes place on a different Sunday each year.

In western Christianity, Easter follows the Gregorian calendar and is thus considered a "movable feast" that is always celebrated between March 22 and April 25.

Eastern Orthodox Christianity adheres to the Julian calendar, so Easter will fall on a Sunday between April 4 and May 8 each year.

In 2022, the western Christian Easter celebration occurred on April 17 and the Eastern Orthodox Easter was observed on April 24.

Easter is the most important celebration on the Christian liturgical calendar.

While commemorations of Jesus Christ's resurrection likely occurred earlier, the earliest recorded observance of an Easter

celebration was in the second century, according to Britannica. Initial Easter celebrations weren't known as "Easter," which is a word that was borrowed from Pagan spring celebrations of Eostre, the goddess of spring and fertility.

It only became associated with Christian usage later on — long after biblical scripture was written. In fact, the word "Easter" only

appears in one Bible, the King James Version. But it is likely the word was used as a translation of pascha, or Passover, and not what has come to be known as Christian Easter.

The earliest Easter celebrations were a version of Passover.

According to leading sabbath scholar Professor Samuele Bacchiocchi, Christians universally kept

Passover on the biblical date of Nisan until 135 A.D. Early commemorations focused on the crucifixion, and the pain and suffering of Jesus. Bacchiocchi says that eventually the resurrection emerged as the dominant reason for the celebration that would be known as Easter, and also as the main message of weekly Christian Sunday masses.

By the fourth century, the

Easter Vigil and celebration were well-established and a symbol of joyful anticipation of the resurrection.

Easter is now celebrated annually by faithful Christians.

While Easter is not mentioned in the Bible, scripture depictions helped shape the holiday that would become an integral component of the Christian faith.

## 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](http://www.riverlife.us)

**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).

**BDECAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Tokio, N.D.  
(2 miles south of Tokio, near Woodlake)  
294-2283  
[www.bdecanpresbyterian-church.org](http://www.bdecanpresbyterian-church.org)

Worship: at 11 a.m., Sunday school kids K - 5 grade during worship, potluck meal after

**BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**  
1312 East Walnut St.  
Devils Lake 662-3758  
[www.bethelfree.com](http://www.bethelfree.com)

**CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Tokio  
Saturday: 7 p.m. Mass all year round.

**CHURCH OF GOD (SEVENTH DAY)**  
607 Fifth St. S.E.  
Devils Lake  
Saturday: 2 p.m.

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS** 20th St. & Lincoln Ave. Devils Lake

Sunday: 10 a.m.  
Sacrament at 11 a.m.

**DAKOTA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
West Highway 57  
Fort Totten Church - 766-4516

Sunday: 11 a.m. worship.

**DAKOTA OYATE LUTHERAN CHURCH** 294-2361 Tokio, N.D.  
11 a.m. worship

**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

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** 601  
Fifth St. NE Devils Lake Sunday 9:30 a.m. worship

**GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
311 5th Ave. NE Devils Lake 701-230-1332

Sunday: 10:30am and 6 p.m.

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Lakota Missouri Synod

Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.

**HIGH PLAINS MINISTRY**  
Nekoma, Lawton, Concordia, and Our Redeemer's

**LAKOTA LUTHERAN CHURCH** LAKOTA, ND 247-2777

Sundays: 10 a.m.

**LIGHTHOUSE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
Fort Totten, N.D.  
701-766-4826  
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

**MORNING STAR PARISH**  
701-262-4714

[www.morningstarparish.com](http://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

**NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP**  
North Junction of Hwy. 15 & 20  
Rural Hamar 262-4470

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. worship service

**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

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (NALC)** 1700 Fifth Ave. NE PO Box 1041 Devils Lake, N.D.

662-3565 Worship

Sunday 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.

**ST. JEROME'S CATHOLIC CHURCH** Crow Hill District Hwy. #57, One mile N.

Saturday: Mass 5 p.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. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
St. Michael, ND 58370 766-4151

Sunday Mass: 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

**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)

**ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
7th St. & 7th Ave.

662-2245  
Devils Lake Missouri Synod

Worship: 11 a.m.

Dial-a-Devotion: 662-3158.

**ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
Fort Totten, N.D.

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist 1st, 2nd,

3rd and 5th Sundays, 4th Sunday

- Morning Prayer

**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.

**SEVEN DOLORS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Fort Totten 766-4314

Sunday: 11 a.m. Mass.

Daily Mass: 7 a.m.

**TRINITY-BERGEN AFLC LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
PO Box 46 Starkweather Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion every Sunday

**WEBSTER CHAPEL**  
Webster, N.D.  
Worship is at 9 a.m. the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays.

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** 501 Fifth St. NE  
Devils Lake, 662-3584

Sunday worship 11:00 a.m.

**ZOAR FREE LUTHERAN**  
Hampden, North Dakota  
Pastor Craig Wentzel  
May through August  
Worship Sundays 9 a.m.

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516 4th St., 662-2127

**-Eventide Senior Living Communities**

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

**-Levers Foods**  
323 5th St. NE, 662-4945

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

**-Glibertson Funeral Home**  
Hwy 2 West

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

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

**CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICE HOURS**  
MONDAY - THURSDAY 9-3  
FRIDAY CLOSED  
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