

# Reflection: Seeking a Bride

By Sarah Dixon Young

A New Year means a new opportunity to read through the Bible. When my husband and I were first married, there was an elderly woman in our church who had read through the Bible over fifty times. As the Pastor encouraged her to share about her Bible reading, I realized that I had never read through the Bible once! I wanted to try it. The Bible is a big book. It has a lot of words, pages, and chapters. Something our Pastor said then stuck with me:



**Young**  
You may not read through the whole thing in a year, but as Christians, we should read some of it everyday. I'm starting in Genesis again, and I read the

account of Abraham sending his servant back to his home country to seek a bride for his son, Isaac. The servant seems nervous and unsure. He prays for God's guidance. It is the first time in Scripture where God's steadfast love is mentioned as the servant remembers how God has always shown that kind of love to his master, Abraham. The story has a happy ending. God answers the servant's prayer as a beautiful young woman comes and gives water to him and all of his camels. In addition to being beautiful, she is hard working and generous, and she is willing to go with him even though she has never met Isaac or Abraham. I've read the story lots of times, but this time, God showed me something new. He is seeking a bride for His Son. Abraham served as a picture of our loving heavenly Father. Isaac, once sacrificed upon a hill, served as a picture of the Heir of Promise, the beloved only Son. The servant, who is never named, is the picture of a faithful Christian, obedi-

ently taking on a task that is beyond him and waiting to see what God, in His steadfast love will do. Rebecca, beautiful, generous, willing to tie herself forever to a Man she has never seen, is the Church, stepping out in faith, engaging herself to the Son. And the story has a happy ending. The Son will come back one day for His bride. If you make it all the way to Revelation in your Bible reading, you'll get a sneak peek of the ending: "And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as Bride adorned for her husband...and He who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new...It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.'" God uses His Word to sustain us as we serve Him. Whether we are the servant, seeking a bride for His Son, or whether we are that Bride, being prepared to meet our Husband, God's Word fills us with His wisdom, comforts us in difficulty, and guides us with His will. See YOUNG | 5A

# A Poem: The Pastor's Christmas

By Sarah Dixon Young

A night of shadow, silhouetted dark, heavy atmosphere snuffs the spark from flint and pyrite in calloused hands that shake with cold as he stands to pace again to where she lay in writhing pain upon the hay. He cannot give her	heat nor light nor shoulder the pain for her respite nor shield her from that fatality threatened by the principality who hovers closer than darkness drear and whispers doubt into his ear. This borrowed cave encroaching tomb if struggle fails inside her womb.	What can he do? Where can he turn if death has won and life is spurned? The enemy's hiss precedes his bite, and Joseph's helpless without the light. "It's You I call, My Creator King, the One who spoke and everything burst with light and heat and life. Perhaps this darkness	and this strife will be my death and hers too unless You show me what to do." Crescendo of pain, excruciating, as he kneels beside her, waiting, an infant head and face appears dispelling darkness and their fears with newborn light and heavenly peace	into their hands posed to receive. One day, like flint He'll set His face as He journeys to that place where death will triumph, evil win, in borrowed grave entombed again, heel struck by poisoned serpent's sting palms pierced by pain	excruciating. But Joseph knows that Life has won as he swaddles God's newborn Son and cradles the Light in humble hands to share with Mary as he stands and stoops to give with pure affection the Holy Gift of Resurrection.
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## 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 www.riverlife.us 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 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	<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 www.bdecanpresbyterian-church.org 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 www.bethelfree.com 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 loleson@cmpapers.com
	<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 LAKOTA, ND</b> 247-2777 Sundays: 10 a.m.			

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