

## Dakota Datebook Drought & Depression

by **CAROLE BUTCHER**  
ON THIS DATE: March 9, 2026 – The entire economic system of the United States began to break down following the Stock Market Crash of 1929. Unemployment swept across the nation, and North Dakota suffered even more than most of the country because of a devastating drought. Production was down and so were prices.

In 1933, the per capita personal income in the United States was \$375. But in North Dakota, it was only \$145. Thousands lost their farms. There was a mass migration out of the state. Over one third of the remaining population lived on relief.

North Dakotans were not united in how the government should respond to the crisis.

They tended to be extremely independent. Farmers did not want the government to tell them to change their farming methods, and the residents in general were reluctant to live on charity handed out by Washington, considering it a loss of independence and freedom.

In spite of efforts by a Democratic Administration to get the country back on its feet, North Dakotans remained staunchly Republican.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected in 1932 and inaugurated on March 4, 1933. More than 13 million Americans were out of work. There was no time to lose. He had to act, and he had to act fast. On this date in 1933, the Emergency Banking Act was introduced in a special joint session of Congress. The sense of crisis was so great that there was only one written copy of the

Act available, and it was read aloud before Congress. It passed that evening. Roosevelt immediately signed it into law. The Act expanded the powers of the President to respond to a banking crisis, allowing him to regulate virtually all banking functions.

Roosevelt told Americans that "It is safer to keep your money in a reopened bank than under the mattress." His immediate action had the desired effect. Within two weeks, Americans deposited more than half the funds they had withdrawn from banks. The Stock Market began a slow recovery.

The Great Depression was by no means over. North Dakotans continued to suffer. People drifted off the farms into towns, where they were no better off. Governor Langer believed it was crucial to increase farm prices to save the state. He declared a moratorium on

farm foreclosures. With measures instituted by both Washington and Bismarck, North Dakota slowly emerged from the Great Depression.

### Town Criers

by **SARAH WALKER**  
ON THIS DATE: March 12, 2026 – It's a "flock" of geese and a "murder" of crows, but what do you call a large group of town criers? On this date in 1929, the Park Hotel in Killdeer was full of them!

They had gathered in Killdeer for their regular Town Criers meeting. The Killdeer Herald reported that it "was a capacity affair. Thirty-five persons were recorded in attendance."

The town criers enjoyed a meal, after which the chairman called the meeting to order. Part of the order of business was to discuss what they had accomplished. The newspaper

reported, "As the last word, Haakon Weydahl, in his usual vivid way, portrayed their activities in military parlance, which took in every maneuver from the breakfast bugle of the morning after to the zero hour of the night before. As a climax, he decorated them with a specially prepared ribbon from each of which was suspended a five dollar gold piece."

After the business of the meeting was over, the town criers went to the Odd Fellow Hall in the Killdeer Hotel building, where they played whist, sang, and enjoyed themselves. Their number increased as people around town, including "many who were weather-bound in town overnight"—at least that was their excuse.

The newspaper stated, "Somewhere, long ago, a sad-faced poet who never 'convived' with his friends and acquaintances uttered the following:

'Backward, turn backward, O time in thy flight, and make me a child again just for tonight.' That gem of thought confessing the accumulated stagnation of years gone by and expressing a yearning for things that were forever gone, would have never graced the crown of literature if the discouraged old poet had ever attended a party with the Killdeer town Criers."

There are official town crier positions in some cities today, though none in North Dakota. Still, one can imagine the echo of the group of men, cheering each other, and perhaps even exclaiming out loud, "Hear ye, Hear ye!"

"Dakota Datebook" is a radio series from *Prairie Public* in partnership with the *State Historical Society of North Dakota* and with funding from the *North Dakota Humanities Council*.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

### Assembly of God

**Lake Assembly**  
**Jerry & Denise Dvorscak**  
**Powers Lake, N.D.**  
Sunday, March 15  
10:30 a.m. Regular Service & FaceBook Live

**WCAG Church**  
**Kris Faul, Pastor**  
**Kenmare, N.D.**  
Sunday - 9:00 a.m. Prayer  
9:45 a.m. Donuts & Coffee  
10:15 a.m. Worship Service  
Every other Monday - 10:00 a.m.  
Lean on Me Play Group  
Tuesday - 9:30 a.m.  
Ladies BELLS Group  
Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.  
Romans Bible Study  
Thursday - 7:00 p.m.  
Fruit of the Spirit Study  
Friday  
7:00 a.m. Men's Coffee  
8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

### Methodist

**United Methodist Church**  
**Pastor Mark Turner**  
**Bowbells, N.D.**  
Sunday, March 15  
9:00 a.m. Worship

### Lutheran

**Christ Lutheran Church**  
**Pastor Michon Weingartner**  
**833-2228**  
**Lignite, N.D.**  
Wednesday, March 11  
7:00 p.m. Joint Lenten Service

Sunday, March 15  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
Baptism & Bible Presentation  
Tuesday, March 17  
9:00 a.m. Quilting  
Wednesday, March 18  
6:00 p.m. Soup Supper at Bethlehem-Bowbells  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship at Bethlehem-Bowbells

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**Pastor Michon Weingartner**  
**833-2228**  
**Columbus, N.D.**  
Sunday, March 15  
No Worship

### McGregor-White Earth Lutheran Parish

**Milo Mell, SAM/Intern Pastor**  
Wednesday, March 11  
4:00 p.m. Confirmation in Tioga  
6:00 p.m. Zion & First Supper  
7:00 p.m. Zion & First Lenten Service  
Sunday, March 15  
9:00 a.m. First Worship  
11:00 a.m. Zion Worship  
Wednesday, March 18  
4:00 p.m. Confirmation in Tioga  
6:00 p.m. Zion & First Supper  
7:00 p.m. Zion & First Lenten Service

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church

**Pastor Michon Weingartner**  
**833-2228**  
**Bowbells, N.D.**  
Wednesday, March 11  
6:00 p.m. Lasagna Supper at St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross  
Sunday, March 15  
9:00 a.m. Worship  
Children's Church  
10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship  
Monday, March 16  
1:00 p.m. Quilting  
Wednesday, March 18  
2:00 p.m. WELCA Bible Study  
6:00 p.m. Soup Supper  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship

### Faith Lutheran Church

**Columbus, N.D.**  
Sunday, March 15  
4:00 p.m. Communion Service with Pastor Kevin Beard  
5:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner

### United as One Lutheran Parish

**Pastor Pauline Crowder**  
**701-399-9472**  
[pastorcrowder@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcrowder@gmail.com)  
Lay Minister, Jean Quigley  
**Holy Cross Lutheran of Powers Lake**  
Sunday:  
9:30 a.m. Worship  
10:45 a.m. Sunday School & Coffee Hour  
Wednesday activities:  
10:00 a.m. Quilting  
12:15 p.m. Bible Study  
4:30 p.m. Confirmation  
6:30 p.m. Luther League  
**Bethel Lutheran of Battleview**  
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour  
11:30 a.m. Sunday Worship  
**Elmdale Lutheran of Niobe**  
1st & 3rd Sundays  
9:30 am. Worship with Lunch Following  
**Trinity Lutheran of rural Kenmare**  
2nd & 4th Sundays  
9:30 a.m. Worship with lunch following

### Catholic

**St. Joseph's Catholic Church**  
**Father Daniel J. Berg**  
**Bowbells, N.D.**  
Wednesday, March 11  
6:00 p.m. Lasagna Dinner  
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross  
Sunday, March 15  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Mass  
Tuesday, March 17  
5:00 p.m. Adoration & Mass

**St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**  
**Rev. Gregory Crane**  
**Portal, N.D.**  
Sunday, March 15  
11:30 a.m. Mass

**St. Luke's Catholic Church**  
**Rev. Gregory Crane**  
**Noonan, N.D.**  
Saturday, March 14  
7:00 p.m. Mass

**St. James Catholic Church**  
**Powers Lake, N.D.**  
**Fr. Corey Nelson**  
Recorded Message 464-5012  
Odd Months:  
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Mass  
Even Months:  
Saturday - 7:00 p.m. Mass

### Baptist

**Bethel Baptist Church**  
**Chuck Kranz, Pastor**  
**Powers Lake, N.D.**  
Sunday, March 15  
9:00 a.m. Prayer  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

### The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

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10:00 a.m. Sacrament Meeting  
11:00 a.m. Primary/Nursery (1st/3rd Sunday)  
11:00 a.m. Sunday School (2nd/4th Sunday)  
11:00 a.m. Priesthood/Relief Society Young Men/Young Women

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