

Church Page Reflection: Sure

By Sarah Dixon Young

This is not going to be an article about home-schooling, or the passage of time, or how quickly children grow up, but my oldest child graduated from high school last weekend.

The day was beautiful, and my take-away has been thankfulness that I can know what I'm sure of.

Launching a child into this cold world comes



Young

with a lot of attendant uncertainty. Birth felt like that, and so did gradu-

ation. Anything could happen.

When she was born, I chose Ephesians 2:8-9 as her life verse, knowing that just as by grace we are saved, so by grace the Lord would hold every day of her life in His hand. Now, she is an adult, old enough to choose her own life verses, old enough to choose what she is sure of.

When the Apostle Paul wrote to his "beloved child" Timothy, he want-

ed him to be sure of what he was sure of: "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. Follow the pattern of sound words that you have heard from me..."

Timothy's spiritual inheritance was Paul's assurance, and it served him well in a pagan empire where "all who desire to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus" were per-

secuted.

Once, a young man came to eat supper at my house with a group from our church. He was just a visitor, an acquaintance, but he had grown up in our community. I asked him who his mother was.

He blinked and swallowed. Then he said, "I'm not sure."

He knew the name of the woman he had called mom and also the house where he had grown up, but he wasn't sure if she

was actually his mother or his auntie.

"I'm not really sure about anything," he said.

He was homeless at the time and unsure about where his next meal would come from. Without a foundation, he had no starting point and no final destination.

There were several others gathered there around the table who had been homeless, who didn't know one or both

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St. Olaf Lutheran Church Pastor Lori Pankratz's sermon on Matthew 28: 16 - 20

By Pastor Lori Pankratz, St. Olaf Lutheran Church

The eleven went to Galilee because Jesus told them to go. That is how the Church begins: not with vision, strategy, enthusiasm or moral energy, but with a Word from outside itself.

They went. They saw Him. They worshipped Him.

"And some doubted." There it is: the Church on its first missionary mountain, worshipping



Pankratz

and wavering at the same time.

The risen Christ sends

hesitators. (those who hesitate)

That is already Law and Gospel.

The Law is this: even when Christ stands before us risen from the dead, the old Adam, our sinful self, still hesitates, and wavers, and bargains. He looks over Christ's shoulder toward safety, reputation, success and control. He wants the risen Lord, but he also wants guarantees. He wants mission without

risk, discipleship without death, Baptism without drowning, teaching without offense and Christ without the Cross.

The Law exposes the Church as it really is. We are not the fearless disciples we pretend to be. We are not the strong, pure, strategic, and faithful people imagined in our mission statements. We worship, yes, but at the same time we waver. We confess, but we calculate. We say "Lord" but

we would prefer a Lord who consults us before sending us anywhere too inconvenient.

And yet Jesus comes. THAT is the Gospel.

He does not wait for the hesitation to disappear. He does not postpone His promise until the disciples become useful or more faithful or more righteous. He speaks precisely to the wavering, doubting Church.

"All authority in heaven

and on earth has been given to me." says Jesus.

That is where mission begins. Not in the Church's authority. Not in the preacher's personality. Not in the congregation's confidence. Not in the culture's permission. Not in the anxious religious attempts forever trying to make or keep itself necessary or vital or relevant.

Christ has the authority.

The crucified One

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

<p>ASSEMBLY OF GOD River of Life 1903 Hwy 20 Devils Lake 701-662-4582 www.riverlife.us Sunday: 10 a.m. worship</p>	<p>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS 20th St. & Lincoln Ave. Devils Lake Sunday: 10 a.m. Sacrament at 11 a.m.</p>	<p>LIGHTHOUSE ASSEMBLY OF GOD Fort Totten, N.D. 701-766-4826 Sunday 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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).</p>	<p>DAKOTA BAPTIST CHURCH West Highway 57 Fort Totten Church - 766-4516 Sunday: 11 a.m. worship.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH St. Michael, ND 58370 766-4151 Sunday Mass: 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>SEVEN DOLORS CATHOLIC CHURCH Fort Totten 766-4314 Sunday: 11 a.m. Mass. Daily Mass: 7 a.m.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>DAKOTA OYATE LUTHERAN CHURCH 294-2361 Tokio, N.D. 11 a.m. worship</p>	<p>NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP North Junction of Hwy. 15 & 20 Rural Hamar 262-4470 Sunday: 10:30 a.m. worship service</p>	<p>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)</p>	<p>TRINITY-BERGEN AFLC LUTHERAN CHURCH PO Box 46 Starkweather Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion every Sunday</p>
<p>BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH 1312 East Walnut St. Devils Lake 662-3758 www.bethelfree.com Sunday worship: 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 7th St. & 7th Ave. 662-2245 Devils Lake Missouri Synod Worship: 11 a.m. Dial-a-Devotion: 662-3158.</p>	<p>WEBSTER CHAPEL Webster, N.D. Worship is at 9 a.m. the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays.</p>
<p>CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH Tokio Saturday: 7 p.m. Mass all year round.</p>	<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 601 Fifth St. NE Devils Lake Sunday 9:30 a.m. worship</p>	<p>PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (NALC) 1700 Fifth Ave. NE PO Box 1041 Devils Lake, N.D. 662-3565 Worship Sunday 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH Fort Totten, N.D. 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sundays, 4th Sunday - Morning Prayer</p>	<p>WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 501 Fifth St. NE Devils Lake, 662-3584 Sunday worship 11:00 a.m.</p>
<p>CHURCH OF GOD (SEVENTH DAY) 607 Fifth St. S.E. Devils Lake Saturday: 2 p.m.</p>	<p>GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 311 5th Ave. NE Devils Lake 701-230-1332 Sunday: 10:30am and 6 p.m.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>ST. JEROME'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Crow Hill District Hwy. #57, One mile N. Saturday: Mass 5 p.m.</p>	<p>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</p>

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-Glibertson Funeral Home
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-Altru Health System
1001 7th St NE, 662-2158

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-Leevers Foods
323 5th St. NE, 662-4945

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