



Live Stream with Your Home Church on Sabbath

[Bismarck](#)

[Harvey, Manfred, Bowdon Country](#)

(You may also watch via Pastor Sarel Smit's FB page)

[Jamestown, Cleveland](#)

[Minot, Bottineau](#)

[New Home](#)

[Sioux Falls](#)

[Mandan, McClusky, Turtle Lake](#)

[Wahpeton](#)

Other Dakota churches may be connecting through Facebook.
Catch the Open Word eDevotionals by Pastor Mike Temple daily
on the Dakota Conference Facebook page
or sign up to receive them on your personal device.

HAPPY SABBATH

Other Time Zone Options

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[La Sierra University Church](#)

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[Oakwood University Church](#)

Other Media Resources

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A Note From Pastor Biloff

The Dakota Conference would like to pray Psalms 91 for the next 91 days starting April 1, 2020. It is a beautiful song of hope. Pastor Barry St. Clair of the Red River church in Fargo, ND is the conference prayer ministry leader and helped organize this endeavor.



We have a new church plant in Ellendale, ND, recently voted to company status. They have purchased an older church building in the community. Please pray for them.

If you would like to give offerings above and beyond tithe to help pay salaries for our pastors and teachers, write "unrestricted" on the tithe envelope where it says "Other" or give online and choose the "unrestricted" tab.

DAA is running online classes, as are our elementary schools. Please keep them in your prayers. Thank you to the teachers for their dedication and resourcefulness, they deserve a socially distanced hug!

As God is faithful to us, may we be faithful to Him. May God bless you with good health.

Bismarck Seventh-day Adventist Church's History



The roots of the Bismarck, North Dakota church are disputed but whether Gayton or Hampton, the locations are but four miles apart. Gayton, the older of the two, was a steamboat landing on the Missouri River and one of the first settlements in Emmons County. Elder W. B. White claims he preached "the first sermon ever heard in that section" at Gayton in 1886. He organized a Sabbath School of twelve, and a year later, a church. Hampton was established as a town in 1893 and was located 4 miles south of Gayton. Members probably lived outside the small towns, or even between the two.

The Gayton church changed its name to Hampton in 1890 and had members who lived "fifty miles away" – probably in Bismarck. A letter from Sister Weller, dated July 14, 1897, indicates that the quarterly meeting of the Hampton company was held at the home of Brother and Sister Ells in Bismarck on the last Sabbath of June in 1897. In 1898 the church's name was changed to Bismarck, located in Burleigh County, where Pastor Ells had settled and established a strong work.

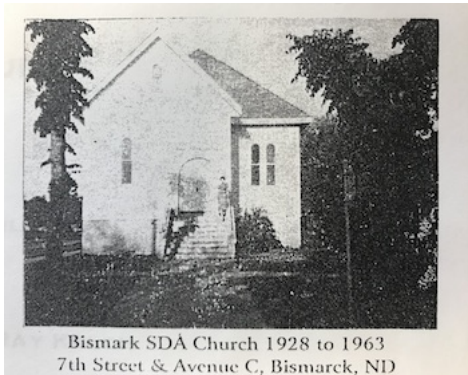
The first place of worship in 1897 was the entire second floor of Elder Ells' home, located at 408 Third Street. This was affectionately called "The Hall" where they met for a number of years. When this group disbanded, members held services in their homes until 1921 when they secured the use of the First Baptist Church for two hours each Sabbath at the price of \$14 per month.

During the early 1900s the Karlson and Trygg families began holding Swedish Sabbath School in their homes in the country. This company grew until seven families took turns in having the meetings in their homes. At times they met in schoolhouses. In 1908, officers for the Bismarck church were elected entirely from this group.

In 1921 the name of this group was changed to Bismarck Scandinavian Church, leaving the original name for the brethren in town who planned to reorganize. The Scandinavian company functioned as a unit until 1926, when it was disbanded, and those who wished, joined the church in town.

Elder Schuster moved his family to Bismarck in 1921 and began work in this district. Shortly after his departure Elder Jensen and family came to live in Bismarck. As a result of their labors, and also of seed sown by two laymen, Brethren Hilbert and Schultz, who came to Bismarck frequently on business trips, a number of new believers joined the group. Early in 1923, Elder Dirksen arrived, and in June, reorganized this company into the present Bismarck church.

They rented an old store building, which served as a chapel and church school room for two years. Again, they resorted to meeting in homes for the next two years. The summer of 1927 found them meeting in Elder Schwindt's pavilion. As membership grew it was decided to erect a temporary tabernacle at the corner of Eleventh Street and Rosser Avenue. This housed them for winter months but proved inadequate for their needs.



Because of all the sojourns and wanderings, the members felt somewhat like the Israelites who had trodden the desert sands for too long. They were impatient for a permanent home. It was not without some misgivings, however, that they launched out in the undertaking of purchasing a church building from the Trinity Lutheran congregation on June 1, 1928, for the sum of \$4700. This church was located at the corner of Seventh Street and Avenue C. Elder H. H. Meyer and Elder F. F. Schwindt assisted in negotiating the deal.

The Great Depression began in August of 1929.

Article by Jacquie Biloff from [Nothing to Fear](#) by Bob Dupuy, and [History of the Bismarck Seventh-day Adventist Church 1896 to 1996](#), by Elder Ray Kelch and Esther Wentz; Photo of the map was drawn by Elder Ray Kelch.



Photo by Cliff Freese

He is a Shelter in the Time of Storm

“The Lord's our Rock, in Him we hide,
A Shelter in the time of storm;
Secure whatever I'll betide,
A Shelter in the time of storm.”

How many of us wished for a blizzard so we could stay home from school? I can guess that most of us harbored that wish at one time. Well, here we are, the beginning of April, in a spring blizzard, and no school for most. The crazy thing is that there was no school before the blizzard and won't be even after it has past.



This will not be a normal 4th quarter at DAA, or anywhere else for that matter, but there still are a few things that are and always will stay consistent.

- "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6
- The staff at DAA cares about you...all of you...those of you that used to be here in years past, those that were here this year, those that are here now, and those of you that will be coming in the future!
- Every day is a new start...and snow melts!

God is our refuge and He does not leave us to muddle through this new situation alone, pandemic or blizzard, He is our shelter in this time of storm. DAA alumni, students and staff, pray for each other. We know who wins in the end.

Article and photos by Tracy Peterson

Pierre Members Reach Out

This last week Melody Sampson, with help from Marion Barber, decided to make 10 care packages for the elderly. The packages were hand delivered to various members in the community. Melody plans to continue reaching out. In these times of social distancing and loneliness please remember those who are most at risk.

Wendy Brotherton also took time to create and send encouraging cards to shut ins. We are blessed to have such thoughtful people in our church family. We would like to thank these ladies for all their hard work.



Article by Pastor Nicholas Eaton of the Pierre Seventh-day Adventist Church; shared in the church's newsletter. Photos by Marion Barber.

**Dakota Conference Northeast Regional
scheduled for Jamestown, ND, April 18, 2020
has been cancelled.**

Sharing Love through Simple Means

As the COVID-19 has closed close communication by social-distancing requirements, one family in Mandan, North Dakota started an uplifting distancing response. Mandy Gill and her children decorated their home window with paper hearts to "share love during a pandemic" of loneliness. She created a Facebook group called [#aworldofhearts](#) to spread the cheer. It caught on in the neighborhood, then the town, then states and now it is world wide.



Pictured is the North Dakota capitol building with a heart lit through window light placement. The note from Governor Doug Burgum reads, "The North Dakotans behind #aworldofhearts have shown how a simple gesture of gratitude can spread throughout the world. We are #InThisTogetherND."

"By filling your windows with hearts your neighbors and those passing by will know we are in this together," Gill's Facebook page says.

The Dakota Conference wants to "**share that unchanging love of Christ in a changing world**" to those who drive by as well.

Look for hearts and ways to share Christ's love in your neighborhood





Article by Jacquie Biloff; Photos by Jodi Dossenko and Jacquie Biloff.

Visit dakotaadventist.org to view presenters and read their biographies.



Dakota Tough to Dakota Rest



Surveying the forecast for Fargo brings to view the convergence of climbing COVID-19 cases, the Red River at flood stage and rising, and a late winter storm warning before the weekend.

Like many of you, I suspect, you may be thinking more about the impact of each decision you make. Will this trip to the grocery, gas station or pharmacy put myself and those I care about at risk, possibly even of death?

Someone has described Dakotans as going through this and worse before saying, "We are Dakota tough."

It seems that things have been worse before, even with a threefold threat bearing down upon us. The projections of the effect of Novel Corona Virus may seem daunting. But for a bit of

perspective, odds are far better for living through this summer, than not. Beyond the current situation, there are three scriptures which provide a great deal of hope and comfort for me.

The first is Genesis 1:8 where we read, "*but Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.*"

This was during a time when mankind had slipped to depths where God observed, "*every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*" Verse 5.

I had always read verse eight as God looking down upon Noah and his family with favor and perhaps with a calling of purpose. But recently as I was reflecting on this verse, it occurred to me Noah was likely looking toward God seeking and seeing His favor as well. Our God is always relational.

The second verse which comes to mind, balancing how we see their society, is recorded by the words of Jesus in Matthew and Luke.

"For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man." Matthew 24:38-39.

The balance here depicts, even in challenging times, normal activities continued right up to the end.

This brings us to the third verse given to all flesh as they disembarked the ark following the worldwide flood, *"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."* Genesis 8:22.



I have spent some time the past two days planting potatoes, looking forward to setting out onions once the storm passes early next week, and starting seedlings indoors. I suspect many farmers and gardeners across Dakotas are engaged in similar planning activities. Whether I survive the next few months or not, only God knows, but someone will be around to enjoy the fruits of my labors.

This brings us beyond Dakota tough to Dakota rest. We can relax knowing God knows our beginning and our end. It is only left for us to discover in His time. We too can look toward heaven seeking favor in the assurance God will not let us slip from His hands once we have placed ourselves in His loving care.

Spread some seeds of hope around your communities and relax. There will be challenges, but we serve a risen Savior who knows our sorrows and griefs by experience. He will see us through these challenges as well.

Article by Pastor Barry St Clair, Dakota Conference Prayer Ministry Leader; All scripture references are from the ESV; Photo by [Kelly Sikkema](#) on [Unsplash](#) and [Markus Spiske](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Men Retreat to Medora



I remember when Elder Neil Biloff walked into my office and said, "I want you to be there." He was referring to our annual Men's Retreat, held in Medora, ND. I hadn't thought much about it, not that I was unaware of it, but simply because I was trying to come up to speed on a number of responsibilities my job entails. Yet, looking back, I am so glad I was encouraged to be there.

First, what a great group of men! Connections, good will, humor, friendships, young and old, fathers and sons, music, prayer, encouragement, and messages from God's Word. This is what I witnessed. As the newcomer, and observer, I was impressed with the depth of camaraderie amongst the men gathered there, as well as the yearning to be the men that God calls us to be and our families need us to be.

The theme was, *Men of Issachar: Those Who Understand the Times*. How apropos, because the times we are living in have changed DRAMATICALLY in the past few weeks. The various topics addressing so many of the hot-button issues of the day were done with tact as well as understanding. Yet, in spite of the changes around us, what was emphasized repeatedly was that the only change that really matters is the change that must happen within us, the transformation that comes from a saving relationship with our Savior.

Going into the weekend, I had no idea what to expect. What I found was a group of dedicated men who love the Lord and loved the chance to spend time with other dedicated men of God. I think this may become an annual part of my calendar. Not just because I should be there. No, because it was good for me to be there.

Article by Vice-president of Administration and Education Superintendent Elder Mark Weir. Photo by Taylor Freese.

Dakota Conference Calendar

- Apr 2 - 4 [Music and Arts Festival at DAA](#) - CANCELED
- Apr 4 [Local Church Budget Offering](#)
- Apr 5 Executive Committee via Zoom - 10 a.m.
- Apr 5 Northern Lights Committee via Zoom - 2 p.m.
- Apr 6 Pastors' Meetings via Zoom - 10 a.m.
- Apr 11 Education Sabbath
- Apr 11 [NAD Christian Record Offering](#)
- Apr 12 [Easter](#)
- Apr 18 [Dakota NE Regional in Jamestown, ND](#) - CANCELED
- Apr 18 [Local Church Budget Offering](#)
- Apr 19 - 21 New in Ministry - [POSTPONED](#) or via ZOOM
- Apr 25 [Sioux Falls Youth Get-together](#) - [POSTPONED](#)
- Apr 25 [Dakota Challenge Offering](#)

April 2020

The Local ABC is open during conference office hours.

Please call ahead and Lynette will have the food/books waiting outside for your pickup.

Thank you.


Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
7200 N Washington Street
Bismarck, ND 58503
Mon - Thrs 7:30 - 5:30
701.751.6177


April 2 Dispatch Photo




Photo by Jodi Dossenko, Mandan, ND


Dispatch Mission: To build a climate of encouragement and blessing through the sharing of witnessing and evangelism activities. If you have news to share or would like to be added to the **Dakota Dispatch** mailing list, please email Jacquie Biloff at jbiloff@icloud.com. ©2020 Copyright

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