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## Click Below for Dakota Sabbath Viewing Options

<https://cdn.filestackcontent.com/DRBNMOdT664nmxNCb9sQ?policy=eyJleHBpcnkiOjE1ODgyOTgyODMsImNhbGwiOiJyZWFKliwiaGFuZGxlljoiRlFJCTk1PZlFQ2NjRubXhQQ2I5c1EifQ==&signature=6fdf7483c7366779946accd2e02f4cb0e9e218ed0be558aebdee85b6cac0f8c8>

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## Custer Seventh-day Adventist Church's History, part 2

In harmony with the plans, the basement was nearly completed for school to begin in the autumn of 1939, with 28 pupils. It was taught by Lena Sepchenko, who in 1941 was married to Llewellyn Smith, son of Pastor and Mrs. Calvin Smith. Courageously she went about her daily tasks under very primitive conditions and trying circumstances, trusting in God for help.

The used desks which had been promised by a neighboring public school could not be delivered in time for the first few days, but tables and benches were improvised by the use of lumber and saw horses, and school opened. The small three-room apartment which had been planned for the north end of this basement room had to be partitioned off from the school room by tacking cement sacks onto the studding until building materials arrived.

Since this community had many sawmills, sawdust for heating purposes was obtainable for merely hauling it away. Brother Nobel Chase installed a sawdust-burning furnace which heated not only the school room and the adjoining apartment, but the sanctuary above for several years.

How happy the congregation was that first Sabbath to be able to meet in their own building, though as yet, and all through the first winter, it had to be in the school room. The main part of the building which was to enclose the sanctuary was only just beginning to take shape. But God met them there, and they experienced the joy which David felt when he wrote in Psalm 133:1, *Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity?* And our prayer was, *Let brotherly love continue*, Hebrews 13:1. Angels of God attended the children's Sabbath School classes held in the three rooms of the apartment - the teacher's bedroom, the tiny kitchen and the small living room. And this living room served also as a prayer room for the elders and ministers before climbing the narrow stairs which led up near the rostrum above, as the sanctuary later took shape.

But the thing that has made this church outstanding in appearance has been the varied pastel colors of flagstone with which the building was faced. The men took their trucks to the surrounding near-by hills, and for a few dollars a load pried out the approximately inch-thick layers of rock and hauled them to the building site. Attached to the siding by large-headed nails which were later hidden by stucco, the building took on the rustic appearance of that lovely hill country.

Though they were able to meet in the sanctuary the following summer after having used the basement, much of the finishing work was not yet completed when the Smiths were transferred to Oklahoma in July of 1941. The members continued to work as they were able, but when the Smiths returned in 1944, some finishing touches still remained to be done to prepare the church for dedication. This took place in the summer of 1945 with Elder M.N. Campbell from the Union and Elders Rustad and Perkins from the local conference present to lead out in the services. Meals were served for the visiting ministers and the many guests from the little kitchen by the church sisters, under the supervision of caterer, Sister Harriet Ward.



As a part of the program, with apologies to the author of "The Little Brown Church in the Vale," the quartet sang, "The Little Rock Church in the Hills."

Yeats later, in her love for the Custer church, Harriet Ward wrote, "The doors of that church must never close till Jesus comes." And her later letters reveal that they have never done so. Her latest letter, written October 9, 1978 says, "I wish you could be in church there on Sabbath, and observe the zeal that they are having in the Lord's work."

They can humbly say, *What hath God wrought!* and thank Him for it all. The little church built by these self-sacrificing and dedicated people, who had little of this world's goods, along with those from neighboring churches such as the Hot Springs church, who so kindly helped, was dedicated free of debt. In fact, there had not been many bills to pay, for the church was literally "carved out of the hills," as some expressed it. About the only things that cost money were the hiring

of a contractor for a few weeks to supervise the most important things, the building of the pews, and the purchase of windows, shingles and cement. *To God be the glory; great things He hath done!*

Article by Mrs. Calvin D. Smith, October 15, 1978; Picture from Gloria Marcoe



Photo by Cliff Freese

## Graduation Plans at DAA

Continue to check Dakota Adventist Academy's Facebook page for updated information and viewing links.



*Dakota Adventist Academy  
2020 Graduation*

**Consecration - 8 pm**

**Friday, May 22nd**



*Dakota Adventist Academy  
2020 Graduation*

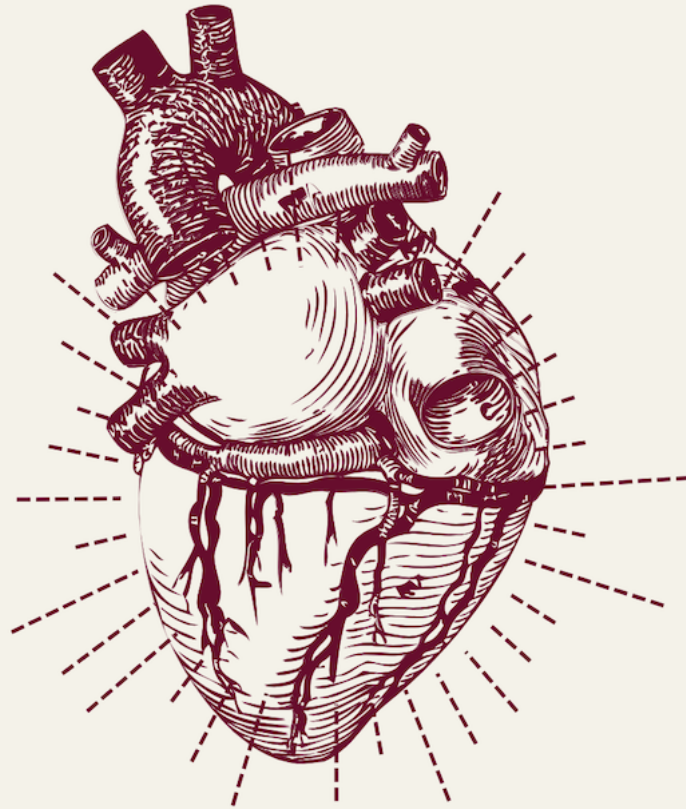
**Baccalaureate - 8 pm**

**Saturday, May 23rd**



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Dakota youth — something's coming.....



# (RE)VOLUTION

SUMMER 2020

Article by Pastors Ricky and Brooke Melendez

## Psalms 91 During Covid-19

Psalm 91 is a wonderful Psalm that tells us about abiding in the shadow of the Almighty, He is our refuge, our fortress and we can trust in Him (verses 1-2). There are some who have called Psalm 91, *The Song of Plagues*. All of the Psalms are poems that were sung for worship. Some have called it, *The Protection Psalm*. It helps with the troubles we face. A well-known minister, G. Campbell Morgan called Ps. 91, *The greatest possession of the Saints*. I have read accounts of where soldiers who were going into a battle would put a copy of Ps. 91 inside their uniform over the heart. As we continue to face the effects of the Coronavirus, we should read and underline God's message to us in this wonderful Psalm.

Verse 3 suggests, God will deliver us from the snare of the fowler, and from the NOISOME PESTILENCE. In verse 4, we are told, *He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust*. As a bird-watcher, I have noticed many times when danger is at hand, that young birds like to bury themselves in their parent's feathers. The chicks of the Northern Jacanas that are resident in Costa Rica will run and hide under the father's (he cares for the little ones) feathers. They are petrified when a sudden rain begins and they scurry to safety. The Psalmist says, we too can



do that with our Heavenly Father. We are not to be afraid of *the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flies by day, nor for the pestilence (COVID-19) that walketh in darkness, nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.*

Let me explain something right now for the nay-sayers. Does this Psalm mean there will be NO Christians that get the Coronavirus? No, there may be, and have been, Christians who have contracted this virus and some who have died. For the Christian who is abiding in the shadow of the Almighty and who has made the Lord his/her refuge, there is nothing to fear. If I die as a result of the Coronavirus, I trust I have been faithful to Him; therefore, I have no fear of death. One of the last things Jesus told his disciples is found in John 16:33 where he tells them (and us), *In Me you may have peace, in the world you will have tribulation: but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.* We may have to stand like the three Hebrews in Dan. 3: 17-19 where they told the king, *Our God, whom we serve, is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us (that is faith), but if not, be it known unto thee, we will not serve their Gods.* By the way, there is an interesting text in Ps. 116: 15 which says, *Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.*

Meanwhile, let us accept the message of Psalm 91, God reigns, God is our strength, and God is our refuge. Those thoughts should give us hope during the time of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Picture: Northern Jacana male shelters young in face of impending danger.

Article and photo by Pastor Wayne Easley

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## Fargo Church Opens Its Doors for Worship



Pastor Darrel Lindensmith says the first opening for church since the shutdown in March was May 9. He reported it went well. "Those who felt comfortable were there," he says. However, there was no Sabbath School classes as the small rooms provided no distancing opportunities and temperatures were checked at the door.

The United Church of God, 7th Day, which meets in the Fargo church on Sabbath afternoons, decided not to begin worshipping together because their group consists of so many elderly. However, the Lighthouse Baptist Church members, which uses the facility on Sundays, were happy to meet again. Although the Adventist church cleans after Sabbath, the Sunday church also brings cleaning supplies and disinfects before they begin their worship.

Pastor Lindensmith said the Sabbath School classes will be added this weekend but not in the classrooms. They will meet on each side of the church. Zoom option will still be available for those who choose. No fellowship meals will be held until June and then there will be servers so less people handle serving spoons.

Article by Jacquie Biloff; Photo by [Ben White](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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## Dakotans Pray via Zoom



*Dakotans Pray* met in a Zoom chatroom May 7 to participate in the National Day of Prayer initiative. Dakota Conference members prayed from communities across North and South Dakota.

"It is one of the highest privileges we are blessed with to have the invitation from Christ through the Holy Spirit to intercede with Christ on behalf of people whom He loves so much," said Prayer Coordinator Barry St. Clair.

The Scripture theme published by [nationaldayofprayer.org](http://nationaldayofprayer.org) is Habakkuk 2:14, which reads: "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

The prayer call followed an adaptation of the seven areas of prayer focus shared by National Day of Prayer. *Dakotans Pray* began praying for families. "If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand." Mark 3:25.

Pastor Barry St. Clair, Red River Seventh-day Adventist Company, shared this prayer to begin the prayer call. "Pray for families. Family is the foundational unit of society and the American way of life. It is from the family people go forth to participate in communities of faith. It is from the family people enter into educational partnerships. It is from the family people engage in commerce in the marketplace. It is from families that people emerge as story tellers in the media. It is from families that people enter lives of service in the branches of the military, law enforcement, firefighters and ambulance crews. It is from our families "We the People" serve our fellow constituents in governance. Please join across this great land, across ideologies, across national origin, gender and language groups to humble ourselves and pray together for God's glory across America!"

The other areas of prayer were community - both communities of faith and the community at large, education including teachers and students, the market place, business and commerce including farmers, ranchers and oil field workers, media including Adventist messaging, secular media and social media, military personnel including police, firefighters, ambulance crews and other first responders, and all levels of government including administration within the Adventist organization.

We plan to continue a collective *Dakotans Pray* prayer time, which can be enjoyed from the pickup, combine, tractor or milking parlor. This is scheduled for the first Thursday each month from 7-8:30 Central / 6-7:30 Mountain times. The next *Dakotans Pray* is scheduled for June 4.

People may call in from a phone, but long distance rates may apply. You may download Zoom to either your smartphone, tablet or computer. For information and to receive the link / number for the meeting please email [redriversda@gmail.com](mailto:redriversda@gmail.com) with *Dakotans Pray* in the subject line. Personal, or public prayer requests may also be sent for either Prayer Team prayer or shared during the prayer times.

# Will or Estate Planning?



Contact Trust Services  
at Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
701-751-6177 or [trust@dakotaadventist.org](mailto:trust@dakotaadventist.org)

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## Ladies Share Together

Melody Sampson of the Pierre church in Pierre, SD, was at it again with twelve more care packages for the elderly put together and distributed this past week. This time she had help from Marion Barber and Sandy Szana. Pastor Eaton made fresh sourdough bread to include in the baskets, along with an article referencing Jesus as our Bread of Life. As before, the packages were hand delivered to various members of the community. Melody's father was an Adventist pastor and she grew up being involved in Ingathering. She uses those skills when going door-to-door. She and Sandy have a wonderful time together giving out baskets.





*Article by Pastor Nicholas Eaton. Pictures by Charmé Eaton and Melody Sampson.*

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## NOTE DATE CHANGE!

Visit [dakotaadventist.org](http://dakotaadventist.org) to view presenters and read their biographies.  
This information is under the Community tab, then Campmeeting, then choose Presenters.



**The King's Heralds Will Be At Campmeeting Sabbath - August 1, 2020**

# THE KING'S HERALDS

*Celebrating 92 years of ministry.*



## Dakota Conference Radio Stations

No	Name of Radio Station	Broadcast Frequency	City
1	KBEP-LP	93.7fm	Bismarck, ND
2	KJIT-LP	106.7fm	Bismarck, ND
	K237FQ	95.3fm	Bismarck, ND
3	KDIX	1230am	Dickinson, ND
4	KPAR-LP	103.7fm	Dickinson, ND
5	KOBT-LP	101.3fm	Grand Forks, ND
6	KHND	1470am	Harvey, ND
7	KSJB	600am	Jamestown, ND
8	KSJB	600am	Jamestown, ND
9	KTWJ	90.9fm	Lincoln/Moffit, ND
10	KSAF-LP	104.1fm	Minot, ND
11			
12			

## Dakota Conference Calendar

- May 15-17 [Flag Mountain Camp Work Bee - Cancelled](#)  
 May 16 [Local Church Budget Offering](#)  
 May 20 [Hillcrest 8th Grade Graduation \(7pm\) - TBD](#)  
 May 21 [Sioux Falls 8th Grad Graduation \(7pm\) - TBD](#)  
 May 22-24 [DAA Graduation Weekend](#)  
 May 23 [Dakota Challenge Offering](#)  
 May 25 [Conference Office Closed for Memorial Day](#)  
 May 30 [Prairie Voyager 8th Grade Graduation \(11am\) - TBD](#)  
 May 30 [Camp Development \(NLC/FMC\) Offering](#)
- June 10-13 [Campmeeting - changed to July 30 - Aug 1](#)  
 June 14 [Dirt Kicker Charity Run - changed to Aug 2](#)  
 June 25 [General Conference Session - postponed until May 2021](#)

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## May 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

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## May 14 Dispatch Photo







Photo by Jacquie Biloff, Flag Mountain Camp, Black Hills, SD


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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](mailto:jbiloff@icloud.com). Bison Copyright


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