

April 2025 | <http://abc-dakotas.org> | 605-575-2071

### Pastor Aaron's Post-It

Have you been vivified? That's not a common word we use everyday but it means to *bring to life, to quicken or animate*.

Think of the cross and the empty tomb. We can be so thankful that it did not end on the cross for Jesus Christ or us. But what are we focused on in our lives? Because whatever it is, we naturally will be pulled towards that direction. Are we focused on the death and horror of the cross and our sins or are we focused on the empty tomb?

Vivification is also an intentional focus on godly things that lead you to a deeper and abundant life. It involves filling ourselves with a renewed way of thinking, based on ultimate realities that stir up our love for Jesus.

### Consider This About New Life :

- Take a time of prayer today and Thank God for leading you to spiritual transformation, the renewing of your mind. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue to lead you as you read God's Word, as you set your mind on Him, as He renews your mind.

### Camp Bentley and Camp Judson!



Camp can be a real mountain-top experience and spiritual marker in the lives of campers that come to Bentley or Judson. Campers can experience God in a personal way, build relationships, get outdoors, and just plain have fun! Camp Bentley and Camp Judson are intentional and ready for all campers!

Camp Bentley is ready for camp registrations for all camps! You can explore camps and register at: [www.campbentleynd.org](http://www.campbentleynd.org).

Camp Judson is filling mighty fast. The Senior High camp is virtually full but there is the option of our new combined camp of Jr and Sr High school. Jr. High Boys is still open as well as Junior Camp, Family Camp, and College Camp. For more details and registration, please check out: <https://campjudson.org/> or <https://abc-dakotas.org/camp-judson> See you this summer!



### 2025 ABC Biennial Mission Summit in Omaha, NE



The Executive Committee of the Board of General Ministries is excited to announce that the 2025 Biennial Mission Summit will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, July 3-6, 2025 at the Hilton Hotel and Convention Center in Omaha.

"We're excited to be coming to a location that is convenient for travelling and centrally located in the United States," said American Baptist Churches USA President Rev. Dr. James O. Wolfe III. "We hope that you save these dates now and look for information coming early next year, and plan ahead to attend this wonderful family event featuring inspiring worship, workshops, and fellowship with our sisters and brothers in Christ." From July 3 to July 6, we have a fantastic lineup of events and activities planned just for you. Be sure to check the schedule. You can register at:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/2e3d1455-d0aa-4949-a709-24e360442a7a/summary>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE [HTTP://ABC-DAKOTAS.ORG](http://ABC-DAKOTAS.ORG) FOR MORE INFO!

March 2025 | <http://abc-dakotas.org> | 605-575-2071

### Camp Judson Capital Campaign Progress

Each time we visit the construction site at Camp Judson, there is always something new. This time, we were intrigued by the play of light and shadow cast upon the basement floor and walls by the newly placed floor joists. Planning, design, attention to detail, quality materials, and proper construction are giving this building its strength.

Our lives are much like this building. God is a God of order. He had a perfect plan for us and a perfect design, but mankind was deceived and has tried ever since to "right the ship" by himself. Bringing yourself back into right relationship with God is the only way you can restore the design of your life. Take time today and seek to restore that relationship.

Despite the cold weather in early March, the crew pressed on. We use the term "crew" rather loosely because it is a deceptively inflated noun at this point. Most of the time, the "crew" is just Tracy and Jake with Brad Wilkes helping two days a week. Gabe Bauer has been helping lately, and a few other volunteers drop in occasionally to lend a hand.

The interior wall-framing is complete on the basement level, most of the floor joists have been lifted to their proper location, and Tracy is planning the next big construction phase which is framing



of the second floor. Hopefully, a group from Aberdeen will be able to help with this.

There are no new developments with respect to fundraising, but just as a winning sports team puts "fans in the stands", our prayer is that people will see the progress that is being made and will join the effort to bring this project to final completion. God bless all who have contributed time, talent, and treasure to this project.

Only By His Grace,  
Judy Waldman & Ken Wrede  
Capital Campaign Co-Chairs



### Pastor's Corner with Chuck Kranz

Each month, some time will be taken to get to know our ABCD region pastors. This month, we get to know a little more about pastor Chuck Kranz at Bethel Baptist Church in Powers Lake, ND. Chuck was willing to answer a few questions about who he is and what's on his mind:

1. Who in the Bible would you like to meet? A. "Jesus. Because of so many things that He is present in Scripture. To see the spectrum of emotions and reactions He displayed."
2. What is your favorite part of ministry? A. "Loving on people. I have always been a people person. You have to have a sound biblical understanding and being able to apply it to life. People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

VISIT OUR WEBSITE [HTTP://ABC-DAKOTAS.ORG](http://ABC-DAKOTAS.ORG) FOR MORE INFO!

March 2025 | <http://abc-dakotas.org> | 605-575-2071

### Pastor's Corner with Chuck Kranz (cont'd)

3. Family? A. Wife, Sue. 6 daughters range from 19-29 years old.

4. Originally from? A. Underwood, ND

5. Favorite food? A. "Yes." "I love to cook. Mexican food the most."

6. A favorite Bible verse?  
A. Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God."

7. How have you seen God working recently? A. "In my journey being called by God to ministry in North Dakota and now Powers Lake, SD."

8. Favorite movie? A. *The Case for Christ*

9. Favorite book of Scripture and why? A. "James. Because he lays out how we should live and walk with Christ. It helps you live a life of joy and pleasing to the Lord."

Thank you for letting us get to know you a little more, Chuck! God bless you, your family, and your ministry - in Jesus's name!



### Camp Bentley Broadcast

It's hard to believe workcamp at Camp Bentley is less than 2 months away. We are already receiving registrations for our Summer 2025 Camps. The first camper registered is a first-time camper who doesn't attend an ABC church but was invited by a friend who does. How exciting is that? Because of a friend's invitation, a young person can meet Jesus and a bunch of new friends at camp. Because of your generosity in giving towards Twice Blessed, she will attend camp for FREE.

We are pleased to announce Ben Mayer, formerly of Minot and currently of Kansas, will be our manager for the 2025 season. He is excited to return to Camp Bentley with his wife and family for the summer. Chuck and Sue Kranz will be assisting him at our ABC Camps. Cheryl Lakoduk will be back as camp cook. Counselor applications are out, and we are hoping to build a great staff. Our remaining needs are for a director for Junior Camp and nurse for Jr High Camp. Please join us in prayer that the right people to make our camps a wonderful place to meet Jesus and live in Christian community.

Thanks to Marty Lundblad, a new camp webpage at [www.campbentleynd.org](http://www.campbentleynd.org) is here! We will continue to have a presence on the region webpage but this allows us greater flexibility and a shorter web address for publicity. Registration for camps is available at either [www.abc-dakotas.org](http://www.abc-dakotas.org) or [www.cambentleynd.org](http://www.cambentleynd.org). Plan some time at Camp Bentley this summer!

### Training Event for Camp Judson and Camp Bentley Junior Counselors

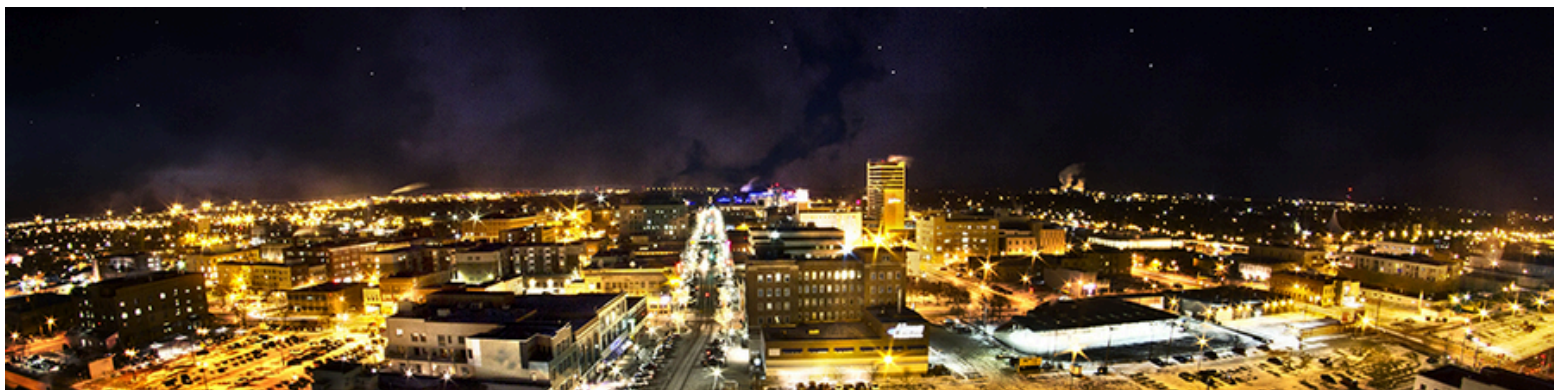


We have been so blessed over the years to have dedicated Junior camp counselors for Camp Judson and Camp Bentley. God has been so good as hundreds and thousands of campers have come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior in the decades of faithful witness and teaching that happens at our Camps.

Counselors are the front-line workers in ministry at Camp Judson and Camp Bentley, make no mistake about it. To continue building up and preparing our young adults in ministry for Junior Camp, we are holding a training event for all counselors at the Winner, SD First Baptist Church on Saturday, April 26th at 12:30 PM. Camp Bentley counselors are still required to attend counselor training on May 28-29 at Camp Bentley. Lunch will be provided while our Junior Camp directors and Exec. Minister Aaron Kilbourn help lead an engaging time. Come join us as we explore how Jesus Christ and the Gospel are shared with elementary age kids during camp.

Let Annie B., Nick M., or Lori L. know if you plan on coming! The event is free and if there are any questions, please call Aaron Kilbourn at 605-575-2071. Thank you!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE [HTTP://ABC-DAKOTAS.ORG](http://ABC-DAKOTAS.ORG) FOR MORE INFO!

March 2025 | <http://abc-dakotas.org> | 605-575-2071

### Here and There

As Executive Minister, I have the distinct privilege of traveling the open range of the Dakotas and visiting with pastors & believers of all kinds. In this section of *Dakota Baptist*, I will share some about where I've been and who I've seen.

March travel was full with conferences in Omaha, NE and Washington D.C. as I attended conferences that I hope will have valuable resources for pastors and churches in our region. Topics covered had to do with rural church ministry, current evangelism ideas, global mission partnering with the local church, and other areas of ministry that I plan on sharing with our churches and pastors.



Pastor Aaron Graham of The District Church (D.C.) speaking at ASCENT in Alexandria, VA

In visiting with pastors in our Dakotas region, I listened to pastors share their more fruitful Gospel-sharing efforts where they have seen fruit in their own lives and in the lives of their congregation. I was able to help share those findings at the Prairie Pastors Conference in Omaha, NE as I led a workshop on apologetics and sharing the good news of the Gospel.

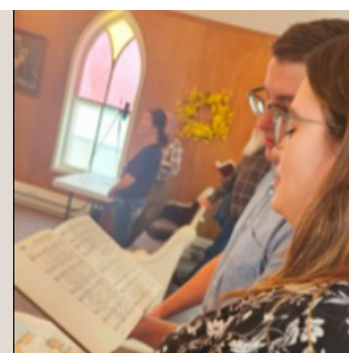
### Church and Pastor Resources

Each month this section will feature several resources that might help churches and pastors with a variety of different tasks and ministry areas. Each featured resource will have a link to click on for more info!

1. [Preach Logic](#) - Preach Logic transforms the way pastors and church leaders prepare, store, and access their content—giving you total control with effortless organization and instant retrieval.



2. [ASCENT](#) - The heartbeat of Ascent is to connect the orthodox, globally minded, missionally engaged Christian community around the call of the Great Commission. Among the cultural and ecclesial fragmentation of our current moment, we know the Holy Spirit to be stitching together a new movement. We are composed of local congregations, regional denominational families, national ministry networks and communions, mission agencies, non-profit ministries, and theological institutions.



### A Time to Pray

*Each month, we will feature prayers concerning our ministries in the Dakotas that we can offer to God, knowing that we can, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." - Rom. 12:12*

- Prayers for pastors and churches reaching out during the season of Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday.
- Pray for Camp Bentley and Camp Judson as they prepare for summer campers.
- Pray for adults willing to mentor other adults and young people.
- Pray for pastors to be refreshed as they return from the Prairie Pastors Conference
- Pray for churches that look to the Lord for direction and life.
- Pray for the newly baptized to have a good soil for their hearts and faith maturity.
- Pray for our ABCD region's churches to know they have friends in faith across the miles.

*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, - Phil. 1:3-4*

VISIT OUR WEBSITE [HTTP://ABC-DAKOTAS.ORG](http://ABC-DAKOTAS.ORG) FOR MORE INFO!