



Communication Director Transition

For the last ten years, Jacquie Biloff has served the constituents of the Dakota Conference in the capacity of communication director. Among many things, she leaves behind a wealth of history for churches and cemeteries. September will be her last month in the Dakotas as she and Neil will retire and move to be near family.

I have been hired as communication director upon Jacquie's retirement and will continue to assist the new conference president as well as keep the role of education secretary. This job and the new challenges it presents is exciting to me and I hope to serve each of you to the best of my ability.

A little about me... My name is Jodi Dossenko: child of God; wife to Ben; daughter to Marvin and Penny Gottfried; and lover of shoes and felines. I have spent the majority of my life in North Dakota, born and raised on a farm in Stutsman County. My husband and I met at summer camp and graduated in the same class from Dakota Adventist Academy. I earned an elementary education degree from Union College. After moving back to the Dakotas, Hillcrest Adventist Elementary School hired me. We spent seven years in Jamestown before moving to Bismarck. I have worked in the Conference Office as administrative assistant for the last seven years and look forward to continuing my work in this new capacity.



Journal from 1938

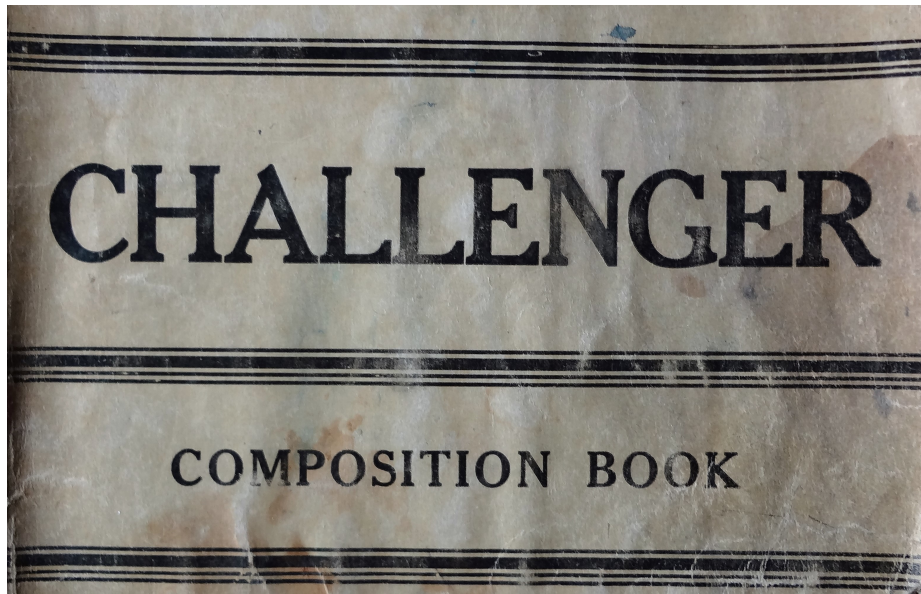
Excerpt from a Dakota Adventist girl's journal. Inscription on the inside cover reads:

- I got this book from my teacher.
- I was in the fourth grade.
- I was eight years old.
- It was in the year of 1938.

- I am so glad to receive this book.

League Pledge

I hereby pledge my active devotion to my country by a study of its ideals, and by constant interest in a general welfare of my state and nation. I shall strive to do something each day to improve the standards of my school and community, and thereby endeavor to promote better citizenship!



Jamestown Church Welcomes New Members



During this year's teen camp, just before Campmeeting, four of the Jamestown attendees accepted the call of Jesus on their lives and were among those who were baptized by Camp Directors/Pastors Ricky and Brooke Melendez. On Sabbath, August 15 they were welcomed into the Jamestown Church fellowship after their profession of faith. We are so proud of Knoah Weber, MiKayla Torres, Anastasia Weber and Keatyn Diede for making Christ supreme in their lives. Pastor Simpson would like to thank the Melendezes, Casey Bartlett and Renee Naasz, not to forget dedicated parents and Hillcrest School who also had a part in preparing each of these young ones for this momentous decision in their lives at just the right time. May God bless them as they live their 'new lives' in Christ Jesus.

Lehr Church Holds Vacation Bible School

After much prayer and discussion by the members of the Lehr Seventh-day Adventist Church, it was decided to go forward in faith and have Vacation Bible School even though at the time there was a spike in COVID-19 cases in the area. Church members had to improvise in many areas to keep children and staff as safe as possible. All VBS activities were held in the Lehr city park. The Bible story each evening was acted out in the form of a skit by the adults. Twenty-two children were in attendance. Excellent help came from the church family as well as a number of women, men and teens from the community.

Fun, games, crafts, singing and Bibles stories came to an end far too soon for eager, excited children ranging in age from two to twelve. There was an excellent turnout for the program in the park and many thanks were expressed for providing a delightful time for cooped-up kiddos in the area. Praise to the Lord for His goodness, protection, love and beautiful weather!





Article and photos from Coreen Schumacher

Women's Retreat



Women's Retreat 2020 is being held October 9-11 at the Abbey of the Hills in Marvin, South Dakota. Due to COVID-19 there is a limit of 90 guests including speaker and committee members. The Abbey has protocols in place, masks will not be required but recommended. Early bird special pricing ends Sunday, August 30. To sign up go to: dakotaadventist.org > Ministries > Women's Ministries > Women's Retreat Registration

How to Start School "DAA Style"

The day of registration finally came, though kids had arrived throughout the previous two weeks, it was still an anticipated day. Student Association officers were stationed just inside the main doors to greet families at their pre-scheduled times. Teachers walked families through the registration process as well as gave facility tours to new students. All were in high spirits!

There are thirty-three students at the Academy, but hopes are high for additional students to join as the year progresses. Students and staff will try to make this school year the greatest it possibly can be, they hope to cement old friendships and add new.

The highlight of the first week of school at Dakota Adventist Academy is Camp Week. This year was no different and yet a little different. To allow for social distancing time to expire, Camp Week started a little later, but that did not lessen anyone's fun.

Hot is the only way to describe the weather...perfect for water sports! Water activities were even more appreciated as it was the only way to cool off.



Games, boat races, volleyball, Frisbee golf and hikes kept the students entertained and helped them get to know each other and the staff. Pastor Ricky Melendez shared heartfelt engaging messages about becoming a strong community filled with the love of God. He challenged everyone in attendance to be better, kinder, more accepting and tolerant of their fellow human beings.

Continuing with the goodness shared during Camp Week is the plan as students and staff move forward through the school year. Let's go DAA!



Article and photos by Recruiter Tracy Peterson



Staff Changes at the Conference Office

Judy Weir has been hired part-time as treasury assistant. She will be handling all the receipting formerly done by Jacquie.

Lynette Miller is transitioning into full-time development director. She has been sharing these responsibilities with Sharon Heinrich for the past couple of years. Lynette will continue to manage the Adventist Book Center store as well as work with building and liability insurance.

Julie Brude, in addition to her current role as trust services assistant, has taken on the additional responsibilities of membership clerk and will work with church clerks and pastors regarding church membership and attendance.

Judy Weir



Julie Brude



Lynette Miller



Author Jodi Dossenko; Photos by Loren Nelson III and Jodi Dossenko

Dakota ABC

The ABC is open in Bismarck, ND.

Tuesday - Thursday: 3:00 - 5:30 pm

If you happen to be in town during other hours, please stop by, we will try to accommodate.

Office closed Fridays.

Dakota Conference Calendar

Aug 29 **Dakota Evangelism**
 Aug 30 K-12 Board Meeting - CO (10 am)

Sep 05 **Local Church Budget**
 Sep 07 Labor Day/Office Closed
Sep 12 **Local Church Budget**
 Sep 13 Executive Committee - CO (9 am)
 Sep 14 - 20 ACS Federation Meetings
 Sep 17 - 21 DAA Homeleave
Sep 19 **Dakota Challenge**

- Sep 26 **Camp Development**
- Sep 27 Executive Committee - CO (10 am)

- Oct 02 - 03 DAA/SRA/PVA Alumni Weekend - DAA **CANCELLED
- Oct 03 **Local Church Budget**
- Oct 08 - 14 GC Fall Council - MD
- Oct 10 **NAD Voice of Prophecy**
- Oct 09 - 11 Women's Retreat - Abby of the Hills, SD
- Oct 11 - 13 New in Ministry Training - DAA
- Oct 17 **Local Church Budget**
- Oct 17 South Central Regional - Aberdeen, SD
- Oct 21 DAA Homeleave
- Oct 24 **Dakota Challenge**
- Oct 25 K-12 Board Meeting - CO (10 am)
- Oct 31 **Secondary Endowment**

August 13 Dispatch Photo



Photo by Chrystal Rittenbach

evangelism activities. If you have news to share or would like to be added to the **Dakota Dispatch** mailing list, please email Jodi Dossenko at j.dossenko@gmail.com. Bison [Copyright](#)

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