

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

SPOKANE WASHINGTON NORTH STAKE

President Larry R. Larson
308 E. Shiloh Hills Dr.
Spokane, WA 99208

January 15, 2012

(to be read in sacrament meetings)

Dear fellow members of the Spokane Washington North Stake,

We have been delighted to hear numerous reports of increased faith and commitment to following the teachings of Jesus Christ. We have been pleased to see how recent emphasis on temple worship, gospel teaching, reading of the Book of Mormon, and giving tithes and fast offerings has brought members to a closer personal relationship with their Heavenly Father. We encourage all to continue these efforts and invite any who have not yet tested their faith in this regard to do so. We also invite all to continue to take advantage of the missionary opportunities provided by the “mormon.org” and Meetinghouse Tours efforts.

As a Stake Presidency, we have discussed, pondered, and prayed for specific direction that will further strengthen our members, families, and wards, as well as augment our current missionary emphasis. We have felt the promptings of the Spirit turn our thoughts towards the sacrament and sacrament meeting. We propose that our common goal be an increased presence of the Spirit in our sacrament meetings. As we assemble to worship together, it is our hope that the healing power of the Atonement may be more personally felt as we worship and partake of the sacrament. (Mosiah 4:2-3).

We ask for your prayerful consideration of the following simple proposals:

First, we ask families to hold several family home evening discussions to specifically discuss what they can do to prepare to feel the Spirit in sacrament meeting and embody a spirit of reverence for the Savior. Family home evening lessons might include the doctrine of the sacrament, proper bearing of testimony, participating in congregational hymns and instructions on preparing gospel-centered talks.

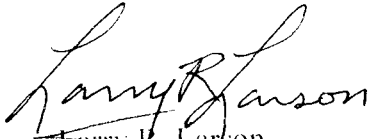
Second, we ask specifically that Melchizedek Priesthood brethren set an example of bearing simple and pure testimony (Matthew 16:15-17), so that our fast and testimony meetings may be most spiritual and converting.

Third, we ask both bishoprics and ward members who are invited to participate in this most sacred meeting to prayerfully prepare assignments and deliver messages that are doctrinally sound and are received and delivered by the Spirit. We know that the Spirit will guide those who seek His guidance.


We wish to express our love for you. We pray for you, and ask for the blessings of heaven to be poured out upon you as we worship together in sacrament meeting. We are confident that as we collectively strive to invite the Spirit more fully into our sacrament meetings, we will be blessed with peace and healing. We further promise that increased faith in this regard will bring greater protection for our families as they face the fiery darts of the adversary.

Sincerely,


Spokane Washington North Stake Presidency



Larry R. Larson
President



Peter A. Martin
First Counselor



Christopher M. Grimes
Second Counselor