

***LORD
my God,***

**I called to
you for help,
and**

***YOU
HEALED
ME.***

PSALM 30:2, NIV

*The
Herald*

From the Pastor's Desk

Knowing Christ

Peter writes that we “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18

Now Peter is writing to group of believers who already “know” Jesus as their Savior. By this we mean that we have recognized we have sin in our lives which separates us from God (Rom. 3:23) and we need a Savior. Sin is so pervasive and dominate in our lives that we could never rid our lives from it or pay God back for the damage done to our relationship with Him. We need a Savior and that is Jesus. So when we acknowledge our sin and ask Jesus Christ to forgive our sins He does and we come to know Him as our Savior. Do you remember the glorious day that took place in your life or are you experiencing the joy of being forgiven?

Since Peter is writing to believers who have already experienced this beginning “knowledge of Christ” and he challenges them to “grow in grace and knowledge” we can be sure there is more to this relationship. Last month I commented on Jesus’ words to his followers to “abide in Him to produce much fruit”. Jesus would never tell us to do something impossible so as we pray to Him, learn from Him, rely on Him we discover He provides what we need to live productive, fruitful lives. This is a life long learning but it is possible to know Christ in a way that provides the essential spiritual nutrients to life a fruitful life.

In his earlier book Peter called his readers to desire the Word “like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.” 1 Peter 2:2. We come to “know Christ” by consuming a steady diet of the Word where we learn who He is, how He loves us and how He desires to work in our lives. Many believers wonder why they don’t feel closer to Christ or experience the spiritual vitality others seem to have. The answer often is right here. They spend little time in the Word and thus are spiritually weak and weary. I suggest you follow Peter’s advice and regularly, daily, and even more than that spend time in the Word. Read, meditate and memorize so the Word is able to “dwell in you richly” (Col. 3:16).

So much more could be said, but press on. You truly can Know Christ more and the relationship seem closer and your faith become stronger.

Growing in Knowing our Savior,

The Family Tree

I just got back from Enid, Oklahoma with 12 youth who are begging to go back. On our last day there, the youth were doing everything they could to get me to extend the trip by one day. It was a bit surprising as I didn't know if they could survive another day. We would start the day with breakfast at 8am and then go non-stop until around 10pm each night.

The days involved:

- Working in their garden.
- Mowing/trimming lawns in the neighborhood.
- VBS with kids.
- Handing out Burgers and praying for people.
- Handing out Snow Cones and making Salvation bracelets at splash pad and pool.
- Carrying Crosses around town to have conversations with people.
- Handing out clothes to the homeless.
- Feeding the homeless.
- Praying for people and sharing Christ.
- Evangelism training.
- Putting on a carnival for the community.



All of the above was done in just three days, so you can see why the days were so long.

The Family Tree

It was amazing to watch the youth grow more and more tired as the week went on while their desire to serve grew at the same time. There wasn't one complaint of how much work they were doing even in the very hot conditions. It really showed the joy that comes from serving.

Now is the true test. Can or will we take what we learned in Enid and apply it to our community. There are many things we did that can be done here. The youth are meeting to discuss the trip and what they would like to do to serve the community. We will be sure to keep you the church body posted on what they are doing and the needs that we will have to be effective in this endeavor.

Please be in prayer for our youth as they desire to reach the youth in our community and to make an impact for Jesus in our community. This trip would not have been possible without the generosity of our church body and the support of their prayers. Thank you for always being a church that supports and cheers on our youth.

In Christ,

Ben Larsen

Family Life Pastor



From the Office Administrators Desk

Ben was talking to our kids the other day about love languages.

I'm sure you have heard about love languages. The five different love languages according to Dr. Chapman are: words of affirmation, quality time, physical touch, acts of service, and receiving gifts.

Now, Ben was talking to our kids about mommy's love language which is not included in that list. Mommy's love language is obedience from her children. Ben told them that when they listened to Mom and did what she asked (the first time—not the 100th time), then that would speak love to mom.

It made me think of God and how we speak love to Him. God is love (1 John 4:16) and God is a jealous God (Exodus 20:5-6) and wants His children to love Him only. So how do we show love to God? There are many different ways, but like my love language from my children, God wants obedience from His children (Luke 9:23, Psalm 128:1, Romans 12:1, Deuteronomy 8:6). Obedience may look different for everyone, but it starts with listening to the Holy Spirit and when He asks you to do something — DO IT (don't question Him for the 100th time)!!

We had a missions moment from the Keystone Project recently and the gentleman that spoke, talked about how his wife and him felt called to sell everything and move to Keystone, SD to work in missions. And they did it!! And God has worked incredibly in their lives!

Jesus displayed obedience to His Father when He went to the cross for us. In Mark 14:36 He says: "Abba, Father, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

What is God calling you to do? Where in your life do you need to be obedient and say, : "Not what I will, but what You will"? Obedience to God's calling, shows our love and commitment to Him. It may also lead someone to our Abba, Father.

♡ *Stephanie*

Have You Met....?

Adult Name(s): Richard (Dick) & Betty Lou Kessler

Children Name(s) and Ages:

Amy b. 1968, married Allen George and they had 2 girls & 2 boys. Amy passed on to heaven in 2016 from brain cancer, after they were missionaries in Peru for 16 years.

Julie b. 1970, married Erik Tullberg and they had 2 girls and 1 boy. She joined the US Army as a Pediatrician in 2000. They lived in Germany, Alaska, Hawaii, Colorado, and Texas, and she gave care to children of Army families. She retired last year and is a pediatrician in the San Antonio, Tx. area.

Mike b. 1974, married Michelle and they had 1 girl and 2 boys. He became a Professor of Engineering at Tulsa U., Iowa St. U., Washington St, U and currently is the Dean of the School of Engineering at N. Dakota St.



How did you come to be at The Little White Church and how long have you been attending? We were attending church in Custer, but became acquainted with the pastor of the LWC (Ron Moore), so started attending there in 1984.

How long have you lived in the Black Hills?

We moved to Custer in 1981. We were living in California, and the Forest Service offered Dick a job in the Black Hills.

List some jobs or careers you have had over the years?

Dick worked for the Forest Service in the timber management field and Betty Lou was an elementary teacher.

Where did you grow up or places you have lived for a longer duration?

Dick grew up in Pennsylvania and Betty Lou grew up in El Paso, Texas. We met when Dick was in the army and stationed at Ft. Bliss, which is in El Paso. We were married in 1965, and moved to Calif., and lived in various places in California. We lived in Willows, for 6 mo; Upper Lake for 2 years; Glendora for 3 years; Sawyers Bar for 4 yrs; and Altures, for 7 years, then we moved to Custer in 1981.

Have You Met....? Continued

What is a spiritual story/testimony you would like to share?

(Betty Lou) My faith was challenged when our daughter Amy (a medical missionary in Peru) died of brain cancer in 2016. She was only 48, the mother of 4 children, and a devoted servant of the Lord. So why her? Why not me? I'm old and anxious to go home to heaven. We were studying the book of Job at the time. Job had the same questions. Why? God replied: Why do you question me? Did you create the galaxies? Did you make the world? So Job's conclusion was "God is God, and I am not." I had to come to the same conclusion. God is God, and even if I don't understand His reasons, He is still God.

In what ways have you been involved in ministry or serving over the years?

Betty Lou, taught Sunday school, helped with VBS, helped in the nursery and helped with AWANA. Now, I occasionally help by being a coffee server.

Dick, has been a Sunday School teacher, an Elder, an AWANA helper, a Bible Study Leader, and helped with building the new addition.

We were the leaders of the church's Mission's Ministry team for a number of years.

If you could only use one word to describe God, it would be...

(Betty Lou) Faithful

(Dick) Creator/Controller



Want to be featured in "Have you met...?"

***Email Stephanie at
office@thelittlewhitechurch.net***

Between the BookENDS

From the book *Hymns for Personal Devotions* by Jerry B. Jenkins, who recommends singing the same hymn every day for a week, this is a favorite for springtime. “Jesus is compared with all the beauty of the earth and is found fairer, purer and brighter.”

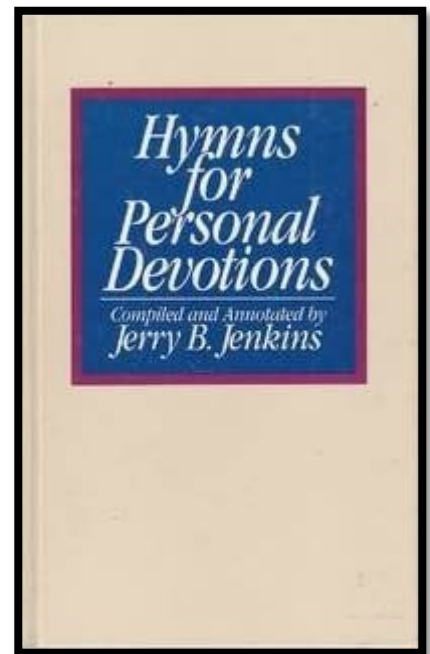
Fairest Lord Jesus
Fairest Lord Jesus! Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God and man the Son!
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's Glory, Joy, and Crown!

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forever more be Thine!

Try simply reading this prayer to God. It is pure worship. “Glory, honor, praise, adoration, now and forever more be Thine.”



Continued on Page 9

Between the BookENDS

And from the book Classic Christian Prayers,
Edited by Owen Collins:

O my sweet Savior Christ, who in Your undeserved love towards humankind so kindly suffered the painful death of the cross, do not allow me to be cold or lukewarm in love again towards You.

-Thomas More

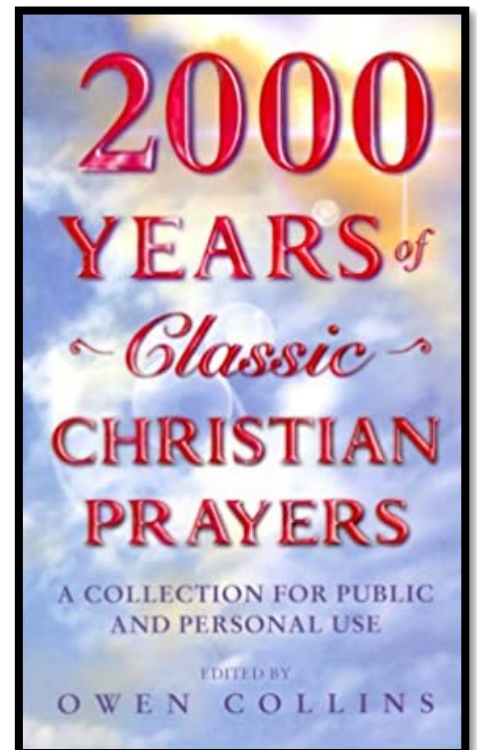
Lord, here I am, do with me as seems best in Thine own eyes; only give me, I beseech Thee, a penitent and patient spirit to expect Thee. Make my service acceptable to Thee while I live, and my soul ready for Thee when I die. -William Laud

O Lord, You know what is best for me. Let this or that be done, as You wish. Give what You will, how much You will and when You will. -Thomas a' Kempis

More of Thy Presence, Lord, impart,
More of Thine image let me bear;
Erect Thy throne within my heart,
And reign without a rival there.
-John Newton

Shared by Bonnie McCaskell

*July Librarians:
Cindy Dusing & Georgie Neff*



Focus on Missions– Teaching Truth International



Training Pastors in a Pandemic

Little White Church, Thank you so much for your continued support of my missionary work with TTI! We recently completed our West African Pastors conference which looked pretty different this year due to the continued impact of the pandemic in West Africa. The COVID crisis hit West Africa much harder than we expected so the completion of the conference was delayed until just a few weeks ago, but I'm happy to report it was a great success. Rather than meeting for a single week-long intensive, we had the pastors gather for two shorter teleconferences with small group studies in between. I'm happy to report 80 pastors completed both studies and 5 are now studying to take comprehensive exams to complete their 5 year bible certificate with TTI.

Almost all pastors in this area are not paid for their work as pastors. Most pastors work as day laborers and do their pastoral work in the evenings and on Sunday mornings. The temptation to dishonesty and greed is huge in this subsistence culture. These pastors also face severe persecution from a very cultic strain of Islam which is dominant in their country. Local cults terrorize churches and vandalize their properties. Worst of all one day a year the cults kidnap Christian children to force them into the cults. Local pastors have often spoken of their fear of preaching against the cults, and how their TTI studies are teaching them how to endure persecution. Thank You for helping these pastors!

- Exact locations have been redacted because these pastors are facing current persecution.

Thank You! Jamin Eben



Glorifying God

What is the purpose of human existence? The Westminster Catechism answers that it is to “glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” How can we glorify God when He is already awesome and perfect and glorious?

A lifetime of glorifying God is not just for those who achieve fame (glory) as evangelists, preachers, singers or writers. Perhaps you remember Brother Lawrence who “practiced the presence of God” as he performed cleaning tasks, or maybe you know of Marva Dawn, who traveled, taught and wrote as a theologian in spite of painful physical handicaps. You have probably not heard of Stanton Richardson, who taught at Crown College, then spent a lifetime praying for and encouraging former students. My parents were among his students and I know you haven't heard of them. They spent a life of service among the Tarahumara people of northern Mexico.



There are other ways of glorifying God. Every thought, attitude and action of our lives can adorn the Good News and bring honor to the name (reputation) of God.

I read in the letters of the apostle Paul, “whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” I Corinthians 10:31 (NIV) Also, Colossians 3:17, “whatever you do or say, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus, all the while giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” (NLT)

Before we think or say anything, or act, we can ask ourselves the questions in the March 18 daily reading in the book *My Utmost For His Highest*, put together by Bidy Chambers from the sermons of her late husband, Oswald Chambers: Is this attitude, thought or action in harmony with the nature of God? Is it in agreement with the life of the Son of God in me? Will it grieve the Holy Spirit?

We can learn to develop gratefulness as a habit, remembering to thank the LORD, who gives us breath. We can practice glorifying God with every breath.

Every 'E' Makes a Difference

BJ Reese

As Christians, we are often encouraged to allow our love for God to show in our day-to-day actions and encounters. But, do you ever wonder if it really matters? Do you ever catch yourself asking, 'Does MY contribution – MY effort – REALLY make any difference?

If we are totally honest, most of us DO ask those questions from time to time, at least to ourselves. We all have occasional doubts that we are making any sort of an impact in God's world. So, I thought I would prepare a simple demonstration:

"Imagine that you represent one of the 26 letters in our alphabet. Each of us is a different letter . . . let's say you are an 'e'. Now, imagine that, as we typed this little article, the 'e' key on my keyboard is stuck. Completely seized-up, there is absolutely NO way for me to type an 'e' into this article.

In my desperate attempt to fill all the spaces in our article, I decide to use a substitute letter. I will have an 'x' stand in for the 'e' . . . asking the 'x' to do the job that was originally intended for the 'e' to do. Once I've successfully 'sent in' my sub, the story now looks like this . . ."

Imaginx that you rxprxsxnt onx of thx 26 lxttxrs in our alphabxt. Xach of us is a dif-fxrnt lxttxr . . . lxt's say you arx an 'x'. Now, imaginx that, as wx typxd this littlx articlx, thx 'x' kxy on my kxyboard is stuck. Complxtxly sxizxd-up, thxrx is absolutxly NO way for mx to typx an 'x' into this articlx.

In my dxspxratx attxmpt to fill all thx spacxs in our articlx, I dxcidx to usx a substitutx lxttxr. I will havx an 'x' stand in for thx 'x' . . . asking thx 'x' to do thx job that was originally intxndxd for thx 'x' to do. Oncx I'vx succxssfully 'sxnt in' my sub, thx story now looks likx this . . .

Look carefully. Read it again . . . only, this time, do NOT read it as your brain interprets it. Read it EXACTLY as it is actually written. Then, YOU tell ME . . . would the 'e' have made a difference?

You see, my friend: EACH of us matters in God's plan. He can send in a sub if we aren't available or willing to do as He asks . . . but the outcome won't be the same. The sub's impact on the story will change how the story turns out. However small you may think it is, your part in God's plan DOES matter. He has a reason for choosing you for the task He has assigned to you. Just as we can see in the story above, every 'e' makes a difference.

To His Glory . . . BJ

Church Body Updates



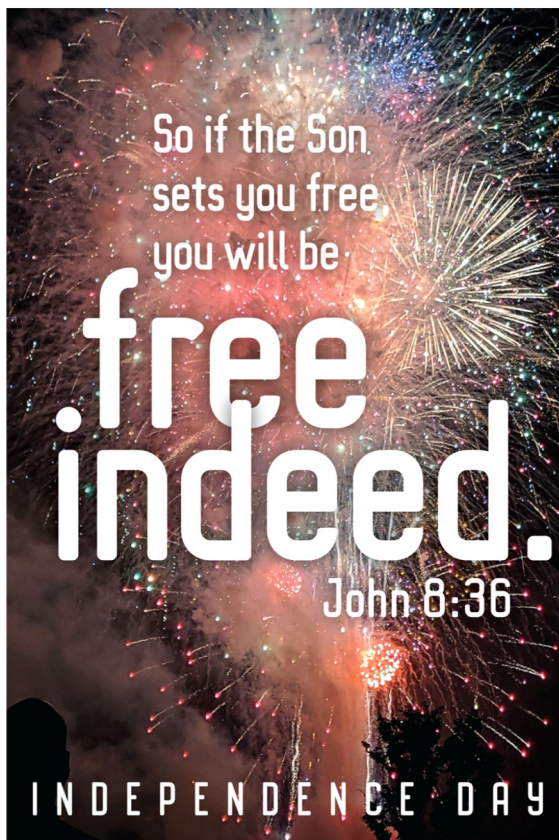
Birthdays

2nd Kathy Eckert
10th Kathy Speirs
15th Mur Anderson
18th Ben Larsen
18th Bonnie Stam
27th Alan Case
29th Peter Kolb
31st Sam Brown



Anniversaries

12th Marv & Joan French
(47 years)
14th Buzz & Mary Ann Grover
(31 years)
17th Sam & Linda Brown
(28 years)
19th Jeremy & Laura Dean
(17 years)
26th John & Mary Stam
(41 years)
28th Roger & Kathy Eckert
(42 years)
30th John & Jan Bandel
(38 years)



Announcements

Birthday Party for Norma Henderson will be held on July 3rd from 11 am – 2 pm at the Henderson Ranch. Light beverage and lunch will be provided.

Baptismal Service is being planned for Sunday, July 11th. Location TBD. If you are interested in being baptized, please see Pastor Dennis or Pastor Ben.

SHE-Brews (Women's Coffee & Fellowship) is held on the second Saturday of each month from 10-11 am.

All ladies are welcome to join us on Saturday, July 10th!

Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, July 25th at 11:30 am.

Absentee Ballots are available at the church office. In order to vote, you must have a signed Statement of Faith on file!

Ladies—Mark your calendars!

Fall Retreat — Coming October 15-16 at Camp Judson!

More info to come!

Cornerstone Rescue Mission is in need of a Full time Kitchen Assistant.

This is a paid position and hours vary. Application is online. More info, please call Jill at 718-8712.

Meals on Wheels - Volunteer Drivers are needed in Hill City.

Please call 605-517-0621 if you would like to help!

A few community members in Hill City are looking at becoming a “Satellite Location” of Love Inc, so we can better serve the needs of people in Hill City. If you are interested in being a part of the exploratory board, please contact Stephanie Larsen or Natalie Cutler. For info on Love Inc, please go to www.loveinonline.com.

We are taking donations to help cover the costs to pave our parking lot! If you would like to help, please make check out to the LWC and put “Parking Lot” in the Memo. Or give online to the Building Fund!

Vacation Bible School

Volunteers Needed!

Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall!



August 2-6

10am - NOON

Kids ages Pre K-5th grade

Items Needed for VBS:

-Christmas Trees (need lots!!)

(please mark your tree & box, so we can keep track of them!)

-White poly fill (lots!)

-Fairy Lights or Christmas Lights

-Knight/Castle décor

-Krulls Giftcards for Snack purchases

-Donations always welcome!

****Please mark all items you would like returned!**

Donations/Items can be dropped off at the church on M,W, F mornings! Or on Sundays! Thank you!



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

Week 49 ☐ Esther 7-10; Revelation 3 ☐ Ezra 7-10; Psalm 97; Rev 4
☐ Nehemiah 1-3; Rev 5 ☐ Neh 4-6; Psalm 98; Rev 6 ☐ Neh 7-9; Psalm
140; Rev 7

Week 50 ☐ Neh 10-13; Revelation 8 ☐ Malachi; Psalm 2; Rev 9 ☐ Job 1-
3; Psalm 29; Rev 10 ☐ Job 4-7; Psalm 99; Rev 11 ☐ Job 8-11; Rev 12

Week 51 ☐ Job 12-14; Psalm 100; Rev 13 ☐ Job 15-17; Rev 14 ☐ Job 18-
20; Psalm 141; Rev 15 ☐ Job 21-23; Psalm 101; Rev 16 ☐ Job 24-27; Rev
17

Week 52 ☐ Job 28-30; Revelation 18 ☐ Job 31-33; Psalm 102; Rev 19
☐ Job 34-36; Rev 20 ☐ Job 37-39; Psalm 103; Rev 21 ☐ Job 40-42;
Psalm 150; Rev 22

How come there aren't any knock-knock jokes about America?

Because freedom rings.

Why doesn't fire get to enjoy a day off on the Fourth of July?

Because fire works.

What did one flag say to the other flag?

Nothing. It just waved.

What's the difference between a duck and George Washington?

One has a bill on his face, and the other has his face on a bill.

Did you hear the one about the Liberty Bell?

Yeah, it cracked me up!



SERVING THE LORD SINCE 1889

525 Main St.

PO Box 385, Hill City, SD 57745

605-574-2426

www.thelittlewhitechurch.net

office@thelittlewhitechurch.net