

THE LORD WILL REIGN FOREVER,
YOUR GOD, O ZION, FOR ALL GENERATIONS

PRAISE THE LORD!

PSALM 146:10, NRSV

The Herald

From the Pastor's Desk

For many of our kids and grandkids school has begun or is just around the corner. The school shopping has been accomplished and though summer is winding up the return to schedule is a welcome time.

Have you found yourself wandering through the school supplies section of Walmart even though you don't have any kids to buy supplies for? I am not sure why, but it seems every August I hear a few empty nesters talking about looking through the school supply section. I know some of the parents can't imagine ever doing that but it seems a reality.

No extensive survey study done but I wonder if we are looking for the security of a defined schedule that being in school brings. Or perhaps even more we love the anticipation of learning. I like that last idea, I think that truly does have value for all of us who claim to be disciples of Jesus. I believe summer has been a great time for us as a church family, and the fall season offers even more opportunities to learn and grow in our walk with Christ.

I invite you to find ways to plug in and learn this fall. At Little White Church we have women's and men's groups and Bible Studies which are meeting. We have a couple of classes for adults during 2nd service on Sunday mornings. We have classes for all ages of kids so all of us can take the opportunity to sharpen our focus on Christ and grow. We have a number of small groups that meet through the week and are hoping to start more. If you would like to join a group let me know and I will see where we can get you engaged. Perhaps this is the time you commit to a personal Bible reading or devotional plan to jump start your spiritual journey. Whatever it is we celebrate with you the opportunity to learn.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
2 Peter 3:18

GRACE,

Pastor Dennis

The Family Tree

My last article started with “Summer is coming to a close and school is just around the corner.” As I am writing this, we are five days into school and sport teams have already begun to compete. Many have plans to get away one final time over Labor Day weekend getting in one last bit of summer, but I am not saddened to see summer go. I enjoy it and many things it brings, but for me I love the change of the season as we go into fall.

Many visitors and tourists ask me the best time to come to the Hills. I personally love the month of September. We have the best weather in September and I enjoy putting on a sweatshirt instead of sweating in a t-shirt. It’s hard to beat the changing of the leaves in the Black Hills. Yes, the change in season does lead to the dreaded winter season, but as I reflect on how nature changes I realize how we have no say in how nature will act or determine the seasons to be.

Change is always hard, but we seem to be able to make the necessary adjustments to live in harmony in those changing times. It seems The Little White Church has been going through constant changes since Covid took the world by storm. We stopped meeting in person for a couple months in order to keep people safe while trying to get an understanding of what was going on. This church body stepped up and was supportive and great at adapting to everything that was being thrown at it. After Covid seemed to be getting under control another change happened. A great migration of people moving to South Dakota.

I won’t take the time to discuss all the reasons behind this, but it has brought over 90 new people into our church in the last year and a half. This church has grown over 40% in a very short time span. There are not any manuals on church growth that I am aware of to help navigate such a rapid change. In response we tried having an overflow area in the Fellowship to watch the services and then made the change to two services for the Summer.

Continued on Page 4

The Family Tree—Continued

As you are aware we are continuing into the Fall with two services and will be adjusting the service times yet again to 8:30am and 10:15am. I know many were hoping to return to one service, but as we continue to meet new people in search of a church almost weekly, we find ourselves almost out of room yet again. Change seems to be the new constant in the season we are finding ourselves in.

What we need from the church body is continued support and adaptability. I know what it's like to be part of a church your entire life and then see it change very rapidly. It can be scary or discouraging as you struggle to see your place in it. My hope is that you will look to see what God is wanting to do through all of this change. Get to know these new families. The people that are walking through these doors making this their church home are incredible people who genuinely love the Lord. I have been blessed by many of them already in getting to know them.

Another need as you have been hearing is volunteers. We are looking at the possibility of 40-50 kids in Sunday School K-5. We do not know what the new schedule of having two services with Sunday school is going to bring, but I do know that we do not currently have the teachers necessary to minister to that number of kids. We need more leaders and helpers for BOLT on Wednesday's from 3pm-5:20pm and we currently do not have a Director of Nursery and are very short in volunteers for Nursery.

These are three core ministries that we cannot let down. It's time to evaluate where our priorities lie and how we spend our time. My hope is that families once again embrace the importance of being in church, having their kids in Sunday School and serving in some capacity during Sunday morning or participating in an adult class themselves. Let's get back to giving God our time, respect and honor by devoting our Sunday's back to Him and let whatever else that is pulling us away on Sunday take a back seat where it belongs.

Continued on Page 5

The Family Tree—Continued

1 Peter 5:8 says *“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”*

We are in a spiritual battle every day and we need the church body to help prepare us and our children to stand firm. If we do not give the time God deserves and be part of preparing our children, youth and ourselves there is only one-way things are going to go.

“Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?”

Romans 6:16 (ESV)

In Christ,

Ben Larsen

Family Life Pastor



Want to sign up to help in one of those important ministries, indicated in Pastor Ben's article?

*Please contact Stephanie at
605-574-2426 or
office@thelittlewhitechurch.net*

Upcoming Youth Events/Studies

A poster for "THE LANDING". On the left is a portrait of a young man with dark, curly hair wearing a white t-shirt, standing in front of a brick wall. To his right, the title "THE LANDING" is written in large, bold, black, hand-drawn capital letters. Below the title, the text "A HOPE-FILLED PLACE FOR STUDENTS" is written in a smaller, bold, black, hand-drawn font. Underneath that, "A Celebrate Recovery Program for Students" is written in a black, cursive script. At the bottom, a dark grey horizontal band contains the schedule information in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

THE LANDING
**A HOPE-FILLED PLACE
FOR STUDENTS**
*A Celebrate Recovery Program
for Students*

MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL – WEDNESDAYS (SEPT. 8) – 5:45–8 PM
HIGH SCHOOL – SUNDAYS (SEPT. 12) – 6–8 PM

Have You Met....?

Adult Name(s): Gary and Deb Auch

Children Name(s) and Ages: Angela, 49; Tammy, 44; Casey, 37; Tyrel, 27

How did you come to be at The Little White Church and how long have you been attending?

We moved to Hill City in 2016. We have attended since then. Gary attended earlier in his life and was married to his late wife here in 1974.

How long have you lived in the Black Hills?

Gary – Off and on all of my life

Deb – 5 years



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

Gary – Quality Assurance/Safety Representative for Boeing Aerospace and Morton Thiokol; Home Healthcare, 5 years as an Architectural draftsman. Many other odd jobs throughout the years.

Deb – Administrative secretary, Legal secretary, IT supervisor at Critical Access Hospital. Currently self-employed as Software Consultant.

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

Gary – Grew up in Rapid City. Lived all over the Western US for work, always returning to the Hills. Lived in Nebraska after late wife passed for 16 years before returning to the Hills again.

Deb – Born in Des Moines, IA. At 9 mos. Moved to San Diego area. Lived in that area for 32 years and then moved to Nebraska. Lived there 27 years until moving here to Hill City.

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

Gary – Trustee, Deacon

Deb – Trustee, Missions Board, Church Secretary, Comfort Quilters, fund raising for St. Jude's

Have You Met....? *Continued*

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

Waiting on the Lord has been something we have experienced a blessing from in more than one instance, but it was really apparent when we tried to move to Hill City the year before we actually moved here. We had placed an offer on a home on Deegan Drive and then came out to the car and prayed about the offer – prayed that God would close the door on this if there was anything that wasn't right about it...timing, finances, etc. Everything was a green light right up to the night before we were to leave Nebraska and come sign the papers on the house. That night we received a call stating the loan had been denied. It was denied because I had only been self-employed for 8 months and the loan required 12. It was the first time in 18 years that a loan of this type had been denied for this reason. We took the news in stride and the Loan Officer was surprised we were not mad. We simply replied that we had prayed after making an offer that God would close the door if there was a reason we shouldn't buy the house. We felt this was a pretty solid door closure and stated "You can't ask God for something and then be angry when he gives you the answer. When the timing is right, we'll be back." He was shocked. During the next year, before we moved here, Gary was diagnosed with lymphoma and his mother passed away. Because we were still in Nebraska, we had the family support team we needed to see us through both issues. God is so good to all of us if we just wait on Him!

Do you have any special talents or gifts?

Gary – Wood working

Deb – Quilting, serving as needed

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

Gary – Just

Deb - Trustworthy

What biblical figure best describes you and why?

Gary – Job; I've been through a lot and still trust God

Deb – Mary of Bethany; servants' heart

Anything else you would like us to know about you?

Between us we have 10 grandchildren with one on the way and 2 great-grandchildren

Between the BookENDS

Examining the Scriptures Daily

Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

Acts 17:11 ESV

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—

1Peter 2:2 ESV

This is the time of year when many of us are thinking about joining a Bible study group, setting up a Bible study or just wanting to do an individual study. I would like to invite you to visit our library and browse through our Small Group/Individual Bible Studies area. We have a variety of study formats. Some have leader/participant guides, books, CDs and/or DVDs.

Listed below are just a few of the titles available.

Small Group & Individual Bible Studies

(studies with extra books)

Developing Christian Character

Follow Me

Heaven

Gospel in Life

I Am a Church Member

Is Christianity for You?

Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage

Lies Women Believe

No Man Left Behind

-Pastoring Men

-Method & Tactics – Course Two

Between the BookENDS—Continued

Operation Timothy

Parenting

Resolving Everyday Conflict

The Family Project

The Smart Step Family

Your Spiritual Gifts

* * * * *

(selected studies from the shelf)

The Bait of Satan by John Bevere

Extraordinary by John Bevere

Strength Based Marriage by Jimmy Evans

Family Life Homebuilders Couples Series

Family Life Homebuilders Parenting Series

The Victorious Life by Bill & Anabel Gillham

The Coming Economic Armageddon by David Jeremiah

I Never Thought I'd See the Day by David Jeremiah

The End Times by D. James Kennedy

The Complete Know Series by Paul Little

Beth Moore books and sets

Countering Culture by David Noebel

Don't Waste Your Life by John Piper

Passport to Purity by Dennis & Barbara Rainey

Financial Peace University by Dave Ramsey

Made to Crave by Lysa Terkeurst

The Truth Project by Focus on the Family

Courageous Bible Study by Sherwood Baptist Church and Lifeway

Foundations by RC Sproul

The Birth of an Exciting Vision (A Study of Acts) by Chuck Swindoll

That the World May Know (DVDs) by Ray Vander Laan

The commentary section (200) also has many possibilities for Bible studies. There is also a current CBD (Christian Book Distributor) catalog with even more ideas. Stop in and browse around.

Focus on Missions– Younglife

As we approach another season of Young Life with excitement, we also look back with gratitude at what God has been doing through our program.

This last year we trusted God through many changes. From attempting club in new ways to keep kids safe to watching God move through campaigners, we have seen how capable our Lord is.

This summer we brought 12 students and 5 leaders to camp in Minnesota. The week was full of God's movement in the lives of our high school friends.

Club kicks off with lots of fun on Monday, August 30th! We are trusting God to bring the furthest out students to club and provide spaces and places for us to show students who Jesus is!

We ask for your prayers this year with some shifts in our leadership team and launching another school year of Young Life. The male side of our ministry is an area in need of special prayer, and we ask God to provide male leaders to go deep in relationship with high schoolers.

Thank for you for your prayers and contributions to our ministry as we dive into year 16 doing Young Life in Hill City!

Submitted by: Abigail Sullivan,
Hill City Younglife Director



From My Files: Echoes of God's Glory

Roseanne Hilton

Songs of Worship in Times of Suffering

This month, September 2021, is the 20th year since the unthinkable events of 2001 in our country.

I thank God that He has given us songwriters whose hearts are steeped in His word and out of pain and suffering come songs rooted in Scripture. The word of the LORD flows to us through their words and fills our sleepless nights with His song, so that we may say with Horatio Spafford, "It is well with my soul."

"When peace, like a river,
attendeth my way,
When sorrows, like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast
taught me to say,
'It is well, it is well, with my soul.'"

Another song, one that emerged during that time of national pain and suffering in 2001, is Blessed Be Your Name, by Matt & Beth Redman, when they realized that the church needed expression in songs of lament.

The line "On the road marked with suffering, though there's pain in the offering; Blessed be Your name," is prompted by the Biblical Job, as he declared his worship.

I thank God for the Scriptural precedent in the book of Job and in the Psalms set by those who recognized that the LORD is worthy to be praised for who He is (His name, or character) in spite of their circumstances. He is our glorious Hope, our Life, LORD of peace and the One in whom our souls can be at rest.

Horatio Spafford wrote the words and Philip Bliss the music for IIWWMS, Public Domain, 1876. Matt and Beth Redman wrote BBYN, 2002, ThankYou Music.

Announcements



**Our Church Service Times
are changing
on September 12th!**

8:30 am & 10:15 am

**Sunday School all ages
during 10:15 am Service**

Biblical Citizenship Class is being offered at 1st Assembly in Rapid City on Eight Wednesday evenings beginning Sept. 1st. Register at patriotacademy.com – go to find a class.

The Wednesday Night Prayer/Bible Study group will be attending the Will Graham “Surround The Monument” prayer time in Rapid City on Wednesday, September 8th. Please meet at the church at 6 pm to carpool. Prayer time is from 7-8 pm. See Lynda Pringle if you have questions!

Sunday Night Bible Study will begin on Sept. 12th at 6pm. They will continue in the study of James. See Dick Kessler if you have questions.

Cornerstone Rescue Mission’s Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast will be held on September 25th at 8:30 am at the Terra Sancta Retreat Center in Rapid City. Please RSVP to Deb at 718-8712.

Mark your Calendars! BOLT will be starting on Wednesday, September 29th for kids ages K-5th grade! BOLT is held after school (kids are walked over from school) until 5:20 pm.

Rise Up & Stand Firm—Psalm 20:7-8
STEER Missions Conference—October 1-2 at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck, ND. For more info go to: steerinc.com

Will Graham Celebration—Mark your Calendars!



Student Night—Sunday, September 26th from 6–8 pm
Music from The Afters, Lacey Sturm and FLAME
Message from Will Graham

Women's Ministry Events

FREE – Women's Gathering with Kendra Graham, wife of Will Graham.

Kendra will share an inspirational message, as she challenges women to get on their knees for their homes and city. September 2nd from 6:30-8:30 pm at First Wesleyan Church in Rapid City. Registration is strongly requested – go to: <https://blackhills.billygraham.org/events/>

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 September 11th!

Comfort Quilters (quilting group) meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 3-5 pm at the home of Deb Auch.

Please contact Deb (402-631-8631) if you are interested!

Fall Bible Studies—Sign up at WM table in FH!

BSF (Bible Study Fellowship) begins Thursday, Sept. 16th at 8:30 am.

BSF meets on Thursdays during the school year from 8:30-10:30 am.

This year's study is: **"The Unexpected King—Matthew's Account of Jesus".**

Register at www.bsfinternational.org or contact Stephanie Larsen!

"What Love Requires" - Elle Page– This study will help you put Jesus' command to love one another into action in everyday conversations. Held Thursdays (starting Sept. 30th) from 9:30-11 am or 6:30-8 pm at the home of Tanya Siebert.

"Housewife Theologian" - Aimee Byrd– This study is for women who want to explore beneath the superficial and get to know God, and themselves, better. Held Wednesdays (starting Sept. 29th) from 3:30-5 pm at the home of Steph Larsen or 6-7:30 pm at the home of Tanya Siebert.



There's an old John Denver song that brings a hopeful, yet wistful, tear to my eye every time I hear it. Especially when he sings this part:

“ . . . We are standing on the threshold of a dream, yes.

No more hunger; no more killing;

no more wasting life away.

It is simply an idea, and I know its time has come!”

~ “I Want to Live”, John Denver

This song popped into my head one day, as I was reflecting on all the wonderful events of my life. As I sang these lyrics out-loud, tears ran down my cheeks, and I realized something.

The message it brings feels perfectly connected to the message God gave us to deliver through our new ministry . . . a message of love and kindness. More than that, my team and I have been invited to be a PART of that idea whose ‘time has come’. We get to be participants in the amazing chain of events God has planned for this time in history.

No, we don't know specifically what those plans are, but we can feel the excitement.

The excited anticipation of ‘standing on the threshold of a dream’ is almost palpable. I feel it taking on a life of its own as I realize something else. I have lived my entire life in eager anticipation of the dream John Denver's song mentions. It is an integral part of my character make-up – as though it were engraved on my very soul. I have been anticipating this dream all of my life.

Suddenly, all the years of “fanciful”, “unrealistic” ideas and wishes – all the decades of hopeless, “Pollyanna” optimism – make perfect sense. My Father planted this dream in my being the day He created me. It is a part of who I am, and it has always been there. And now . . . it is taking shape.

THE THRESHOLD OF A DREAM—Continued

BJ Reese

God has spent my whole life leading me to this very moment. Looking back, I can see how all the pieces fit together in this puzzle that is taking shape before my very eyes. I struggle for adequate words to describe the feeling. Even though I can't find any, I know one thing for certain. It completely takes my breath away . . . every. Single. Time.

The Bible tells us of a world of perfect love – a world that begins when Christ returns. In that world, the vision in John Denver's song will become reality. In this moment, as I write this article, I can FEEL that dream coming true. We are on the threshold.

I don't profess to know when,
and I won't ask. God alone
knows the day (Matthew 24:36)
that Jesus will return . . . and I'm
okay with that. I don't need to
know. I am thrilled with the joy
and peace I feel as I focus on
what God's Word tells me. I am
perfectly happy to stay right
there.

There, in those pages, I can become lost in the promises that God made to humanity. Locked away from the heartbreaking images projected by this fallen world. Safe in my Father's arms, I am content to be . . . on the threshold of a dream.



Newsletter Newsletter

Learn from Leaves

As you're enjoying the fall colors and sipping apple cider, ponder this saying: "Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go."

When leaves stop producing chlorophyll, they turn vibrant shades of yellow, orange and red. This yearly spectacle makes way for the leaves to let go and fall. It also serves as a good reminder of things we may need to drop: clutter around the home, a desire for control, commitments that no longer bring joy, personal expectations that cause added stress, a need to always be right and so on.

Just as the Israelites had to let go of their past as slaves in Egypt and Saul-turned-Paul had to abandon his persecuting ways, we, too, can let go of what weighs us down and gets in the way of God's best for our lives. Embrace fall as a season of change and see just how beautiful it is to let things go! —Janna Firestone



Power in Weakness

In the late 1970s, Henry Smith was struggling to find work after finishing his education. He also lived with a degenerative disease that caused him to become legally blind. But one day he heard a pastor explain that Jesus became poor so we might become rich through him. This idea inspired Smith to craft a song of thanks for God's gift of Jesus. Though Smith wrote more than 300 songs, only this one became widely known (sometimes labeled "author unknown" or misattributed, but finally rightfully credited to him).

"Give thanks with a grateful heart," the song begins exuberantly. One of its most poignant lines urges, "Let the weak say, I am strong ... because of what the Lord has done for us." Across two millennia, Smith's words and faith echo the apostle Paul: "[The Lord] said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me" (2 Corinthians 12:9, NRSV).



Fruits of the Spirit

September



- Day 1: Galatians 5:22-23
- Day 2: Zephaniah 3:17
- Day 3: John 3:16-17
- Day 4: John 15:9-10
- Day 5: John 15:12-13
- Day 6: Habakkuk 3:17-18
- Day 7: 1 Peter 1:8-9
- Day 8: Luke 15:7
- Day 9: Psalm 30:5
- Day 10: 1 Peter 3:11
- Day 11: James 3:18
- Day 12: Psalm 29:11
- Day 13: Romans 12:18
- Day 14: Exodus 34:6-7
- Day 15: James 1:2-4
- Day 16: Romans 5:1-2
- Day 17: Romans 5:3-4
- Day 18: Proverbs 31:20
- Day 19: Colossians 3:12
- Day 20: Titus 3:1-2
- Day 21: Ephesians 4:1-2
- Day 22: 2 Peter 1:5-6
- Day 23: 2 Peter 1:7-8
- Day 24: Hebrews 11:1-2
- Day 25: Hebrews 12:1-2
- Day 26: Romans 14:19
- Day 27: Proverbs 25:28
- Day 28: Proverbs 16:32
- Day 29: Titus 2:11-14
- Day 30: Philippians 4:8

Kingdom Bloggers



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