

# “Draw near and hear the words of the LORD your God.”

JOSHUA 3:9, NRSV





## From the Pastor's Desk



### Harvest Time

Growing up on a Nebraska grain farm the fall always meant harvest time. Living here in the Black Hills harvest has a wider time frame. We have been gathering harvest from our gardens for some time now, (at least for those who are skilled enough to have gardens). For those who own a tourist business "harvest" is wrapping up and for the forest industry harvest happens throughout the year.

Scripture uses the image of harvest in a variety of ways. Jesus spoke of the fields being ripe for harvest (John 4:35), speaking of the spiritual needs of the people. In another account Jesus said to pray for the Lord to send out workers into his harvest field (Luke 10:2) We have partnered with other churches in the region to be part in a spiritual harvest through the Black Hills Celebration with Will Graham. Now we are nurturing new believers and our own journey in the on-going growth as followers of Christ. Jesus speaks of this process as well when he explains the growth of the vine and the branches (John 15:1-8) Here Jesus references fruitfulness rather than harvest but the same concept of growth that produces a harvest.

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## From the Pastor's Desk

Just a couple of things to note.

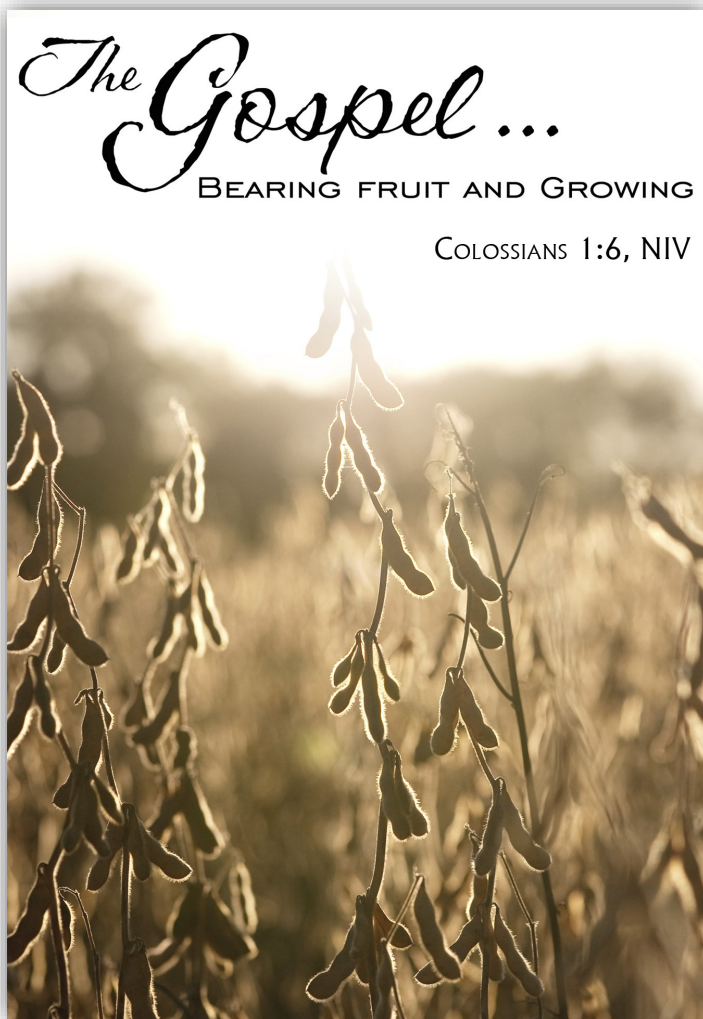
1) There is a time/season for harvest in our lives. This also means some seasons are for growth, even pruning to prepare for fruit. We should be concerned if we do not see any season of fruit in our lives but also rejoice in the growth and pruning seasons because they are the means to having fruitful lives. If there is pruning in your life today, realize it is for the purpose of harvest.

2) Producing the fruit or the harvest is the Lord's work not mine. I am a worker in the harvest or a branch on which the fruit comes but it is the Lord's fruit/harvest. This releases me from the guilt of "I must produce". It also frees us to live in the realm of being Available to partner with the Lord and to Abide in Christ our vine. The promise is that when we do our part he will certainly do His part to produce a harvest.

3) Delight in the joy of being part of the Lord's harvest. He could certainly accomplish all of the harvest without us but in his grace he has chosen to invite and involve us in the process.

Enjoy this special season of the year but making sure you are connected to your Savior to be part of a fruitful harvest season.

Pastor Dennis



## The Family Tree

It's been over a year that pastor Dennis and I have been taking part in the preparations for the Black Hills Celebration with Will Graham that took place this past weekend. There were many meetings and smaller events throughout the year to get people involved and engaged for both adults and youth.

To be honest I was to the point of happiness that it was going to be over so we can move on without needing to schedule in and around those events. I would hear a mixture of criticism and praise from different people about the events and saw some churches who wanted very little to do with the Celebration. It's easy for us to criticize and judge another organization especially if it's religious or political, but my thought is... "at least they are trying." Most who criticize, judge and complain aren't doing anything and search for an excuse to not participate by finding fault in what others are trying to do. I too thought of some negative things while working alongside the committees wondering if all the work going into this would be worth the outcome. It's easy to be negative.

The three-night event has come and gone. I was disappointed with the number of people that showed up each night. Here are the numbers:

Friday night had 1,788.	Saturday morning KidzFest had 843.
Saturday night had 1,121.	The Youth night on Sunday had 1,362.

Where is everyone? How is this arena not filled? Where is the CHURCH? There should be people standing outside wanting in.

Our country is being dismantled piece by piece. Churches are forced into being closed. Many churches that are open are exactly that, OPEN! Open to every form of evil and perversion and giving applause to it.

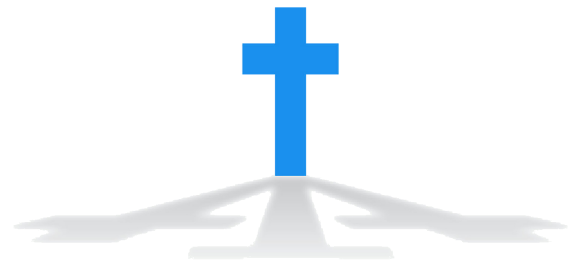
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## The Family Tree—Continued

Romans 1:28-32 describes the churches of today.

*“And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.” (ESV)*

Evil is running free in our streets, schools, government and homes and it's as if everyone is asleep. People are running scared from Covid and following the message of fear that is being propagated through every media source while forgetting who we are in Christ. If we have Christ living in us, we are already dead to ourselves while alive in Christ. Didn't we give up our right to life when we made that decision? Where is the outrage for the unborn being murdered by the millions and having the body parts sold. Why aren't we upset about the 163,898 people who die every day without hearing the Gospel. Do we not care that they are forever in separation from God? If you take out 6% of those as being true saints of God you still have 154,064.12 people dying every day and going to Hell for all eternity.



**I have been crucified  
with Christ. It is no  
longer I who live,  
but Christ who  
lives in me.**

GALATIANS 2:19-20, ESV

*Continued on Page 6*

## The Family Tree—Continued

I will try to get back on track here. Yes, participation was lacking at this Celebration, but I also saw what God was doing even if we the church weren't going to be a part of it. There is a teenage girl that several girls from our church have been trying to get to come to youth group for over a year. It was always a "no way, not going to happen." When they invited her to the event last Sunday something happened, and she not only agreed to go but was excited to go. That night those girls saw their prayers answered as their friend went forward to give her life to Christ. As I stood in the stands with tears in my eyes watching those girls surround their friend in excitement, God showed me that yes it was worth it. The meetings, planning and huge financial costs of the event are worth it. What is one soul worth. Can we put a price on it?

There were a total of 1,134 responses to a call of Salvation over this three day event including the 18,730 people in 10 different countries that were watching online. Each one of those is precious to God, but what people weren't reached that could've been reached on one of those nights. What if the church was awake and that arena would've been filled.

Don't miss the opportunities that God puts before us to bring glory to Him. We need to wake up from this satanic slumber and see that Jesus is coming soon. Romans 13:11 says "Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed." (ESV)

In Christ,

Ben Larsen, Family Life Pastor



## Have You Met....?

**Adult Name:** Mary Jo Anderson

### **Children Names & Ages**

Katie Nicole Palmer -  
age 29 - lives in Ohau, HI  
*because she can*

Danial Niles Palmer - age 19 - left  
to be with the Lord.



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

I returned to school at Western Dakota Tech for surgical technologist training in 2011 to change careers. After completing clinicals in Dickinson, North Dakota (where I lived in the old Psych ward during my stay with other traveler techs) a position became available at Black Hill Surgical Hospital which I accepted. I moved to Hill City in 2015 ish and lived with a sister here and started attending LWC.

### **How long have you lived in the Black Hills?**

This time since 2013.

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

X-ray tech in Wyo.  
X-ray tech in Northern Nevada  
Airline CSR in Nevada  
School bus driver in Nevada  
Maintenance office manager in Nevada  
Pizza delivery  
Park & Rec driver  
Subway sandwich specialist  
Surgical tech North Dakota  
Surgical tech South Dakota

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## **Have You Met....? *Continued***

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

Kennebec, SD (Exit 235 I 90 in SD) till I graduated high school

Rapid City, SD

Casper, Wy

Reno, Nv

Minden, NV

Dickinson, ND

Hill City, SD

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

I grew up in a family the went to church every Sunday & Holy day of obligation. I can say I knew who God, Jesus & The Holy Spirit were but can't say I had any kind of relationship with them. After out kids were born I knew I wanted them raised in a church & a neighbor suggested one I thought would work for my at the time husband, kids and myself. Fortunately thru the great kid programs like Awana, Sunday school, and the camps & retreats I learned right along with my kids and accepted Jesus as my Lord & Savior. Guess the Bible stories teach more than just the kids.

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

I helped run the sound booth @ Hill Top in Carson City, drove the bus for kids to camp, women's retreats, leadership trips, church social outings. Taught the kids classes for CBS. Helped with Awana kids. Sound booth in LWC, Deaconess @ LWC.

**Do you have any special talents or gifts?**

One of my top 5 strengths from a test Dennis gave us is adaptability which serves in so many ways.

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

**What biblical figure best describes you and why?**

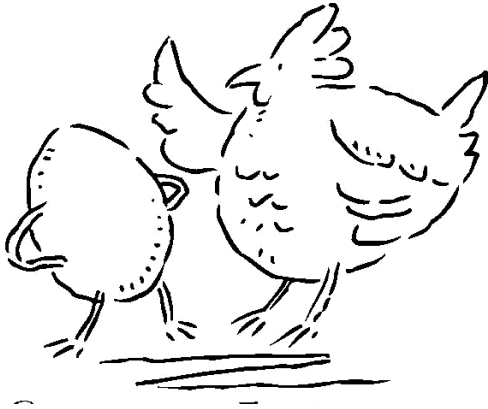
I would go with Peter. He jumps in with both feet!



## Between the BookENDS

### WHICH CAME FIRST, THE CHICKEN OR THE EGG?

*Poem from "A Closer Look at the Evidence"*



WHICH CAME FIRST, THE CHICKEN OR THE EGG?

THIS QUESTION WE MUST POSE.  
THE ANSWER RESTS UPON GOD'S WORD  
AND WHAT THE EVIDENCE SHOWS.

EVOLUTION SAYS IT WAS THE EGG;  
PURE CHANCE BROUGHT US THE BIRD.  
THE BIBLE SAYS GOD MADE THE BIRDS  
IN GENESIS ONE OF HIS WORD.

THESE VIEWS WE KNOW CAN'T BOTH BE TRUE,  
NO MATTER WHAT MEN SAY.  
SO WE MUST LAY OUT ALL THE FACTS,  
AND LET THEM POINT THE WAY.

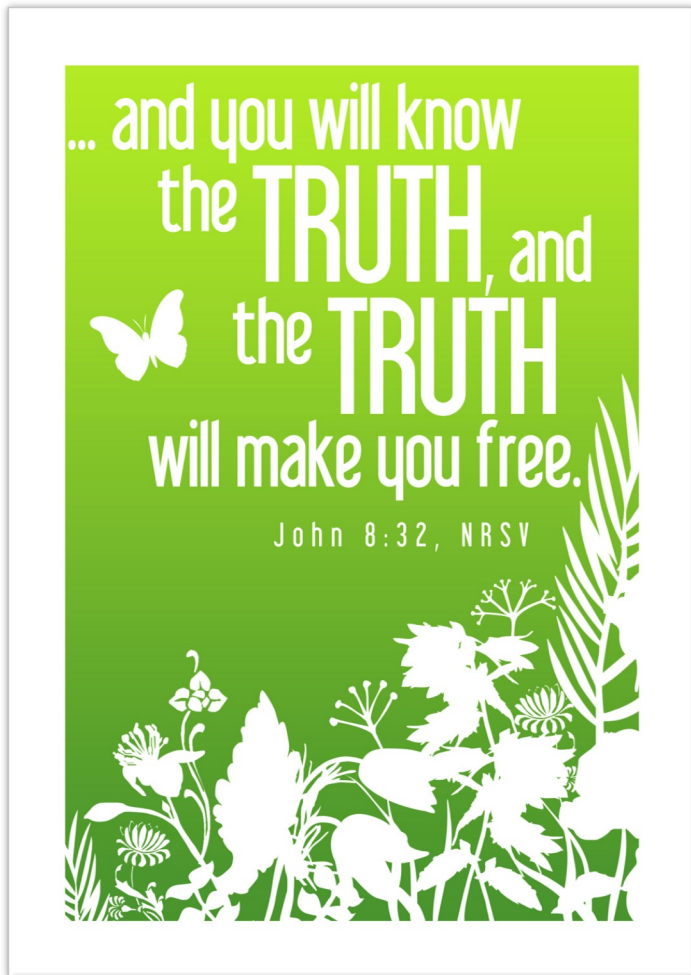
IF WE LOOK CLOSELY AT WHAT'S FOUND  
IN FOSSILS, STARS, AND CELLS,  
THEY POINT OUT THERE'S A MASTER MIND;  
AND HE DESIGNED THEM WELL.

OF COURSE, MANKIND JUST LAUGHS AT THIS.  
THEY WON'T ADMIT IT'S TRUE.  
THEY KNOW THAT IF THERE IS A GOD,  
ACCOUNTS TO HIM ARE DUE.

AS CHRISTIANS, HERE'S WHERE WE CAN'T FAIL  
TO KNOW GOD'S WORLD AND WORD.  
OUR REASONS FOR BELIEF IN HIM  
BY NO MEANS ARE ABSURD.

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## Between the BookENDS—Continued



THE BIBLE SAYS TO SEEK OUT TRUTH;  
FOUNDATIONS MUST BE STRONG.  
SO WHEN MEN SAY THEY HAVE THE FACTS,  
WE'LL KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT FROM WRONG.

LET'S READ GOD'S WORD, APPLY OUR  
MINDS,  
AND SEEK HIM WITH ALL OUR HEART.  
GOD SAID HE'D TEACH US WONDROUS  
THINGS  
AND TRUTH TO US IMPART.

SO WHEN WE'RE ASKED TO CLARIFY  
THAT EGGS WEREN'T FIRST AND WHY,  
WE'LL KNOW GOD'S SCRIPT POINT TO THE  
FACTS,  
AND HAVE A SOUND REPLY.

IF WE CAN SPUR MAN TO RETHINK  
HIS VIEWS ON EVOLUTION,  
PERHAPS HE'LL SEE THE FACTS SHOW GOD  
AS THE CORRECT SOLUTION.

*"...always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15*

*On Sundays, the library is available before 8:30, from 9:15 to 10:15 and after 11:15 am.*

*October Librarians: Cindy Dusing and Georgie Neff*

*Article Submitted by: Georgie Neff*

## Focus on Missions– Operation Christmas Child



Once again, this October and November the Little White Church and our Bolt program are sponsoring a Christmas shoebox drive on behalf of Operation Christmas Child a ministry of Samaritan's Purse with the mission to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. They ship these simple gifts outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S.

Each year for the last four years, we have packed a record number of boxes. Three years ago I, and two years ago Ben, received pies in our faces for your efforts. This year we haven't yet selected the unfortunate victim if we should surpass last year's numbers, but you can help us. Pick up your boxes and other supplies at the Operation Christmas Child table in the Fellowship Hall and let Becki know who you'd like to see get a pie in the face.

The last Sunday of October and first two Sundays of November we will watch short videos of God's work through the shoebox ministry. The Bolt program will also pack boxes on Wednesday afternoon, November 10.

For the Little White Church, we ask for complete boxes; however, Bolt is receiving individual items to pack in their boxes.

Collection will take place the week of November 15-22.

Bring your filled box(s) and your \$9 donation for shipping and handling to the church during that week. I will take all the boxes down to the Dove Christian Center on Sunday, November 21 after our service. If you miss the 21, you can always run yours down on Monday, November 22.

Thanks for your participation and in helping bring the love of Jesus to lots of kids.

*John Stam, Missions Director*





### God's Fatherly Love

A thread that runs through the Bible is the theme of trusting God as our Father. The message could possibly be distilled into a few words: Fear not, for I am with you, child, you are mine! (from Isaiah 43) We can look to our Father to be with us even through deep waters and great trouble. (verse 2)



We can approach our Father in prayer with the confidence of much loved children, because we have the third person of the Triune God, the Holy Spirit, living in us and prompting us to look to God as our dearly loved Father. (from Romans 8) “Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come fearlessly into God's presence, assured of his glad welcome.” (Ephesians 3:12 New Living Translation)

When we feel shaky in our assurance we must look to Scripture to see the ways we can know the Father's love. The apostle John's first letter is rich in examples of how we can know that we belong to God and are loved: “This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him.” (I John 4:9, The Message)

Romans 8 gives the final word on our certainty about being God's children despite our doubts, fears, nightmares, feelings of guilt or experiences with people: “Do you think anything is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way!....I am absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.” (Romans 8: from verses 38 & 39, The Message)

## Announcements

*Sunday School for all ages during the 10:15 am service.*

*Kids classes meet in the Sunday School wing upstairs &*

*MS/HS will meet in the conference room across from offices.*

*Dr. Terry Graber's class (Psalms Study) will meet in the Fellowship Hall  
and Danny Martinez's class (Inductive Bible Study)  
will meet in the library.*

*The Landing – a Celebrate Recovery program for Students will be held  
on Wednesdays 5:45-8 pm for Middle/High School students and Sun-  
days 6-8 pm for High School students. The Landing is a safe place for  
students to process life and the struggles that accompany it.*

*We will be starting a new season of Wednesday Night Prayer & Bible  
Study. Prayer begins at 6:30 pm and Bible Study begins at 7:30 am.  
Everyone welcome to either or both! Zoom connection will also be  
available, please contact Pastor Dennis if interested.*

*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.  
Needed for BOLT: one portable fire pit and compasses to borrow.  
We promise to return! Please see Carol Walker.*

*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](http://steerinc.com)*

*Men's Camping Night – Friday, October 8th. More info to come!*

*Newcomers Lunch will be held on Sunday, October 17th at after the  
second service! If you are new to the church and would like to learn  
more about us, please plan on coming!  
Sign up is on the table by the bulletin board.*



# BIBLICAL CITIZENSHIP

## IN MODERN AMERICA

It's time to take a stand!

Now more than ever our nation is in need of biblical citizens who grasp the dynamic unity of citizens of the Kingdom of God and citizens of this great nation! Being biblical citizens requires a knowledge of biblical principles and how to apply them to the world around us. You can be the catalyst for restoring biblical values in your neighborhood, state, and nation. In this time of crisis, where we see our freedoms under attack like never before, we are calling on every Christian in America to step up and join us in defending liberty.

This 8 week course offers the quick-start guide to the longest standing Constitution in history, complete with an overview of all the Articles and Amendments with our biblical heritage intricately woven throughout the entire course.

**8-Week Course Beginning Monday, October 11th**  
**Mondays from 6:30-8 pm**



## Women's Ministry 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 October 9th!

**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!



Ladies Mark  
your Calendars!  
Fall Retreat  
October 15-16  
At Camp Judson

Fall Retreat at Camp Judson

Cost: \$30

Registration is from 4-5:30 pm

You are welcome to spend the night!

Bring your bedding and towels!

Have you ever **really** thought about the phrase, “unanswered prayers”? ARE they unanswered? Who decided that, if the answer wasn’t “yes”, there WAS no answer? Let’s look at it in terms other than prayer for a few moments.

(For the sake of this discussion, please forget that we could all check our cell phones.)

1) You run into an old friend you haven’t seen in a while, and you begin catching up on each other’s lives. After a few minutes, you remember an upcoming appointment. You ask your friend for the time. She says she doesn’t know because she forgot her watch.

*Has your question gone unanswered?*

2) The weekend is finally here, and your children are eagerly hoping to do something special. They ask if you’ll take them to the park. You smile knowingly at your spouse and respond, “Actually, we thought we’d go to that carnival over by the lake.”

*Their reaction tells you they like your idea better. Did you fail to answer their question?*

3) Your best friend calls on Tuesday, to invite you to a movie the next night. You have a previous engagement Wednesday, so you ask if he’s free Friday instead.

*Have you answered his question?*

When did we shove God into a box and decide that the only answer we will accept from Him is, “Yes”? Why have we done that? Certainly, it isn’t because that limitation makes us feel any happier. Perhaps it makes it easier for us to blame God when things don’t go our way.

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But, let's be honest with ourselves here. "Yes" and "No" are not the only possible answers to any question. True, God doesn't always say, "Yes", but I believe that He DOES always answer. In our human craving for control, we have forgotten all the other responses we might hear.

Some of them are: "Not yet"; "Not here"; "You're not ready"; or "Actually, I have something else in mind." If we are willing to accept something other than "Yes" from **people**, isn't it time we recognize **God's** other answers?

The next time you start to talk about an unanswered prayer, I challenge you to stop and think. Did you, in fact, receive an answer? Perhaps one that you didn't want to hear? That you hadn't anticipated? Take God out of that box. **Listen** for the answers He sends . . .





## Newsletter Newsletter

### Appreciating your pastor

Many people have complex relationships with their pastors because faith, church and God involve a mix of emotions. We have particular ideas about church practices, congregational priorities, the minister's use of time, money, authority and more.

But most pastors are deeply devoted to Christ and believe that God has called them to serve in a certain place. They have the best of intentions and work hard to share the good news of the gospel. So in honor of Pastor Appreciation Month in October, consider the following:

***God doesn't call the qualified; he qualifies the called.*** Your pastor may need time to learn and develop certain skills. (Everyone does!) Bless pastors with your patience.

***We don't change the message; the message changes us.*** You probably won't like all your pastor's sermons or newsletter columns. But instead of complaining, ponder that something may rub you the wrong way because God is trying to change you. Keep an open mind and heart.

***If a church wants a "better" pastor, it just needs to pray for the one it has.*** Pray often and caringly for your pastors, church leaders and their families. The role is challenging, so support them spiritually and ask God to reveal his love and grace to these special servants.



### Mixed signals

A newcomer approached the pastor after worship and said, "I'd like you to pray for my hearing."

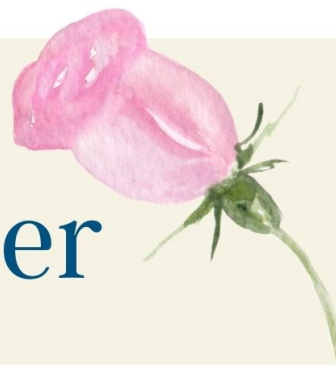
Placing hands on the man's ears, the pastor said a very passionate, earnest prayer and then asked the visitor, "How's your hearing now?"

With a confused look, the man said, "Well, it's scheduled for tomorrow."

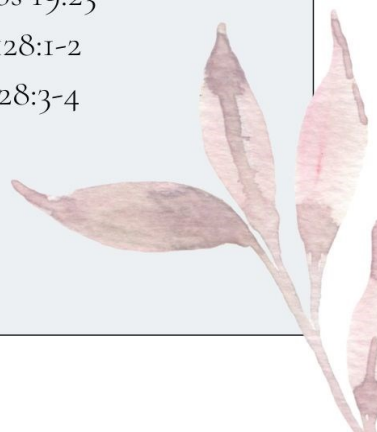


# Overcoming Fear

## October



- Day 1: Isaiah 43:1-2
- Day 2: Isaiah 35:4
- Day 3: Joshua 1:9
- Day 4: Zephaniah 3:16-17
- Day 5: Deuteronomy 3:22
- Day 6: Isaiah 41:13
- Day 7: Psalm 23:4
- Day 8: Psalm 34:4
- Day 9: Psalm 27:14
- Day 10: Psalm 56:3-4
- Day 11: Mark 4:39-40
- Day 12: Mark 5:35-36
- Day 13: John 14:27
- Day 14: Romans 8:31
- Day 15: Romans 8:38-39
- Day 16: 1 Peter 3:13-14
- Day 17: 1 Peter 5:6-7
- Day 18: Philippians 4:6-7
- Day 19: Philippians 4:13
- Day 20: 2 Timothy 1:7
- Day 21: 1 John 4:17-18
- Day 22: Psalm 19:14
- Day 23: Psalm 91:1-2
- Day 24: Psalm 55:22
- Day 25: Psalm 118:6-7
- Day 26: Proverbs 14:26-27
- Day 27: Proverbs 1:7
- Day 28: Proverbs 15:33
- Day 29: Proverbs 19:23
- Day 30: Psalm 128:1-2
- Day 31: Psalm 128:3-4



*Kingdom Bloggers*



525 Main St.  
PO Box 385, Hill City, SD 57745  
605-574-2426  
[www.thelittlewhitechurch.net](http://www.thelittlewhitechurch.net)  
[office@thelittlewhitechurch.net](mailto:office@thelittlewhitechurch.net)