

And this is  
the testimony,  
that God gave us

*eternal life,*  
and this life is  
*in his Son.*

1 John 5:11, ESV

*The Herald*

## Thoughts from a Pastor...

I recently returned from El Salvador, where I assisted a team from the Keystone Project. The trip was meant to connect with several churches and pastors in the country to share the Keystone Project's mission of Discipleship. The hope is to return in May for a large training event with the support of local churches and pastors.

I was down in El Salvador last January with Teaching Truth International and made several connections with people whom I was able to reconnect with during this trip. El Salvador is having churches springing up all over and has been experiencing new freedom since the president went to war with the gangs and locked them all up in prison. People can move around more freely and safely now. The churches are in a battle with the “health and wealth” movement. Many of the smaller churches are losing people to the larger churches that promise healing and wealth. These larger churches are able to put on a great show with lights and entertainment that draws the crowds. Does this sound familiar at all?

On my trip here last January we had one of these prosperity gospel pastors crash our training so to speak, and set up screens and did a promotion for a big event that they were gearing up for. After they left, the team I was with actually spoke against that ministry and warned the people to not be drawn into it as it is a false gospel. My pastor friend Mauro, whom I reconnected with on this trip, shared with me that their church is losing people to those types of churches and it's their biggest battle for them.

I was privileged to preach in pastor Mauro's church while I was there and connect with many of the people in his church. I also made new connections with a few other pastors while down there. Pastor Tony pastors a church in Apopa, where I got to preach while there. Tony and his wife are personally financing his church in Apopa with personal loans completely dependent on God. They live in what was the most dangerous part of all of El Salvador when the gangs were running things. They minister to around 300 kids during the week and are seen as a safe place for people to be. They have a school for kids as well and appear to be very involved in their community.

I met with pastor Jaime from Santa Ana for a couple of hours in a coffee shop. He was unable to attend the training we had as his church has a large school. He wasn't able to get away for the training. It was encouraging to hear about the ministry his church is doing and his heart for discipleship. Their church is sending missionaries out to other countries, and he is working hard to help those in his church body to mature in their faith.

## Thoughts from a Pastor...

Meeting with many different pastors and being all over the country, I was encouraged to see how God is at work. We serve an amazing God who is the Creator God. He formed these nations and is at work in them. They have many of the same problems we face in our churches, families, and marriages.

Singing and worshipping alongside others in a foreign language is powerful and a testament to how big our God is. It's easy to lose ourselves in our own life and not think about how big this world is and what God is doing in it. It was eye-opening to see God at work in my life. Someone of little importance from a small town in South Dakota finds himself in El Salvador preaching God's truth to people who do not speak the same language. Only God could coordinate this.

I do not know what seeds have been planted and or the impact that was had by our team while there, but God has a plan. We need to trust in that plan and lift up thanks to Him for being part of that plan.

Thank you for your support and encouragement for me to go on these trips.

In Christ,  
Pastor Ben



## From the Pastor's Desk

### Join the Christmas Story

This year for the Advent season we are looking at some of the various individuals involved in the Christmas Story. I will start this series off on Dec. 1 by looking at Zechariah and Elizabeth, the parents of John the Baptist. We will continue on through the month with different individuals and end December with a look at the story of the Magi. So anticipate reading along with us through the month and as you do various Advent activities pay particular attention to the role of various groups and individuals in that first Christmas.

I notice several things about the various individuals in the story. The first is that most of them were unexpected of the significant role God would have them plan in this grand story. Zechariah and Elizabeth were quietly carrying out the duties of a priest and his wife, praying for a child. Mary and Joseph planning for a marriage and an average carpenter's life together. Shepherds were just doing the mundane work of caring for sheep, even if they were the sheep for the temple sacrifice. Caring for sheep is about as mundane as life can get. Yet for all of them God had a delightful and even difficult surprise to be part of His grand story. My thought for us is to ask the question, Are we ready to participate in God's continuing story of living the gospel and sharing the gospel so more individuals can join the story? All it takes is to answer like Mary, "I am the Lord's servant, May it be to me as you have said". Luke 1:38

Continuing that thought I note that of the individuals I mentioned everyone willingly got involved with the story. They didn't know what it would all mean. Some may have seen the difficult challenges with their involvement. Like Mary and Joseph knowing no one would understand the pregnancy and they would face ridicule. Yet they all said "Yes, I am in for what you have for me to do, Lord."

I hope you have great joy during this Advent Season. I pray that some of this joy comes from being available and seeing what the Lord does and how he uses us to expand the story of a Savior who has come into the world. It has been great news for each of us. Now through us it will become great news for even more.

Available for Joy, Pastor Dennis

## Missions Moment—Torchbearers

Dear Little White Church,

One thing that has crystallized for us this year is that life is continually changing. We don't know what is to come in the next day, or even in the next breath, and so the only way to be secure is for life to be built on the only One who is unchanging – Jesus Christ! The year 2024 has held many challenges for us as a family, and many joys as well.

In March, Lisa's dad passed away after a fast battle with pancreatic cancer. Later that month, our family traveled back to Canada for the first time since our move, this time to the west coast in British Columbia, where our sister school (Capernwray Harbour Bible Centre) had invited us out for a time to reconnect. They covered all our travel expenses, and it was an incredible blessing to have quiet by the ocean beach with our family after the sorrow of the first months of 2024. Around this time, Andrew was also asked to step into the role of elder in our local church, and it has been a special opportunity for him to serve and grow within our local body of believers.

In May, the Bible school class graduated, and we said good-bye to a sweet group of students who were living out the transformation Christ had done in them over the past 9 months. It was such a gift to witness and be a part of their lives. Our family also moved apartments on campus – our new space is better suited for our family long-term, and we are thankful for the opportunity that was given us to move.

Summer was full and fast – the boys got to experience Rainbow Bible Ranch for the first time in June, and of course, had a blast! It was special to have our children be at a camp that was formational for our own lives. In July, Timberline hosted three weeks of family camp, called Ascent Weeks, which Lisa coordinates. The time in the Word and fellowship together among guests and staff was rich and fruitful – we saw the Lord work deeply in the hearts of many adults that felt stuck in the daily grind of life.

In August, Lisa was bitten by a dog (outside) and a bat (inside) in the same week. Praise be to Jesus, neither of them had rabies. However, the following weeks were a battle against fear and anxiety, and she is still dealing with anxiety, especially when outside alone. Please pray for ongoing protection of body and mind for her.

## Missions Moment—Torchbearers

This fall the boys returned to a small Christian school in our community. From what they know, many of their classmates do not have a personal relationship with Jesus, and each boy has opportunity within their classes to be salt and light. Our boys have soft hearts towards the Lord right now, and we see them respond to His leading. Isaiah got baptized in November, and we praise God for this step of obedience!

Andrew continues to meet with a small group of men from our community bi-weekly, and Lisa is mentoring two staff ladies this fall. And of course, we are walking with the current group of students who came in September. Each year it seems as though the level of trauma and depth of hurt that students come with grows larger, and it is true again this year. Pray for God's powerful work of healing in their lives.

Through it all, God's faithfulness and goodness are so clear to us. Isaiah 41:10 says, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

He has indeed upheld us! Thank you, Little White Church, for being a part of the way God has ministered to us and supported us this year.

Love in Christ, Andrew, Lisa, Isaiah, Ezra, and Judah



**Away In A Manger**

**Away in a manger, No crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus, Lay down His sweet head**

The stars in the bright sky, Looked down where He lay

The little Lord Jesus, Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing, The Baby awakes  
But little Lord Jesus, No crying He makes

I love You, Lord Jesus, Look down from the sky  
And stay by my side, Until morning is nigh

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask You to stay  
Close by me forever, And love me I pray

Bless all the dear children, In Your tender care  
And fit us for heaven, To live with You there

Most of us learned this beloved Christmas carol as a child and I bet you were humming the tune as you read the lyrics or maybe you just sang it!

Although it was long claimed to be the work of Martin Luther, this Christmas lullaby is now thought to be of American origin in the 1800's. Even though we may never know who wrote the song, we can still find inspiration in the story of the song itself. It tells us of the incredible humble birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope and pray your children will "join the generations of children around the world who have come to love and know the little Jesus through this sweet carol, and who have gone to sleep praying:

*I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh."*

(Quote taken from Then Sing My Soul by Robert J. Morgan)

Our library has several Christmas books for children ready to check out, read and focus on the true meaning of the season, the birth of Jesus. Here are just a few that will be on display in the children's section:

God Gave Us Christmas by Lisa Tawn Bergren

The Christmas Miracle by Mary Beth & Steven Curtis Chapman

The Newborn King by Cindy Waters

The Candle in the Window by Grace Johnson

Mary's Treasure Box by Carolyn Walz Kramlich

King of the Stable by Melody Carlson

We also have several Christmas-themed adult books, family DVDs and activity packets for the kids.  
Rejoice with us and enjoy the season!

*"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes  
and laid him in a manger; because there was no room  
for them in the inn." Luke 2:7*

# Keeping the Family Strong

By: BJ Reese

## KEEP PRAYING!

In the weeks and months leading up to this year's presidential election, Americans were urged to pray. In churches all across the country, faithful hearts lifted up earnest pleas for candidates and voters alike. Wisdom. Truth. Fairness. Kindness. Prayers that God would reach in and heal our fractured nation.

Here, at the **Little White Church**, our mantra became, "**Pray 7:14**", referring to the well-known verse in II Chronicles, chapter 7, verse 14 (*spoiler alert for our church leaders and pastors: not all of us instantly remember where to find this beloved, hope-filled verse!*). Twice a day – at 7:14 a.m. and again at 7:14 p.m. – many members stopped to pray for our country and its leaders.

Now, the election is over. When I heard the results the next morning, I also heard something else. That still, small Voice (*see I Kings 19:12*) that whispers Truth into my spirit. It said, 'we need to **KEEP praying!**' As soon as I heard that, I knew it was right.

After all, GETTING elected is only the **beginning** of the work that lies ahead. And not just for our new president and vice president, but for our senators and congressmen, as well. All of these men and women have a big job ahead of them. Making things better for our nation will take a LOT of work! Our prayers should **continue** for them, each and every day.

Prayers that they would be given wisdom. That they would rely on, or call on, God **every single day** that they are in office. Prayers that God will guide and protect them, every minute of each of those days. Prayers that God's Truth will permeate the very fabric of this great nation.

Our prayers also need to extend far beyond the White House and the Senate & Congressional Chambers. The PEOPLE of this country are in desperate need of prayer, also. All the people. In every city, county, and state.

Anger, hate, and fear have held Americans in their vicious grasp for far too long. The ability to communicate with kindness and respect is in nearly terminal condition. Even those people who **aren't** angry, who **aren't** uttering hateful comments, have lost their way. They are impatient, and have little compassion left for those who think differently than they do.

We, who love God, CAN set an example. We can be sure to reflect the Light of God's Love in **every** situation we encounter. We can **refuse** to become part of the problem. But, my friends, we CAN NOT fix this by ourselves! God is the Only One Who CAN heal this land. We CAN engage His help – through prayer.



# Keeping the Family Strong

By: BJ Reese

We entered this election *hoping for change*. Positive change. Improvements. God heard our prayers, and He answered. Now, if these newly-elected people are to **succeed** in implementing those changes, they are going to need our help. Our support. Our encouragement.

Through our prayers.

**Not** hate-speak or vicious assaults on their characters or abilities. Not finger pointing or name calling.

For those of us who see God's Hand in the results of November's election, the next step is clear. **Keep praying!** We cannot stop people from being hateful. But we know the One Who can. Instead of joining *their* chorus, we can call on His Name, and seek His help.

We can strengthen those prayers by believing He will hear them (see *Mark 11:21-26*). If we cannot find the words with which to express our fears or concerns, we have a Helper Who does know the words (see *John 14:15-26*). In those moments, call out to God, and trust the Holy Spirit to intercede on your behalf (*Romans 8:25-27*).

My friends, never underestimate the power of your prayers. *James 5:16* tells us, ". . . *the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*" Our God **IS** all-powerful, but His is **not** a magician, waiting to perform tricks for us.

For too long, Americans have taken a 'magic-act' approach to problem solving. We **see** what's going on, **think** about what's wrong, but say or do almost nothing. Until . . . things are REALLY bad and we're afraid of what the future holds. THEN, we pull out our 9-1-1 prayers -- those urgent, desperate pleas for God to step in and save us. Hoping He will wave His magic "God wand" and make all the evil -- all the hate -- stop, and disappear.

Why **should** He?

We've taken this approach far too many times in our history. This time, let's show God that we've learned our role in this endless drama. Each of us who love and worship Him. Let's lift up our voices in prayer . . .

- For our president                      For our vice-president
- For our senators                      For our congressmen
- For our governors                      For our community leaders
- For our church leaders, and For all of our citizens.

Let's use our ability to pray . . . to help God make these **next** four years the most hope-filled, productive, love-infused era in American history! Let's **BE** the change we have asked for! Keep praying . . .

To His Glory . . .

## From My Files: Echoes of God's Glory

Roseanne Hilton

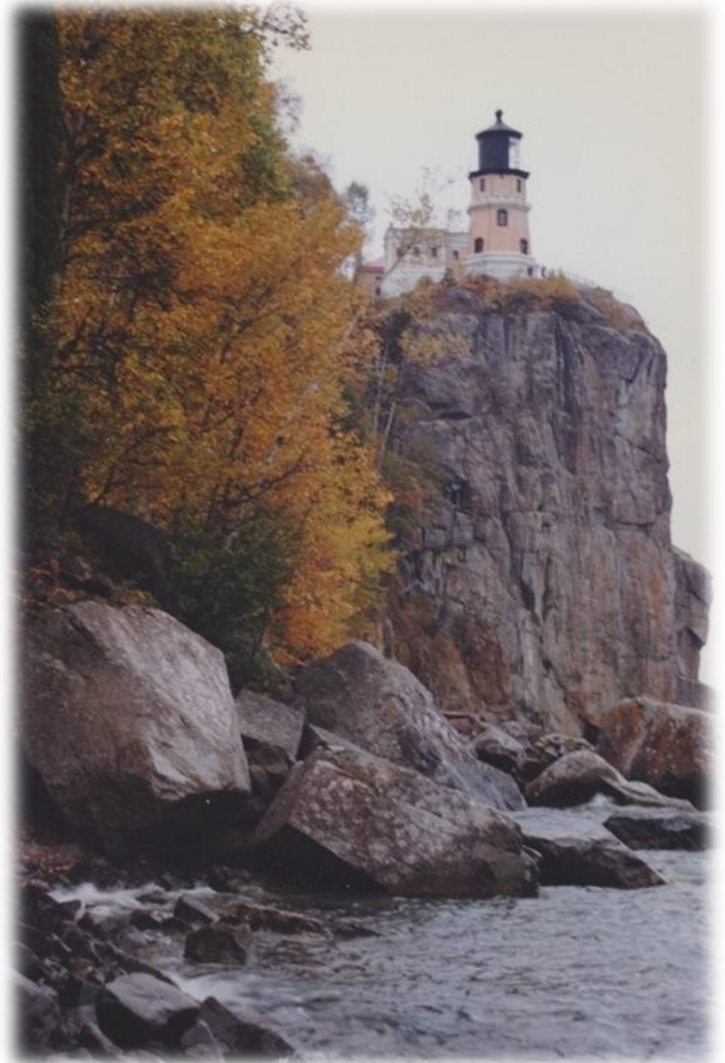
**Jesus is called Prince of Peace and Lord of Peace. When His followers were worrying about being separated from Him, He said it would be better for them if He went away because He was sending the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to dwell within each of them. Not only that, but Jesus promised to be with them always and “My Father will love them and we will come to them and live with them.” So the Triune God is promised to “all those who love Me,” to be Comforter and Counselor.**

**“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn't like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid.” John 14:27**

**Why then are we sometimes anxious? Jesus tells his disciples to “remain in Me and I will remain in you.” Not always easy to do when we are in the midst of a crisis. Sometimes remaining in Him means that we are clinging to the Vine-- Jesus' word picture for His relationship to us as the branches--clinging with white-knuckle fingers and reminding ourselves that “He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will never be shaken,” the psalmist David's description of his hanging onto the LORD when his enemies “delight in telling lies about me. They are friendly to my face but they curse me in their hearts. All of them are trying to kill me.” Psalm 62**

**There are plenty of troubles and reasons for worrying, but there are also some practical ways to “remain in Him.” Sleepless nights? Instead of fretting, think of Him, meditate on how He has helped you. See Psalm 63:6-8 In the apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians, there is even a list of things to think about that are characteristics of the Lord Jesus: true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and worthy of praise.**

**“Don't worry about anything: instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6,7**



***Coming in January: Echoes of God's Glory in Creation.***

# Announcements

**Sunday Night Adult Bible Study** is held at 6 pm in the library.

**Adult Study on Wednesdays from 6:00pm-7:30pm in the Library.**

We will have weekly sessions covering content to help grow our faith and understanding of God and the Bible. You can join at any time during the year and will find in the bulletin what session is being offered for the coming week.

This is open to all ages of adults.

**We will not be having the Women's Prayer Gathering in the month of December.**

I will be praying for you while I am out of town, though; please let me know of any prayer requests. And let's encourage each other, singing: "Let There Be Peace on Earth", and let it begin with me!

Blessings, ~Lynda

**Georgie Neff's brother, Doug from Red Wing, MN, was called home to Jesus on November 8, 2024. A beautiful, loving Celebration of Life was held November 14th at Lands Lutheran Church in Zumbrota, MN**



**Community Christmas Coffeehouse—December 1st at 4 pm**

**Children's Christmas Program—December 8th at 6:30 pm**

**Secret Sister Gift Exchange—December 14th at 10:00 am**

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Services—December 24th at 5 pm & 7 pm**

**Large Fellowship & ONE Service—December 29th at 9 am & 10:15 am**

## **Year End Giving**

If you date, mail, and postmark your check or donation by December 31st, we are able to credit your gift as tax deductible for 2024.

Or give online at [www.thelittlewhitechurch.net/giveonline](http://www.thelittlewhitechurch.net/giveonline)

Email: [office@thelittlewhitechurch.net](mailto:office@thelittlewhitechurch.net) with any questions!

# WE HAVE A CHURCH APP!

## Install the Church Center App

Church Center is where you can explore, engage, and get involved throughout the week.



**Up-to-the-minute Event Information**

**Give Online**

**Watch Live & Past Sunday Services**

**Manage Yours and Your Family's Profile**

# RECIPE



**WE**

**WANT**

**YOUR**

**RECIPES**

We are working on a church cookbook and need your recipes! For each recipe, you will be entered into a drawing to win 2 cookbooks. You can enter up to 3 recipes in each category.

All entries must be received no later than January 31, 2025

**SEND RECIPES TO  
HCS DJEFFI@GMAIL.COM**

## APPETIZERS

Let's share some recipes and some history behind them!



## VEGETABLES

Is it a blue-ribbon winning recipe? Let us know!



## SOUPS, SALADS & SAUCES

Tell us, what makes the recipe so special?!



## DESSERTS

Life is Short, Eat Dessert First!



## BREADS/ROLLS /PASTRIES

We want to know, did you nearly burn the house down trying to make it the first time?



## MEATS/MAIN DISHES

Let us know, is it the first recipe you made for your spouse?



## BEVERAGES/ MISC

Is it your most requested recipe? Tell us!





The  
Season  
of

# Advent

## READING PLAN

### *Hope*

- ◇ Day 1: Jeremiah 29:10-14
- ◇ Day 2: Romans 15:8-13
- ◇ Day 3: 1 Peter 1:3-12
- ◇ Day 4: Hebrews 10:19-39
- ◇ Day 5: Psalm 33
- ◇ Day 6: Titus 2:11– 3:8

### *Joy*

- ◇ Day 13: Philippians 4:4-9
- ◇ Day 14: Psalm 16
- ◇ Day 15: James 1:2-18
- ◇ Day 16: Psalm 30
- ◇ Day 17: Luke 2:8-20
- ◇ Day 18: John 15:1-11

### *Peace*

- ◇ Day 7: Isaiah 9:1-7
- ◇ Day 8: John 14:1-7, 25-31
- ◇ Day 9: John 16:25-33
- ◇ Day 10: Romans 5:1-11
- ◇ Day 11: Ephesians 2:11-22
- ◇ Day 12: Colossians 3:1-17

### *Love*

- ◇ Day 19: Micah 7:18-20
- ◇ Day 20: Romans 8:31-39
- ◇ Day 21: John 3:16-21
- ◇ Day 22: 1 John 4:7-21
- ◇ Day 23: Philippians 2:1-11
- ◇ Day 24: 2 Thessalonians 2:13 – 3:5
- ◇ Day 25: Ephesians 2:1-10





## Do You Know Your Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn ... Crown Him with Many Crowns  
Weatherman's Hymn ... There Shall Be Showers of Blessings  
Contractor's Hymn ... The Church's One Foundation  
Tailor's Hymn ... Holy, Holy, Holy  
Golfer's Hymn ... There's a Green Hill Far Away  
Optometrist's Hymn ... Open My Eyes That I Might See  
Gossip's Hymn ... Pass It On  
Electrician's Hymn ... Send the Light  
Shopper's Hymn ... Sweet Bye and Bye  
Realtor's Hymn ... I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop  
Massage Therapist's Hymn ... He Touched Me

AND for those who speed on the highway ~ a few hymns:

55 mph ... God Will Take Care of You  
75 mph ... Nearer My God to Thee  
85 mph ... This World is Not My Home  
95 mph ... Lord, I'm Coming Home  
100 mph ... Precious Memories



LOVE GOD • WALK TOGETHER • CHANGE LIVES  
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Sunday Service Times at 8:30 am & 10:15 am