

The Herald



Jesus paid it all.

From the Worship Pastor

Recently, I spent a few days in Atlanta, Georgia, and I couldn't be happier to come home. The people were nice enough, the weather was beautiful, and the mimosa trees were perfectly in bloom. But the traffic. The Traffic! Endless traffic. One thing that I noticed, which gave me a bit of a chuckle, was, when sitting in traffic, you get a front row seat to the impatient folks. People jumping lanes to try to get ahead, only to see them fall further and further behind in traffic. In fact, statistics say that in traffic, you are better off to stay in your lane than to "risk it for the biscuit." Besides being much more dangerous, changing lanes endlessly can inevitably put you into the slow lane. Watching this reminded me of two passages that I was reading as part of my "through the Bible in a Year" excerpts over the past few days.

In Numbers chapter 35, the Word of the Lord came to Moses regarding the judgment of one who commits murder, and the one who accidentally kills someone. In both cases, the "man slayer" should run a town of refuge and remain there until the court hearing. If the accused is convicted of murder, then he or she is condemned by the "avenger", who will enact justice on the accused. If, however, the accused is found to be innocent of the intent to kill, but accidentally causes the death of another, then the accused is to stay in the "city of refuge". However, if the accused leaves the city of refuge, and the avenger finds him, then the avenger can freely execute justice on the accused. He should have stayed in the city of refuge.

Also, in Joshua chapter 2, I read the story of Rahab and the spies. In a similar way, the men of Israel promised her and her whole household's safety if only she would stay in her home, and to place a red cord at the door as a sign (which could symbolically be seen as the Passover, and ultimately, Christ). Because she stayed in her refuge, she was safe.

After pondering this, I realized that in both cases, it is much like our fellowship with God. All of us have been condemned as sinners with a sin nature. But God has freed us from our sin and called us to enter into His Kingdom and remain there. According to Hebrews 4, we are to "enter into His rest." John 14 calls us to "abide" in Him, and Jesus, in John 15 makes it even more clear. "I am the vine. You are the branches. He that abides in me bears much fruit. Apart from me, you can do nothing."

From the Worship Pastor

In that place of refuge, we are free to “live and move, and have our being”, just as in Christ. However, our temptation is to step outside of His kingdom, and wander around in other kingdoms. We oftentimes think, “what’s all that about?” or “what’s over there?” Rahab could have thought, “our walls we’ve built will protect me. I’m safe on my own.” All the while, He’s calling us to remain at rest in Him, the ultimate Strong Tower. We remain at rest because we realize that God’s love actually has everything that we want and need. This is why the first Commandment is to “love God.” And the second is to “love others.” We cannot love God until we see how much He first loved us. Our expression of love flows out of our reception of Love, personified. Our reception of love flows from our understanding of God as love. If we believe (as Eve did) that God is angry with us, has rejected us, and wants to destroy us, then our only response is to run, hide, and begin sewing our fig leaves together. But this is why the Father sent His Son. Jesus came as the “Word of God”. One might say that the appearance of Jesus was to reveal precisely what the Father wanted to say about Himself. John 1:18 says, “No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father’s side, He has revealed Him.” Often, our view of God the Father is different than our view of Jesus, even though Jesus said “I and the Father are One.” When we begin to see that Father with the same nature as the son, then we can begin to run to Him, not run away from Him.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is our City of Refuge. We run to Him, stay with Him, and abide in Him. It is there that freedom is found. It’s there that the promises of God are revealed. It’s there that we begin to produce the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. The enemy/avenger cannot enter that City. He can have no voice in our lives, if only we would remain, and it’s a beautiful place to stay.



P S A L M 6 2 : 8

Missions Moment—Rick & Jen Greene, Keystone Project

Thank you for praying for our Native/First Nations training! It was one of our most dynamic and deeply impacting trainings yet, with 47 people from 9 states & 2 countries, 20 baptisms, and 2 impromptu weddings! I am always so encouraged by the passion brought by our native brothers and sisters. Rick was an



assistant coach and, while I wasn't coaching, I had the privilege of baptizing a friend of ours who participated in the training. Something the Lord has been challenging me (Jen) in through this training is to minister out of intercession and worship, rather than just doing things to get them done. Such a good reminder!

In 2 1/2 weeks we will have 40+ students arrive for our international training from around the globe for the month of April. If you want to be challenged in your relationship with the Lord and grow in the Great Commission, we would encourage you to consider joining us in Keystone SD...particularly if you're local but even if you aren't! You can jump in for a day, a week, or a whole month. We are also looking for volunteers (see attached). If you'd like to be involved through prayer we will be sending a daily prayer guide closer to the date for the training event.



Lastly Rick and I are also looking ahead to some ministry trips and we would love to connect with you also if you'll be where we're going. We will be headed to Dallas, TX early April for a conference. We are also looking ahead to visiting Long Island NY/Baltimore and Portland, OR in May. Pray for us to have significant God connections as we grow our team of prayer and financial partners for our family and our organization.

For His glory,
Rick & Jen

Ministry Moment—Ministry to Women

As you know, Little White Church has a threefold emphasis: Love God, Walk Together, Change Lives. Under this overarching vision, the church's Ministry to Women exists *to create opportunities for women to grow in Christ, fellowship with each other and reach out to the world for the glory of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Bible and book studies, monthly prayer meetings, retreats, fellowship events, praise and connection evenings and community service – each of these functions have been prayerfully considered and offered with an eye toward fulfilling at least one aspect of our vision statement. We're excited about working plans to provide mentoring and discipleship opportunities in the near future, along with strengthening bonds within our fellowship and serving the community beyond the church walls.

If you've not yet been involved with the events and offerings spearheaded by the Ministry to Women team, please plan to attend one in the near future! Recognizing that we are better together, your participation is valued. If you have questions, suggestions or reservations, please reach out to us. We'd love to hear from you!

Note: If you are not currently receiving our monthly newsletter via email and wish to be added to our database, please contact LWCM2W@gmail.com with your email address.



Robin, Jackie, Roxann, Wynter, Tanya and Kristin

Two Followers Who Gave Up

Imagine how the disciples and other followers of Jesus felt after Jesus died. All their hopes and dreams of a Messiah had died, too. They were without their Master and Teacher for the first time in over three years.

The followers of Jesus knew they also could be arrested. Filled with fear, they hid behind locked doors after Jesus died on Friday. On Saturday, the Sabbath, they were unable to travel, so they remained in hiding.

But the next day, Sunday, they could travel again. So two followers of Jesus, Cleopas and a friend, decided to leave Jerusalem. They set out for their hometown of Emmaus, about seven miles away.

Sunday Afternoon: Heading Back Home

Luke 24:13-35 NLT

That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. As they walked along, they were talking about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. But God kept them from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?"

They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days."

"What things?" Jesus asked.

"The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago."

Between the BookENDS

Article Submitted by: Georgie Neff

“Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said.”

Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn’t it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?” Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, but they begged him, “Stay the night with us, since it is getting late.” So he went home with them. As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

They said to each other, “Didn’t our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?” And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, who said, “The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter.” Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread.

What did Jesus explain to Cleopas and his friend?

Why did Cleopas and his friend run back to Jerusalem?

Why can we be sure Jesus is the Savior of whom the prophets spoke?

“The LORD’s servant took the sins of many people on himself. And he gave his life for those who had done what is wrong.” (Isaiah 53:12 NIRV)

The above narratives are from a junior book in the library, *Journey to the Cross* by Helen Haidle, that features all the events of the last week of Jesus’ life and resurrection in chronological order.

Book new to our library: I am waiting the arrival of the newest Joel Rosenberg book released March 2025.

CDs new to our library: Several new **Adventures in Odyssey**

April Librarians: Cindy Dusing and Georgie Neff



Know that wisdom is such to your soul; if you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off. – Proverbs 24:14, ESV

Jesus told parables. The Bible—both the Old and New Testaments—are filled with powerful narratives that have enriched our faith and culture. And our culture has plenty of its own stories, too—stories that can educate, enrich and entertain. **Even some secular stories can point to God, the greatest Storyteller of all.**

- What is your favorite Bible story? Your favorite person from the Bible?
- Do you read your Bible a lot? How often?
- What's a story you enjoy that seem to point to God in some ways?

Day One Focus: Reading

Most of us read quite a bit—on a screen. Many of us spend a lot of time studying online, perusing new stories and scrolling through social media posts. We might even read the Bible or other books on our phones or tablets.

But there's something special about reading on a printed page. Books have their own look, feel and even scent. **A recent study found that “children's reading comprehension is better when reading on paper than on screen.”¹**

As far as reading itself? Studies tell us that reading strengthens our brains, reduces our stress level and enhances our creativity and imagination. And when we read together, as a family, we're creating memories that can last a lifetime. So, swap out your screens for a good book today!

¹ <https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2019-78738-001>



Regular reading can improve memory, cognitive ability and has been shown to lower stress by nearly 68%.²

Activities

For Younger Kids

Settle in and read stories to your children—or, if they're old enough, encourage them to read to you. **Pick something that allows you and your child to experience the rhythm, and even the rhyme, of the language**—be it Dr. Seuss or Carl Sandburg or E.E. Milne. Ask them what their favorite part of the book is; what lines they like; who their favorite characters are.

For Older Kids

Reading aloud to your kids doesn't need to stop when they're old enough to choose their own books. But perhaps even better might be to choose a book, or series of books, you can all read on your own and discuss later. **Choose a book that your tween or teen might've been looking forward to reading. Or even choose a book that they must read for school.** You might be surprised how much fun it is to read it, and talk over it, together.

For Adults

We often say, "I would read more if I had the time." Well, now you have the time! **Select a book that you've always wanted to read but never felt like you had a chance.** If you're looking for a classic book with a Christian twist, think about starting J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* (or, if you're feeling really ambitious, tackle Victor Hugo's mammoth *Les Misérables*). Looking for a non-fiction book? Dive into G.K. Chesterton's *Orthodoxy* or Philip Yancey's *Prayer* or any number of books you've been meaning to read. Or, if you'd rather just have something fun to read, dive into a mystery by Agatha Christie or Dorothy Sayers or science fiction yarn from Isaac Asimov.

² <https://blogs.ncl.ac.uk/medlit/2023/01/19/reading-reduces-stress-fact/#:~:text=According%20to%20research%20carried%20out,or%20playing%20video%20games%201%25>.

Keeping the Family Strong

By: BJ Reese

I absolutely LOVE the multi-generational aspect of our church family! At 71 years of age, I am often aware that I am older than many of the people I encounter on a daily basis. Until I come to church, that is . . .

Here, in the heart of our Little White Church family, I am only one of the senior citizens represented. And, as a group, we are one of *many* different age groups. Collectively, this family spans a *full century*!

When we visit with Gini, or Arlene, or Rick, we are keenly aware that they see us as “kids”. Rightfully so: they have at least 20 more years on this Earth than we do! Then, we wander over and chat with our pastors.

Dennis is in our age group, and so is former pastor Ron. But when we look at our other three pastors — Ben, Nathan, and Chuck — *we* see *them* as “kids”. For good reason: they are near the ages of our own sons and daughters.

In turn, they look at the young adults in our congregation through a similar lens. Carson, Hunter, & Curtis — and many others in their early 20s — look like youngsters to that generation between us and them. And, to *those* young adults, everyone below middle-school age all looks *really* young!

In reality, this church is *rich* with diversity — just in terms of how old we are! We have members whose ages span *TEN* distinct decades . . . from babies, who are just a few months old, to folks who are celebrating 95 years on this glorious planet. That’s a *lot* of opportunities to learn, grow, and teach! It offers us valuable, and unique, perspectives on life, from an abundance of viewpoints. It is also part of the reason this church has continued for nearly 136 years.

Longing to learn more about effective communication in your relationships? Those of us over 60 are a valuable resource for that, because communicating was VERY different when we were young. Want a better understanding of why certain things are the way they are? Curious about the history of our church, or the town you live in? Sit down and ask someone older than you.

Are you baffled by how today’s teenagers think, act, or process information? Talk to a teenager! Stumped by something related to your phone or computer? Teens and young adults have been around these electronic marvels all their lives! You may be surprised by what they can teach you.

Keeping the Family Strong

By: BJ Reese

Wondering what this country was like prior to 1950? Seek out the eldest members of this church family. They've witnessed more growth and change than we can begin to imagine. Even those of us in our 60s and 70s have seen a phenomenal amount of change during our lifetimes. Want to know more? ASK someone who was there!

Interestingly enough, our three “young” pastors — and their wives — are right smack in the middle . . . a bridge, if you will, between the early 21st Century and the mid-20th Century. Their generation seems to possess a genuine understanding of both ‘extremes’.

They grew up in the arms of those of us who are over 60, and they are **raising** the generation that is under 20. They have their fingers poised on the pulse of the old, and on the new, at virtually the same time. Because of the middle ground they stand upon, they have the unique ability to create a connection between us all . . . poised and prepared to help each of us understand the others a little bit better.

As different as we all are in some ways, we all have one very important thing in common. We all belong to God. As members of the Little White Church, we all want to grow closer to Him. Richard and I have been coming here for more than 20 years, and I can tell you this . . .

I have learned **something** new about walking with God, from people in **every single one** of those 10 decades I mentioned! My friends, this beautiful, multi-generational church family is a priceless, precious, and extremely rare gift. In addition, it is an almost endless storehouse of information, waiting to be shared.

Some churches struggle to stay alive, because there are no children, no young families. Others struggle to grow, because there are no older members to guide them. Still others have died completely, as internal conflicts tore them apart.

The Little White Church has survived for over 135 years, as a continuously functioning church. Because of the wondrous variety of our membership, this church could still be going strong many decades from now . . .

Keeping the Family Strong

By: BJ Reese

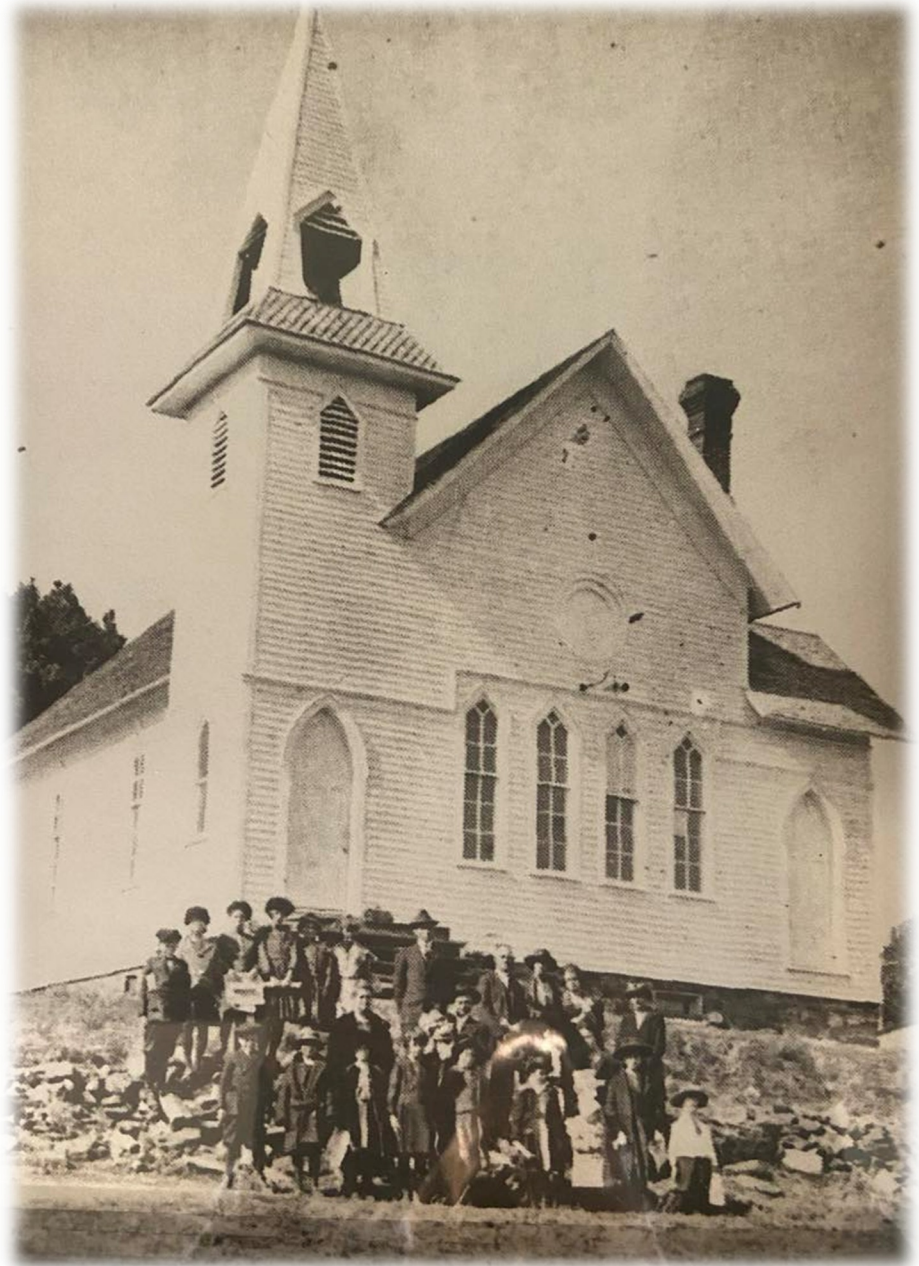
When our current crop of first graders are in their 30s and 40s, and raising families, our current young pastors will be in their 70s. Those of us who just passed 60 will be over 90. And, when those same first graders are celebrating 90+ years on Earth, they could be watching another group of youngsters find *their* way through life.

It all starts with us — with those of us who make up the current family of the Little White Church. Nurture the relationships that God has created here. Make sure each person feels valued, honored, appreciated, and respected. Never neglect an opportunity to speak with someone you admire or respect. To let them know you're thinking of them.

God has surely blessed this church with a rich and vibrant heritage. Those who were a part of its family during its *first* 65 years managed to build something that has proven it can withstand the test of time. Let's do our part to keep that going.

Let's make sure we work together, to strengthen, nurture, and preserve what they started. In doing so, we will become the foundation upon which the NEXT 100 years will be built!

To His Glory . . . BJ Reese



Echoes of God's Glory in Creation

Roseanne Hilton

Reflections from Psalm 19

“The heavens tell of the glory of God, the skies display His marvelous craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make Him known. They speak without a sound or word; their voice is silent in the skies; yet their message has gone out to all the earth, and their words to all the world. The sun lives in the heavens where God placed it. It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding. It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race. The sun rises at one end of the heavens and follows its course to the other end. Nothing can hide from its heat.” [New Living Translation, 1997]

In the February Echoes essay, I urged you to get out and look at the night sky, but to look beyond its beauty to the glory of the Creator. The above passage tells of how the heavenly marvels of the night point to the glory of God, but also focuses on the sun. From our point of view, the sun does move across the sky from “one end of the heavens,” (east) “to the other end” (west). For years it was assumed that the sun revolved around the earth, until scientists demonstrated that the earth and other planets revolved around the sun, not in a circular, but an elliptical orbit.

In 2018 the Parker Solar Probe was launched, which has already revolutionized our understanding of the sun, according to the NASA website.

As humanity has learned more about the heavens and the skies, the further we get in our understanding that the Creator deserves our awe and worship. Job realized this when the LORD said to him, “Have you ever commanded the morning to appear and caused the dawn to rise in the east?”

[Job 38:12]



Newsletter Newsletter

The Blessing of Fellowship

Between the death of Christ and the Last Day it is only by gracious anticipation of the last things that Christians are privileged to live in invisible fellowship with other Christians. It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God's Word and sacrament. Not all Christians receive this blessing.

The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone. They know that visible fellowship is a blessing.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Earth Shaking Victory

On Ash Wednesday in 2001, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake shook the Seattle area. Charlie and Ann Lewis, co-pastors in Snohomish, Washington, reflected on the timing: "While most years we prefer to think of Lent as a contemplative journey of faith as we walk with Jesus toward Jerusalem and the cross, this year we are thinking of how God turned the world upside down at Calvary. From the cross, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and his life was finished. Then the earth shook violently, the curtain in the temple was torn in two and rocks were split apart. The God who identified with us in our humanity in the incarnation of Jesus Christ demonstrated in that moment the depth of divine love for us — a love that leads God to choose the path of suffering and sacrifice.

"Three days later, the earth shook again — another violent earthquake, and the stone in front of the tomb was rolled away. Then the crucified Christ threw aside the burial cloths, emerging from the darkness of the tomb to walk in the dew of the grass as dawn was breaking across the sky. God had declared victory over sin and death itself. That victory was for us. ... God has given us a glorious life that extends into eternity."



Christian Symbol

PALM BRANCH — When Jesus entered Jerusalem days before his death, crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches, common symbols of victory and rejoicing. Churches still use them to remember that occasion, knowing that Jesus' crucifixion was the ultimate triumph over sin and death. As early as Leviticus 23:40, God commanded Israel to use palms in a festival of rejoicing. In Revelation 7:9-10, Christian martyrs carry palm branches as they praise the Lamb before God's throne.

Announcements

Women's Prayer Gathering will NOT be held in April!

Vision 2025—April 5th from 9 am—3 pm

Join us as we pray and plan! Bring a soup to share!

On Sunday, April 6th, Richard Greene, president of the Keystone Project will be here both services sharing the message.

During the 10:15 am service, we will have Keystone Project Participants from West Africa worshipping with us!

Do you enjoy gardening? We are looking for people to go to Enid, OK on April 4-8 to help plant the gardens at Forgotten Ministries (missions organization we support on a monthly basis).

If you are interested, please sign up at the welcome table!

?’s, please see Mary Jo Anderson!



Take advantage of our upcoming Parents' Night Out, April 12, 6-9pm in Fellowship Hall. Drop the kids off and enjoy time for projects, errands, a date or a nap!

Limited to the first 30 registrants. \$5/child.

Sign up sheet in the foyer.

SHE-BREWS (Women's Conversational Coffee) will now be held on a Quarterly Basis. Next meeting will be May 10th at 10 am.

Information for Summer Youth Events & Mission Trips are now available!

Go to: www.thelittlewhitechurch.net/youthevents

Get Ready for Summer Camp

It's time to sign up summer camp at Rainbow Bible Ranch or Camp Judson. See the camp information in the entry way. To help with costs The LWC offers a campership program for kids in our congregation. The program involves completing an application and doing an optional Campership Packet. Packets include Bible studies, Scripture memorization and doing a service project. This program is not required to attend camp. Contact Cindy Dusing for questions.

THE LITTLE WHITE CHURCH
THELITTLEWHITECHURCH.NET/HOLYWEEK

HOLY WEEK

at LWC



PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 13TH

8:30 am & 10:15 am

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 18TH

Service at 6 pm

RESURRECTION MORNING

APRIL 20TH

Services at 8:30 am & 10:15 am

Brunch from 9 am – 10:15 am



4TH ANNUAL



**BLACK HILLS BIKER BLESSING
LITTLE WHITE CHURCH**

YOU'RE INVITED!

AT

**THE LITTLE WHITE CHURCH
525 MAIN ST. HILL CITY**

**MAY
17TH
2025**

**9-10 AM REGISTRATION
COFFEE & DONUTS
10:15 AM BIKER BLESSING
11 AM SCENIC GROUP RIDE
11:40 AM LUNCH**

**FREE!
DONATIONS
ACCEPTED
FOR YOUTH
MISSIONS**

**MORE INFO CALL PETE AT 507-456-1579 OR
SCOOTER AT 760-793-1547**

Holy Week



Palm Sunday

Triumphant Entry

- Reading: Matthew 21:1-11
- Activity: Make palm crosses or a palm-themed craft.



Monday

Cleansing the Temple

- Reading: Mark 11:15-18
- Activity: Take a reflective walk, silently praying about what you wish to eliminate from your life or discussing obstacles that hinder your time with God.



Tuesday

Speaking in Parables

- Reading: Matthew 22:1-14
- Activity: Choose a Gospel and count how many parables Jesus uses. For a challenge, identify which parables are in each Gospel book.

Wednesday

Silent Wednesday

- Reading: Psalm 46
- Activity: Engage in a quiet challenge, focusing on prayer, Scripture or silent activities with minimal speaking.



Thursday

The Last Supper

- Reading: John 13:1-20
- Activity: Re-create a foot washing ceremony by washing each other's feet.



Good Friday

The Crucifixion

- Reading: Isaiah 53
- Activity: Draw, paint or write about the theme of sacrifice or caring.



Holy Saturday

Day of Preparation

- Reading: Luke 23:50-56
- Activity: Prepare for Easter by decorating or cooking traditional foods like bread.



Easter Sunday

Jesus Is Risen!

- Reading: John 20:1-18
- Activity: Celebrate the Resurrection with joy and fellowship by singing worship songs or sharing a meal.





Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke? It might crack up!

Why did the Easter egg hide? Because he was a little chicken.

What kind of stories does the Easter Bunny like best? The ones with hoppy endings

Where does the Easter Bunny like to eat breakfast? IHOP

Why did the baby chick cross the road? To meet up with her Peeps.

Why did the jelly bean go to school? Because he really wanted to be a Smartie.

One Easter, a father was teaching his son to drive when out of nowhere a rabbit jumped on the road. Slamming on the brakes, the son said, "I nearly ruined Easter! I almost ran over the Easter Bunny." His father replied, "It's okay son—you missed it by a hare."



LOVE GOD • WALK TOGETHER • CHANGE LIVES

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Sunday Service Times at 8:30 am & 10:15 am—Fellowship In-Between

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