



**I will sing of
the Lord's great
love forever.**

PSALM 89:1

The Herald

From the Worship Pastor

Hey there Church Family,

About a month ago, I was speaking with a friend (a new believer) who said he had never read through the Bible. Many of us have attempted to read the entire Bible in a year, using different plans and often, we get behind on a few days, feel overwhelmed, and eventually, give up. Reading through the Bible in a year is a daunting task, but of course, definitely worth the journey. This friend of mine had said, instead that he was listening to the Bible from a podcast and invited me to join him. As an encouragement to him as a new believer, I said “absolutely!”, and began the journey. Very soon, I realized how precious this experience has become to me.

Often, we begin the year with a “new year’s resolution,” and this is not all bad. Resolutions to quit addictive behaviors, take time to pray, or spend our mornings reading scripture can often jumpstart us into a life-long path that brings us closer to the image we were designed to become. However, statistically, about 80% fail resolutions almost immediately, another 10-12% hang on a bit longer, and only about 8% find any success. This is because determination can only take us so far. Regarding the things of God, many of us struggle with one area of brokenness or another. For some, putting the Facebook down, and getting our face in the Book has been a struggle (guilty here!). For many, addiction to pornography, alcohol, or gambling is a struggle that many cannot seem to overcome. Still others find feelings of suicide, depression, or bitterness as a close companion that never seems to leave, no matter how many times they have prayed.

Yet God has provided the grace necessary for us to overcome. We have been “created in His image and in His likeness.” “If anyone be in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things have passed away, and behold, all things have become new.” Dozens more promises such as these ensure that God has provided a pathway for us to find freedom from the power of sin in our lives. “We are no longer slaves to sin.” As Romans 6 says, is a powerful reminder that we are children of God when we are found in Christ Jesus.

From the Worship Pastor

But where is Jesus? He is sitting next to you at church. He's in the "She Brews" gathering. He's in the nursery playing with toys. He's helping supply the food pantry. He is everywhere that we are. We are the Body of Christ. Everyone has heard the story of the man in a storm who said "God will save me," yet refused the help that God gave by sending two boats and a helicopter. Yet oftentimes, God works in the same way in our own lives. If my friend would not have approached me to listen to the Bible in a Year with him, I certainly would not have begun it on my own. And, since he is sticking with it, so am I. We were designed as brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, to be united in Christ as one single body. When one part of the Body is hurting, the entire Body hurts. So too, when one brother or sister is a light, it shines in us and through us as well as an encouragement and a source of joy.

Our struggles should not find us isolated in a vacuum, but just as Elder Danny Martinez once said, we instead should be surrounded by "wise, sincere, loving friends".

Friends that are closer to us than our own siblings. Our life groups are a great place to begin. Celebrate Recovery is also a fantastic place to find that freedom that Christ promises. This is because of the strong unity in the Body found there. I'm

thankful for my friend's encouragement. The love that binds us together as family is strong enough to overcome our weaknesses, our faults, and our frailties. Unconditional love is not offended by the mess, but loves us too much to leave us in it. Rather than our determination or "resolution," let our source be the love Christ gave us.



Above all,
love each other
deeply.

1 Peter 4:8

Chuck Ferraro, Worship Pastor

Have You Met?

Adult Name(s):

Danny and Robin Martinez

Children Name(s) and Ages:

Keon 23, Chiara 22,
Antonio 18, Zephaniah 17,
Tegan 14, Elijah 9



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

Danny had provided training and consulting services to Star Academy in Custer and our family had vacationed here for several years in the early 2000's. With the pandemic, we decided NM was no longer the best situation for our family, so we moved with our four youngest children to Hill City in 2020. Danny already knew Pastor Ben and Chuck, so attending LWC was a natural choice.

How long have you lived in the Black Hills?

4 ½ years. Though initially reluctant to leave behind their NM friends (and the great weather and food), the kids have adjusted well. They've become active in sports, made great friends and have somewhat adjusted to the cold winters. One benefit they've enjoyed was being able to find employment at 14. Our oldest daughter, Chiara, still lives in NM and has a job she loves as a vet tech. Necropsies seem to be her current favorite pastime along with Bible studies with her friend group! Keon joined us in the Black Hills and works as a corrections officer in Rapid City. He is a leader in the Youth Ministry on Wednesday nights and enjoys cardistry and perfecting magic tricks. Ask him to show you one sometime!

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

Danny – Undercover narcotics agent in FL and DE, Director of several juvenile justice facilities, an adolescent psychiatric facility and an adult detention center, and currently self-employed providing consulting and training for prevention and crises intervention for these same populations.

Robin – loan officer, stock broker, kids' cooking classes instructor, escrow officer, and now an automotive sales consultant

Have You Met?

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

Danny – Santa Fe and Albuquerque, NM, Delaware, Florida, Boulder, CO, and now, Hill City

Robin – Caprock, Las Cruces and Albuquerque, NM and now, Hill City

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

Danny – Robin and I experienced several miscarriages early in our marriage and were even considering having her tubes tied to avoid further heartache. During this time, we were on a church tour in Jerusalem, and I (Danny) met a Jewish rabbi at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. He asked if he could pray for Danny to have a son. In turn, Danny prayed that the rabbi would come to know Jesus, His Messiah. Nothing happened. A year later we were serving in Amsterdam with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and an African pastor asked if he could pray for Danny to have a son. We were pregnant less than six months later. “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:6

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

Danny – Singles’ group leader, taught Evangelism Explosion, open air preaching and evangelism on college campuses, church planting team member and leader, Foundations and Theology teacher and leader, missions support and care team, deacon, home fellowship leader and host, and now an elder at LWC.

Robin – Growing up as a teenager, I attended a very small country church and taught Sunday school to anyone younger than me and also served as the church pianist. Previously involved in New Believer’s follow up, Women’s Ministry and women’s prison ministry in Albuquerque, I am now involved with the Ministry to Women team at LWC.

Do you have any special talents or gifts?

Danny – A deep love of digging deep in scripture and keeping it a priority in my life. And I make excellent authentic red and green chile.

Robin – I have a highly recognizable whistle which has served me well! The kids can recognize it from afar and know to look up and find me.

Have You Met?

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

Danny – Holy, pure, perfect, amazing

Robin – faithful

What biblical figure best describes you and why?

Danny – Peter, because he is direct and forthright. Why use a \$5 word, when a .50 cent one will do?

Robin – unfortunately, I probably most resemble Martha. Often, I'm so busy "doing" that I miss out on the "being."

Anything else you would like us to know about you?

Parenting six children, work and family challenges, and making a significant life altering move at our ages have given us many opportunities to experience the goodness of God. We rest secure in His love and wait expectantly for what He brings next.



Would you like to be added to
our church directory?

Go to:

[www.thelittlewhitechurch.net/
directoryform](http://www.thelittlewhitechurch.net/directoryform)

Fill out the form and send a
family picture to Stephanie at
office@thelittlewhitechurch.net



Jan 20, 2025 : Inauguration Day is a good time to remember we have a vital role to play in our nation. America needs a heart change, and **1 Timothy 2:1-2** tells us to pray for those in authority over us, that we might live peaceful and quiet lives in godliness and holiness. So, let's commit to pray—daily and with intentionality—for our leaders and for God's will to be done within our nation and in all levels of our government.

Let's Pray:

*Lord, You have been merciful to us. You have blessed us, and we thank You. **You are the Author of liberty and freedom.** You are faithful and true. Governments and empires rise and fall—they have as long as human beings have organized themselves. But You and Your Word never fail.*

We pray now for our leaders—for all those in authority, irrespective of alliance or affiliation—for our new president and vice president, our governors, and the leaders of our cities and towns. Give them wisdom and understanding from You. Direct their decisions, that You might bring Your blessings to our communities, cities, states, and nation.

*We come in humility to ask that our leaders—from the lowest offices to the highest—will fear Your name and make decisions with the desire to honor You and bring Your very best to our people. **Raise up voices to proclaim the truth of God to this generation, and may those persons who oppose Your purposes be silenced and ineffective in their efforts.** Grant us a spirit of unity and cooperation in the days to come, and silence the voices of division and hate. Our future is supported and affirmed by Your promises and nothing less.*

We trust You, Lord. Let Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. In Jesus' name, amen.

When we pray, God moves.

We have a responsibility to pray for those in authority over us, and I intend to participate in that on a daily basis. Will you join me?

— Pastor Allen Jackson

I was so encouraged by The Little White Church “Pray 7:14” effort and hope our body continues to make prayer a daily routine.

Checkout reminder:

Our library is a self-service library and relies on users to follow the checkout procedure posted on the checkout table so we can track who have various items. We also need folks who borrow items for Sunday School or Bible studies, etc. to check them out...even for an hour, a day or 3 months. Be sure to put the item in the return basket and not back on the shelf so we can match it up with its card.

It's very important that we have your first **and** last name on the checkout card. Make sure that the due date on the card and due date slip in the media item are the same so we can match them up when you return your item. Also, if a CD or DVD is not working properly or a book is falling apart, etc., just attach a note to the front when you drop it in the return basket. Thank you!

Some DVDs new to our library:

Healed By Grace

Healed By Grace 2

The Forge

When Calls the Heart Home for Christmas

Adventures in Odyssey CDs new to our library:

#2 *The Wildest Summer Ever*

#4 *FUNdamentals – Puns, Parables and Perilous Predicaments*

#23 *Twists & Turns*

And more Adventures to come soon!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us know. We look forward to serving you in the library!

February Librarians: Millie Holle & Georgie Neff

Keeping the Family Strong

By: BJ Reese

THE FUTURE OF OUR FAMILY

On a recent Sunday, the Ministry Moment featured the church nursery. As I listened to Dominique Beck's presentation, I realized a sad truth about our nursery . . . one that could also apply to our children's church. We often take these valuable services for granted . . . ("*someone's in charge*"; "*someone will do it*"; "*they don't need me*").

If we don't have small children, we probably don't even think about it. In that case, we're probably not putting much effort into praying for it, either. So, today, I want us to take a good, hard look at WHY these programs are so valuable to our church family.

Yes, you read that correctly. Nursery and Children's Church programs benefit **all** of us. Think about what they actually DO. The nursery gives parents of infants and toddlers a chance to sit back, relax, and REALLY listen to the sermon. Children's Church offers the same opportunity to parents of kids who are ages 4 through 3rd grade. What a blessing for those parents!

Remember how hard it was to keep **your** little ones occupied? To keep them quiet so others could hear what was being said by someone in the room? If those parents are trying to achieve that in a church service, or any other teaching/learning situation, it's a sure bet they'll miss a lot of priceless lessons along the way! Seeing to the needs of a child simply takes their attention away from whatever is being said.

But, if those parents can **truly** pay attention to the message being taught, they will learn things that will help them to be better parents — better teachers & guides to those little minds with whom God has entrusted them. If they are able to clearly **learn** the lessons the pastor is teaching, they will be better able to **teach** those lessons to their children.

Okay, so . . . what about the folks who **provide** those services? The ones who teach Children's Church, or help out in the Nursery? Do YOU know who does that every week? I know I don't! What happens if the same few people are **always** — week in and week out — teaching Children's Church or working in the Nursery?

THEY become the people who are missing the sermon — every time they provide that service. Each week they serve, THEIR souls are missing out on being fed by the Worship music, prayer time, and the message in that week's sermon. Missing the chance to have their spirits refreshed and energized for the week ahead.

Keeping the Family Strong

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Dominique

However, if enough people are signed up to help, the work can be spread out over a wider time frame. Instead of missing the Sermon every 3 or 4 weeks, they may only be called on once every two months or so. That is the goal of Dominique and Nicole --- the women in charge of these two vital programs: enough volunteers so that a person is only needed once every couple of months.



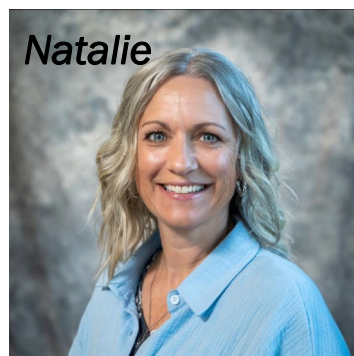
Nicole

Why does all of that matter for the rest of us? For those of us who don't have youngsters at home any more? Or whose children are now teenagers? Because those little children will **BE** teenagers by the time the **current** teens finish college! Those young minds are the future elders, deacons, pastors, worship leaders, and nursery workers of this church!

They are the future of this community . . . of this country. If their parents are lacking the Spiritual strength and guidance needed to live Godly lives, how will they guide their children to do so? If the parents aren't having **their** spirits fed by the weekly message, how will those parents help feed the spirits of those children? Then, later, how will those kids -- now grownups themselves -- know how to feed the spirits of **future** generations of children?

We **ALL** need the Spiritual nourishment of what happens in that sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Therefore, we need to step up and make a way for **all** of our church members to be sure they are growing in their walk with God. So that **every** parent can help **every** child grow in his or her walk with God.

Another need that still exists is help with meals for the **Tuesday** night classes that **Love, INC** is presenting at the church. With 40 people expected to attend, much help is needed . . . so the same group isn't serving those meals every week for the next 8 weeks.



Natalie

If you are available to spend a couple of hours on one Tuesday, to lend a hand with dinner, talk to Natalie Cutler. Remember: many hands make light work . .

To His Glory . . . BJ Reese

Echoes of God's Glory in Creation

Roseanne Hilton

Reflections from Psalm Eight

When David writes this psalm (to be accompanied by a stringed instrument) he has been outside on a dark night, looking at the moon and stars.

*When I look at the night sky and see the work of Your fingers--
the moon and the stars You have set in place.*

He can only respond with the words of praise, "*O LORD, our Lord, the majesty of Your name fills the earth; Your glory is higher than the heavens.*"

The apostle Paul may have been thinking about this passage when he wrote in the letter to the Romans, "*...people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see His invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature.*"

I invite you to follow David and Paul outside and view the winter clouds, moon, planets, stars, and constellations, but look beyond their beauty to the glory of the Creator.



Newsletter Newsletter

True love

Many of us celebrate Valentine's Day in both fun and serious ways. Children exchange treats and humorous cards with classmates and friends; some bring home handmade cards for the adults in their lives. Romantic partners may go out to eat and present each other flowers, chocolate, a fancy card — maybe even an engagement ring!

As playful as Valentine's Day can be, it's also a great time to remember the serious side of love, as indicated by these quotes:

- "When you love someone, you love the whole person as he or she is, and not as you would like them to be." —Leo Tolstoy
- "You don't love someone because they're perfect; you love them in spite of the fact that they're not." —Jodi Picoult
- "Love ... is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. ... It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weaknesses." —Ann Landers

We can do the difficult work of true love — actions, not just feelings — only because God loved us first. He did (and does) so despite our imperfection, and in Jesus, God shows us how to share true love with others. This Valentine's Day, if you don't remember any other profound quotes, hold this one in your heart:

"We love because God first loved us." —1 John 4:19 (NCV)

A prayer for Presidents Day



Lord of heaven and earth, we offer you our deepest gratitude for this country and the freedom to worship you. Stir up a sense of stewardship so we all may care for our nation and each inhabitant of it.

We pray especially for our leaders, that you will bless them with wisdom and humility. Prompt everyone in positions of authority to pursue righteousness, justice and the welfare of all.

Remind us of the psalmist's teaching: "Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12, NRSV). May that promise be fulfilled "from sea to shining sea." Amen.

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.

Women's Craft Night – February 7th from 6-8 pm. Join us for fun and crafts! Candle making station, card making station and more! Soup and salad will be provided. Craft supplies provided!

SHE-BREWS (Women's Conversational Coffee) will be held Saturday, February 8th at 10 am. All women welcome!

Connections Class for New Attendees & Guests

Come and learn more about the LWC, meet some of our pastors/elders, and have a starting place for getting connected into community and becoming a member.

Sundays February 9th, 16th and 23rd at 10:15 am in the library

Women's Prayer Gathering will be held Saturday, February 15th at 9 am. All women welcome to come and pray!

Hill City Senior Citizen's Volunteer Job Fair

Saturday, February 15th from 1-3 pm at the Hill City Center

Learn about all your volunteer options, enjoy an ice cream social, set the dates and prepare your 2025 calendar, meet and visit with Seniors, make plans for on-the-job training.

We are in need of Fellowship time snacks! Please sign up on the sheet by the kitchen and grab a "helps" sheet for more info.

Nursery Volunteers Needed! Please contact church office if interested!

The family of Douglas Neff are very touched by the thoughtful gift of 5 Bibles to be distributed by the Gideons. What a wonderful gift!

Thank you, Little White Church family!



Current Needs:

Kitchen Ministry is in need of pots & pans, regular dinner forks, crockpots, toasters, baking sheets, pizza pans and cake pans.

Furniture ministry is in need of twin and queen size box springs for participants that have earned items thru the Work-2-Earn Program.

Items can be placed in outside tote at Lighthouse Assembly or brought to the Love Inc Facility in Rapid City.

Thank you so much for your support and generous giving! We appreciate the opportunity to continue serving local churches as we all join together to make a difference in families here in the Black Hills!

Christian Pick-Up Lines

1. I was reading the book of Numbers the other day and I realized that I still don't have yours.
2. I was going to read Proverbs 31, but then I realized that I can just study you.
3. Is your name Eve? Because you are the only woman in my world.
4. Is your name David? Because you're a man after my own heart!
5. You are just like a Bible verse because I can't stop memorizing you.
6. I might not be a prophet, but I can see a future with you.
7. You must be a fruit of the Spirit because you are so sweet.
8. You and me...we're like the loaves and the fishes...we just might be a miracle together.
9. Am I on the road to Damascus? Because your beauty is blinding me.
10. The Bible says to think on things that are pure and lovely...so I've been thinking about you all day.



LOVE GOD • WALK TOGETHER • CHANGE LIVES

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