The image features a large American flag waving in the upper half, set against a background of a sunset sky. Below the flag is a wide, flat field of tall, golden-brown grasses. In the distance, a line of dark trees is silhouetted against the horizon. The overall scene is peaceful and evokes a sense of freedom and tranquility.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.
Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves
be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1 NIV

The Herald

Thoughts from a Pastor...

Happy Birthday America! There is a lot of celebration going on for America being 250 years old. It is quite a feat as the United States has the oldest written national constitution still in active use. But, if you have ever had the privilege to travel overseas to Europe, you will discover just how young America really is.

We as a country need to seek humility in this undertaking and not allow pride to misplace our trust and dependance. We need God more than ever to intervene in our country, and I am grateful that many in the South Dakota Legislature believes the same thing. I was privileged to be visiting the State Capitol with my son Calvin on January 27th of this year (The blessings of homeschooling a child). While touring the Capitol with my 14yr old son, we witnessed a resolution brought forth by a young lady by the name of Mykayla Voita of District 21. She asked that the State of South Dakota proclaim *“that we call upon all those who are physically able and spiritually inclined to join us annually during the month of July, for a time of prayer and fasting, depriving ourselves of those temporary physical comforts so that we may be awakened to our need and hunger for God, humbling ourselves before Him, prayerfully seeking His face, asking for His forgiveness, forsaking all wickedness, and begging Him to bestow His healing, blessing, grace, and mercy upon us, so that we, our communities, our state, and our nation will be transformed into a people fit to be His own.”*

Senate Concurrent Resolution 604 would pass in the Senate 22 to 11. Two days later it would pass in the House 42 to 23. You can see the entire resolution online, who voted for it and who opposed it. It was an honor to get to witness the bravery of this young lady to present something that she knew would receive backlash. My son got to witness that bravery and see our leaders debate the need for God to oversee our country, our state, and our communities.

I am calling for our church body to participate in a time of prayer and fasting for our State and communities. We value prayer at The Little White Church and have been promoting praying together as a church body each day at 7:14am and 7:14pm. We can set our alarms to remind us to pray and know that someone else in our church body is praying alongside us.


Thoughts from a Pastor...

2 Chronicles 7:14 says, *if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land*"(ESV). If you have not yet participated with us in PRAY 7:14, may I challenge you to begin to do so and help hold of our church, communities, state, and nation before God and seek to bring glory to Him in all that we do and say.

The LWC Prayer Team has put together a schedule of fasting for the entire month of July. We are asking for those who would like to participate to sign up for a day in July to fast for 24 hours from food to focus on prayer for our state. There will be a signup going around in church to pick a day to fast as we want to cover all 31 days in July. You may also contact myself or Stephanie in the church office to see what days are yet needed to be covered. If you are unable to participate in a 24hr fast, you can choose to give up one meal and there are many things you can fast from that takes your time and attention away from God.

I hope you will join us in this time of prayer and fasting and that we can come from a position of humility before God and not only seek to be blessed by Him, but to be a blessing to Him.

In Christ, Pastor Ben Larsen



**if my people who are
called by my name
humble themselves,
and pray and seek my
face and turn from
their wicked ways,
then I will hear from
heaven and will
forgive their sin and
heal their land.**

PRAY 7:14

Teaching Truth International—Jamin Eben

Teaching Truth International

Jamin & Kristen Eben are Missionaries
with Teaching Truth International

85% of Evangelical Churches on the mission field have a pastor who doesn't have basic bible training.

In the developing world there is only **1 trained pastor to every 450,000 believers.**

Teaching Truth International exists to teach the forgotten pastors who serve in the hidden corners of the world.

Here's How You Can Pray:

Pray that God would provide more workers as we have four missionary teachers currently needing support to either go or return to the field.

Pray that God would provide more funds as we need increased giving to our global fund to support our international staff and pay for pastors conferences.

Pray that God would open doors to increasingly closed and difficult countries like Nicaragua, Pakistan, and India.

Pray for pastors facing physical persecution in Pakistan, India, and Nigeria.

Pray for pastors who face social persecution for forsaking the prosperity gospel all around the world.

Find out more and sign up for our prayer updates and give at

www.teachingtruthinternational.org

*Jamin came to the LWC on Sunday,
June 14th and gave the message.*

*If you missed it, go to
www.thelittlewhitechurch.net/media
to watch it!*



The Story of the Fourth of July

Anonymous

The Declaration of Independence

We celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the **Declaration of Independence** and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation.

But July 4, 1776 wasn't the day that the Continental Congress decided to declare independence (they did that on July 2, 1776).

It wasn't the day we started the American Revolution either (that had happened back in April 1775).

And it wasn't the day Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence (that was in June 1776). Or the date on which the Declaration was delivered to Great Britain (that didn't happen until November 1776). Or the date it was signed (that was August 2, 1776).

So what did happen on July 4, 1776?

The Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. They'd been working on it for a couple of days after the draft was submitted on July 2nd and finally agreed on all of the edits and changes.

July 4, 1776, became the date that was included on the Declaration of Independence, and the fancy handwritten copy that was signed in August (the copy now displayed at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.) It's also the date that was printed on the Dunlap Broadside, the original printed copies of the Declaration that were circulated throughout the new nation. So when people thought of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776 was the date they remembered.

In contrast, we celebrate Constitution Day on September 17th of each year, the anniversary of the date the Constitution was signed, not the anniversary of the date it was approved. If we'd followed this same approach for the Declaration of Independence we'd be celebrating Independence Day on August 2nd of each year, the day the Declaration of Independence was signed!

How did the Fourth of July become a national holiday?

For the first 15 or 20 years after the Declaration was written, people didn't celebrate it much on any date. It was too new and too much else was happening in the young nation. By the 1790s, a time of bitter partisan conflicts, the Declaration had become controversial. One party, the Democratic-Republicans, admired Jefferson and the Declaration. But the other party, the Federalists, thought the Declaration was too French and too anti-British, which went against their current policies.

How did the Fourth of July become a national holiday? *Continued*

By 1817, John Adams complained in a letter that America seemed uninterested in its past. But that would soon change.

After the War of 1812, the Federalist party began to come apart and the new parties of the 1820s and 1830s all considered themselves inheritors of Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans. Printed copies of the Declaration began to circulate again, all with the date July 4, 1776, listed at the top. The deaths of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams on July 4, 1826, may even have helped to promote the idea of July 4 as an important date to be celebrated.

Celebrations of the Fourth of July became more common as the years went on and in 1870, almost a hundred years after the Declaration was written, Congress first declared July 4 to be a national holiday as part of a bill to officially recognize several holidays, including Christmas. Further legislation about national holidays, including July 4, was passed in 1939 and 1941.

Fourth of July Trivia

Most people will be eating, drinking, and celebrating this special occasion. If you're looking for some activities to use during your Fourth of July celebration, why not challenge your friends to some Fourth of July Trivia? You might be surprised to learn just how much some know –or don't know- about our great nation and its history.

Here are a few questions (plus a bonus question) to get you started:

1. How many verses does the Star Spangled Banner have?
2. What is the last line of the last verse of our National Anthem?
3. Who wrote the Star Spangled Banner?
4. What is our national bird?
5. How were fireworks invented?
6. How is the flag supposed to be folded?
7. What are two things the flag should never touch?
8. How many people were living in the newly independent United States when the Declaration of Independence was signed?
 - a. one million
 - b. 500,000
 - c. 2.5 million

Fourth of July Trivia—Continued

9. Which president of the United States was born on the Fourth of July?
10. Which two presidents, both of whom signed the Declaration of Independence, died on the Fourth of July in 1826?
11. Who were the Americans fighting during the Revolutionary war?
 - a. Great Britain
 - b. France
 - c. Mexico
 - d. Canada
12. There were only three generals on the American side which served throughout the eight years of the American Revolutionary War. George Washington and Henry Knox were two of these. Who was the third?
13. Who was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence?
 - a. George Washington
 - b. Thomas Jefferson
 - c. John Hancock
14. Who said "Give me liberty or give me death?"
 - a. Nathan Hale
 - b. John Wilkes Booth
 - c. Patrick Henry
 - d. Thomas Paine

BONUS: How many signatures appeared on the Declaration of Independence?

Answers on Next Page

The Declaration of Independence ... gave liberty not alone to the people of this country, but hope to all the world, for all future time.

—Abraham Lincoln

Between the BookENDS

Article Submitted by: Georgie Neff

Answers:

1. Four
 2. O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave (it's the last line of each verse).
 3. Francis Scott Key
 4. The bald eagle
 5. The Chinese invented them much the same way they constructed rockets for war.
 6. The preferred way to fold the flag to show respect is to fold it into the shape of a triangle.
 7. The ground or water
 8. 2.5 million
 9. The 30th president, Calvin Coolidge
 10. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams
 11. Great Britain
 12. Nathaneal Greene
 13. John Hancock
 14. Patrick Henry
- BONUS: Fifty-six.

*July librarians:
Cindy Dusing and
Georgie Neff*



GOD
BLESS
AMERICA

NOT MY CIRCUS . . . NOT MY MONKEYS

I'm probably not the only person who has heard this phrase. It is a modern-day version of, "*that's not my problem.*" I also know I am not the only person who dislikes **either** phrase. Nevertheless, I recently heard **both** of these phrases, from a very unexpected Source --- God.

He has spent a good deal of time and effort lately, trying to get me to mind my own business (*talk about waking up my inner rebel!*). To let go of things that I simply can NOT control. (*In case you're wondering, that covers MOST of what you worry over every day!*)

As I sat in the quiet one day, trying to accept this vital truth, the thought of an **actual** circus crossed my mind. An image of all the people who perform in a circus. Each one has a specific job to do, and spends a lot of time learning to do that job well. Each is an expert, if you will, in their chosen field of performance.

The owner of the circus makes sure they have locations lined up where they can present their circus. He pays the bills. He makes sure each performer is paid and cared for. He makes sure there is transportation available, to get them to each location. That's pretty much where his job ends. You'll probably never see him in the lions' cage, or walking on the high wire.

The trapeze artists are specialists, who do amazing things while hanging from a swing suspended high in the air. But, they **won't** do those tricks on horseback. The trick riders do that. They train the horses and develop their special moves, to be done while **riding** those horses.

They are uniquely skilled at working with **horses**. Not elephants. Not lions and tigers. Not monkeys. **Each** animal trainer has abilities and knowledge **specific** to the animals he or she works with. Those animals are all VERY different from each other, and the training to handle them is NOT interchangeable.

The lion tamer could no more stand in for the trick rider than you or I could walk to the moon! Each person's job is unique, and can **only** be done by the person trained for **that** job. If we mixed up those performers, chaos would be the result. In some cases, someone could be seriously hurt.

Still, we try --- in our daily lives --- to do just exactly that. To be the ringmaster of our own private circus . . . deciding in our minds how each job should be done. How each person should perform their duties . . . often not considering their individuality and uniqueness at all. But, does it really work?

Keeping the Family Strong

By: BJ Reese

In the circus, when an unexpected problem arises, they have a backup plan. “*Send in the clowns*”. These witty, gifted people keep the crowd entertained while the problem is resolved. Also, they draw attention to themselves while the arena is being prepared for the next act. They are, perhaps, the most **versatile** performers in the circus . . . and that versatility takes a lot of preparation and skill. Even then, they know their limitations. There are tasks they are not trained to do, and they won’t try.

The truth is, we could learn a thing or two from the ringmaster. He **introduces** each act, as they’re ready to come out into the arena. He tells the audience what is about to happen. But, he **doesn’t** tell any of those performers **HOW** to do their act! They already **know** — and he knows that. **His** job is to invite them into the arena to do **their** job.

In our daily lives, when we try to run the show, we create chaos. We also cause anger and hurt feelings in those around us. We rob them of the chance to show us what they are capable of. Have you ever noticed how stressed and frustrated **you** get when people aren’t doing things **your** way?

I did. And, here’s the reality check God laid on me . . .

I’m not frustrated because of what **they** are — or aren’t — doing. I’m frustrated because I am trying to **change** them . . . and it isn’t working! I cannot **make** them change. It is not my job!

The solution God offers me is simple. **Accept** my limitations. Focus **my** time and energy on things I **CAN** do. Acknowledge what is **not** my issue to fix, and not my problem to solve . . . and **stop** trying to solve it!

He wants me to pay attention to my **own** monkeys, and let the other person train **his**!

To His Glory . . . ~ BJ

Echoes of God's Glory in Creation

Roseanne Hilton

Reflections from Psalm 84:5-7 (from New Living Translation, 1997)

In last month's reflection, the temple worship leaders in Jerusalem who wrote this poem, were “fainting with longing to enter the courts of the LORD.”

Now in verses 5-7 it appears that there has been a time of difficulty for the writers, but they are looking forward with eagerness to the pilgrimage to the city and to “Your dwelling place.”

“Happy are those who are strong in the LORD, who set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

When they walk through the Valley of Weeping, it will become a place of refreshing springs,
where pools of blessing collect after the rains.

They will continue to grow stronger, and each of them will appear before God in Jerusalem.”

I am reminded of Isaiah 58:11: “The LORD will guide you continually, watering your life when you are dry and keeping you healthy, too. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring.”



Announcements

We thank **Dennis & Tanya** for their countless hours of labor done in love for the LWC and their faithful dedicated service to God. They are a gift and a blessing to our congregation and we love them both! Congratulations on their retirement!

Please pray for the Walkers as **19** of them travel to the Dominican Republic from **July 1-8, with Mission of Hope**. Pray for health and safety, servant hearts, godly attitudes, changed lives and positive connections with families and children as they paint houses, visit families and conduct Kids Clubs.

Potato Creek Bull Riding Camp will be held July 23-24 at Potato Creek, Pine Ridge Reservation. We will be serving dinner for the village of Potato Creek on July 23rd. There will be music (Allen & Jill Kirkham), testimonies, preaching, and making friends. If you would like to participate, contact Ron Walker.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, July 26th after the 10:15am worship service. This will be an opportunity for members of this congregation to vote on the retention of your pastors and elders, as well as other issues that may be brought forward. *****In order to vote, you must be a member and have a signed Statement of Faith on record with the office.***

For more information on how to become a member, please see a Pastor, an Elder or Stephanie in the office.**

Baptism Service is in the works for Sunday, August 2nd.
Interested? See Pastor Ben.

Fellowship Time Snacks Needed! Please sign up by the kitchen!

A Place at the Table—LWC cookbooks available for purchase in the church office.
\$10—makes a great gift!

We are in need of a Kid's Church Coordinator & Nursery Coordinator. Please contact Stephanie in the office if you are interested or have more questions!

Prison Fellowship is looking for volunteers to help bring their Grow Class to the new women's correctional facility in Rapid City. If you are interested please call 651-324-2347 or email ashley_perkins@pfm.org.

Ministry to Women Upcoming Events:

Encouragement in an Envelope - August 14, 6:30pm at the church.

Women's Retreat - Hospitality: An Overlooked Ministry, Nov. 6-8 at Camp Judson.

JOIN US FOR A BIKE RIDE ON THE MICKELSON TRAIL



SUPPORT FOSTER FAMILIES ACROSS SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota Kids Belong is a community-funded nonprofit dedicated to ensuring every child in foster care has a family, and every foster family has a community standing with them. The Kids Belong Ride puts that mission on the road – raising funds that continue our reach across South Dakota, support foster families through real community connection, and help waiting children find permanent homes. Every dollar moves a child closer to belonging.

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026

➤ **REGISTRATION: 8-11AM**

*Participants can register for a route option during this time.

THE LITTLE WHITE CHURCH
525 MAIN ST, HILL CITY, SD 57745

FREE ➤ **DINNER: 5-6:30PM**

Route options with shuttle service available

- Dumont Trailhead to Rochford Trailhead: 10.0 miles (downhill)
- Dumont Trailhead to Mystic Trailhead: 17.9 miles (downhill)
- Dumont Trailhead to Hill City Trailhead: 32.5 miles
- Dumont Trailhead to The Mountain Trailhead: 43.0 miles (Crazy Horse)
- Rochford Trailhead to Mystic Trailhead: 7.9 miles (downhill)

\$25 PER PERSON

*INCLUDES TRAIL DAY
PASS & T-SHIRT

- ALL AGES & SKILLS WELCOME
- PRIZES AVAILABLE

SCAN QR
CODE TO
REGISTER



Contact: Pastor Ben Larsen at 605-517-0852 or benlarsentlwc@hotmail.com.

 **SOUTH DAKOTA
KIDS BELONG™**
THE AMERICA'S KIDS BELONG FAMILY



the COMMUNITY KIDS CLOTHING CLOSET



5th Annual

NO COST BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENT!!

Come get some back-to-school clothes
at this community "hand-me-down" event!!

All are welcome!

Friday, July 31st

2-6pm

Saturday, August 1st

8-Noon

@ The Hill City Center
222 Walnut Ave
Hill City, SD

**Donations accepted starting
May 1st at Little White Church**

**Drop off box outside
office doors**

or call: (605) 574-1023.



Love INC Hill City-Keystone



Heavenly Humor

What did the colonists wear to the Boston Tea Party?
Tea-Shirts

What is the most popular sport on the 4th of July?
Flag Football

Did you hear about the angry firecracker?
He was so mad that he exploded!



What did one American flag say to the other flag?
Nothing. It just waved.

What's the difference between a duck & George Washington?
One has a bill on his face, the other has his face on a bill.



LOVE GOD • WALK TOGETHER • CHANGE LIVES

525 Main St. PO Box 385, Hill City, SD 57745 605-574-2426
www.thelittlewhitechurch.net ~ office@thelittlewhitechurch.net

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

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