

The Herald



I have hidden
your word
in
my heart
that I might not
sin against you.

PSALM 119:11, NIV

Thoughts from a Pastor...

I hope that you have been blessed and challenged as we worked our way through the book of Galatians. There is so much I learn and wrestle with as I prepare messages each week that never make it into the message. For me, having to cut things from the message is one of the more difficult parts of preparing a message. I have had several comments about how much scripture I use. I do rely heavily on scripture, but what you do not get to see is the amount of scripture that I have that is not used. The scripture is pure and trustworthy, and I think it speaks for itself in so many places. I also enjoy showing you how the Bible all comes together and connects in incredible ways. I hope you are learning to be in awe of the Word of God and desiring to know it better.

I have come to know Paul more intimately as I worked my way through Galatians and passages from his other letters. I have found encouragement in his words and actions that have carried me through some difficult times as a pastor. To look at someone's life who has gone through many challenges and trials, and to see how they responded in faithfulness to God, is powerful. We can be quick to ask a friend or to seek social media for answers when we find ourselves in a tough situation, but what if we first turned to the Word of God to see how those who came before us responded to difficult situations? The Bible is full of stories and parables of life situations. We not only see the good, but the bad as well. There is so much to be learned from how people handled or responded to certain life circumstances. It's not too difficult to apply those life lessons to our situation and to have an accurate idea of how God would like us to respond. We can also glean the most likely outcome in our lives of any given situation based on the choices that we are presented with.

Hebrews 4:12 says, *"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."* My hope and my prayer for you is that God's word is alive and active in your life and that you are drawn closer to God as you spend time in it. May it be a guide, along with the Holy Spirit, to faithfully lead and direct you in your life.

In Christ,

Pastor Ben Larsen

From the Pastor's Desk

Abounding

I have long appreciated the final verse of I Corinthians 15. Maybe appreciated is not quite the right word, perhaps its more I have been challenged by this verse. But there is a promise in the verse, and I certainly appreciate that. But that comes only after the challenge, and the challenge is great. Ok, so the verse reads:

Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Now lets catch of few things. Do you recall this verse is the conclusion to the great resurrection chapter, 1 Corinthians 15. Paul has declared the resurrection is key and central to our faith. He has told us if there is no resurrection then our faith is worthless. He gave us proof of the resurrection and reminded us this hope gives us confidence for life and ultimately victory over death. What an unbelievable chapter of scripture. And then, this challenge of the final verse.

So, lets note a few more critical pieces of the verse. First it is written to all of us, at least if we are believers in Jesus Christ as our Savior who rose from the dead. Then he adds these words, “steadfast and immovable” to remind us we have a solid footing for our faith. Then the challenge, in light of the resurrection which gives us an unbelievable hope and steadfast faith we are to “always abound in the work of the Lord”.

The question which repeatedly comes to my mind when I read this verse is, what does it look like to “abound in the work of the Lord”. I mean, Billy Graham probably seems like someone who did this, but what about the rest of us. We have jobs to do, families to raise, bills to pay and of course fun to have. So, how do we abound in God's work.

I did a quick check of the word Paul uses in a Greek dictionary. The definition came back as:

to have abundance, more than enough, overflow, to have an excessive amount of something, ranging from moderate excess to a very great degree of excess:

From the Pastor's Desk

So we are invited to “overflow, excessively with service for the Lord”. That doesn't exactly make it easier on us, but I know God never calls me or expects from me something which is impossible for us to do. At this point some of the verses from Galatians come to mind. Particularly from chapter 5 to “walk with the Spirit”

and “to keep in step with the Spirit”. Or words from Jesus in John 15 to “abide in the vine” which is Jesus himself. Now trying to put this together I believe that God always has “work” or activity for us to be doing, but it always will involve being “in step with the Spirit”. When I see Jesus in the gospels I see him always available but never in a hurry or rushing to do ministry. Maybe the “abounding” is more an attitude of fully or excessively being available to the Spirit

to touch a life, say a prayer, engage a need as the Spirit guides. Knowing that every act, even the silent prayer, is never a wasted effort. And when God is making the promise, it is eternal. Never a wasted effort for eternity. Maybe it is worth “abounding in the work of the Lord”.

Therefore,
since we are surrounded by
so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside
every weight, and...

run with endurance the race
that is set before us,
looking to Jesus
the founder and
perfecter of our faith.

Hebrews 12:1-2



Missions Moment— SIM—Allen & Mary Beth George

Hello LWC, from La Punta de Bombón, Peru! Thank you for your prayers and financial support for our ministries here! Our young church just turned 4 years old! We usually have 20 or 30 people each Sunday morning attend and most days of the week we have other groups that meet (kids-games, women, men and youth).

This will be a big year for our church. We just had our first baptisms of new believers in April and we recently registered



the church with the government of Peru as a legal entity. We hope to soon build a basic structure for church services (sanctuary, bathroom, kitchen) on the main street of our town and start having church services there this year. In April of 2027, we will be in North America for our home assignment (see you then!) and Pastor Elvis (that's his name!) will be flying solo! Of course, he will have his wife, the Holy Spirit and the church brothers and sisters to help him! If all goes well in our absence, we think it would be a step backwards if we started running things again when we return to Peru (since the whole idea is for the church to run on its own!). Instead, we hope to start another church in La Curva, a town about 4 miles away with a new Peruvian pastoral couple. La Curva is about the same size as la Punta with no evangelical church at the moment.

Pray for more people to sincerely seek God and attend our church, for the building of a new church building and that our interactions with the people of this town would draw them to the Lord.

Blessings,

Allen & Mary Beth

Celebrating History

The USA celebrates its 250th anniversary on July 4, 2026. It's time to reflect on 250 years of God's provision and express gratitude for our freedoms. Let's honor our nation's faith heritage while praying for healing, unity and integrity.

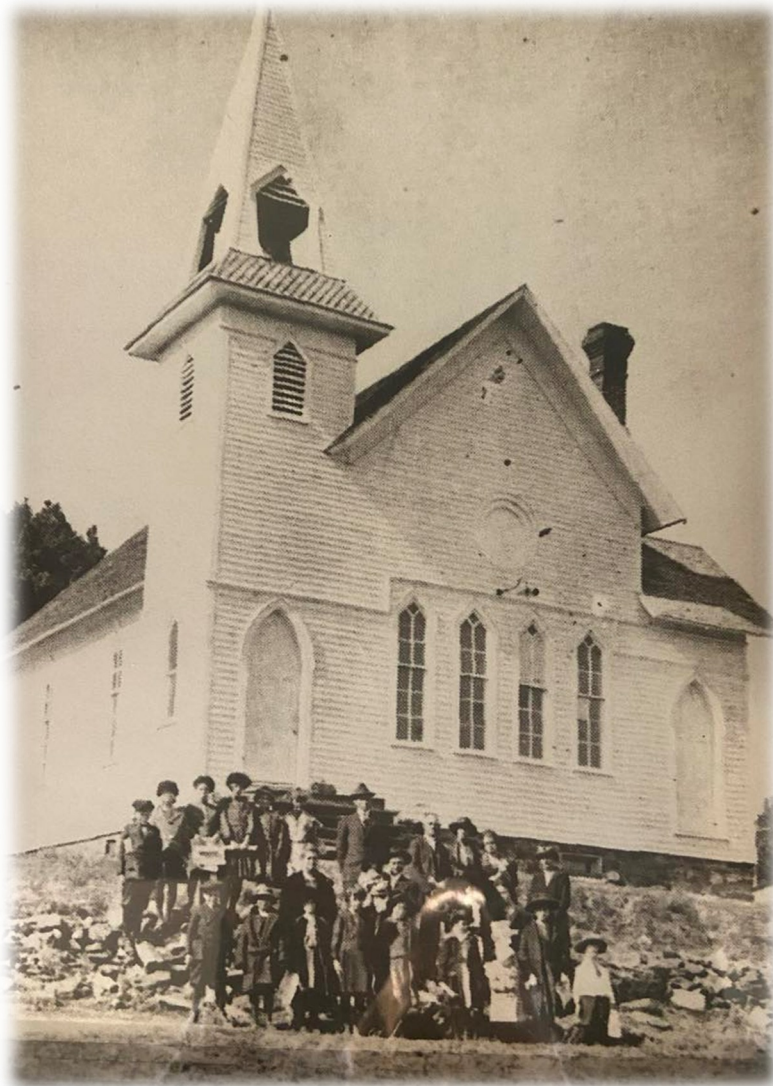
Hill City, South Dakota, is celebrating 150 years in 2026. Hill City was first settled by miners in 1876, who referred to the area as Hillyo. The city almost became a ghost town when the miners relocated to the northern Black Hills after the discovery of gold there.

In 1883, tin was discovered near Hill City and the population rebounded. *Tin Mining, Milling and Manufacturing Company* made its headquarters on Main Street and built the Harney Peak Hotel to entertain its management and executives. The company closed operations in 1902. As the mining industry declined, timber and tourism to the area became important to the "Heart of the Hills".

The Little White Church in Hill City is celebrating 137 years in 2026.

Here's a bit of history about our church's beginnings.

On June 8, 1889, Rev. E.J Nugent, Presbyterian missionary for the Black Hills, visited Hill City on June 8, 1889, and wrote out a petition for organization. He requested that the matter be looked up and all desirous of uniting with the Presbyterian Church write their names. He returned on July 12 with the Reverend E. Hamilton, who had come as Stated Supply. They called a meeting for Saturday evening at 8 p.m. at the residence of Mr. George C. Lyon. Several applicants confessed their faith in Christ and were added to the membership. The Society named the group the First Presbyterian Church of Hill City. A church home was recommended. (Taken from our church history book.)



We hope you have seen “The Heart of the Hills Celebrates 150 Years” edition of the May 20th Prevailor Newspaper for more history of The Little White Church and the town of Hill City.

In 1989, as the LWC celebrated its 100th anniversary, Dwayne Snell (pastor from 1988-2004) wrote this about our church.

“At this time of the church, we want to state clearly and emphatically that we acknowledge no other foundation than Jesus, the Christ, in agreement with the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 3:11. We continue to be a congregation that **believes and teaches the Bible** with relevancy for the day we live in and for the age to come. Join with us in giving thanks to God for the witness He has placed in this community.”

His thoughts are still relevant today as we *Love God, Walk Together and Change Lives.*

Celebrating History

Here are a few interesting books in our church library relating to history of our nation and the church:

America the Beautiful /Rediscovering What Made This Nation Great
by Ben Carson, M.D.

Church History in Plain Language by Bruce L. Shelley

How Should We Then Live? / The Rise and Decline of Western Thought and Culture

by Francis A. Schaeffer

Several historical DVDs are also on display in the library.

A More Perfect Union

Freedom

A Nation Adrift

Discovering America's Founders

The Light of Freedom

Last Ounce of Courage

Keeping the Family Strong

By: BJ Reese

“PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH”

As a new generation of young people graduates high school, and prepares to move on to where life takes them next, my mind wanders. It takes me on a journey through *all* the pieces of advice we offer them . . .

Live life to the fullest
Educate yourself with life
Every day is a challenge
Take a “gap” year before you start college
Follow your passions
Follow your dreams
Keep God with you wherever you go
Be true to yourself and your values
Don’t change who you are for anyone
Avoid people who will lead you into trouble

We offer them advice about relationships, about being careful and staying safe in strange places, and about managing their money wisely. *Anything* we’ve *ever* learned, we are eager to pass along to this new group of young adults. It becomes vitally important to us that we help them to launch well . . . to succeed in all they do. As I sat here, running the list of ideas and suggestions through my mind, I began to wonder . . .

Am *I* living by all of this advice? Are their parents?

It seems to me that, the longer we live this life, the more things we take for granted. We figure we’re doing pretty well, so our diligence wanes. Our attention to the little details of daily life becomes dull and faded. *Some* things, we don’t even *think* about any more. After all, we *know* this stuff already. We don’t NEED to think about it . . . right?

My friends, I have a suggestion for *all* of us — for those of us who have already “*been there, done that*”. As we share that one last nugget of wisdom with the graduates we love, I suggest we stop — for just a moment — and think.

That we *notice* what we are telling them. Then, that we take a long, *honest* look inside ourselves . . . are we *living by* the words we are sharing? Do we *walk* the talk? Or are we only *talking* the talk?

Let’s make very sure that our everyday behavior models the sage advice we are offering to our young people. That they see the “*proof in the pudding*” through our behaviors and attitudes. In short, let’s . . .

Practice what we preach!

To His Glory . . . BJ Reese

Echoes of God's Glory in Creation

Roseanne Hilton

Reflections from Psalm 84:1-4, 10

“How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty. I long, yes I faint with longing to enter the courts of the LORD. With my whole being, body and soul, I will shout joyfully to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home there, and the swallow builds her nest and raises her young—at a place near Your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God! How happy are those who can live in Your house, always singing Your praises.”

This psalm, written by the descendants of Korah, worship leaders at the ancient temple in Jerusalem, was meant to be accompanied by stringed instruments in praise of God, and speaks of the loveliness of His dwelling place, the beautiful temple. Verse ten concludes, “A single day in Your courts is better than a thousand anywhere else. I would rather be a gatekeeper in the house of my God than live the good life in the homes of the wicked.” [NLT 1997]

The Korahites served in the temple as musicians and gatekeepers and probably had much time to observe the habits of the birds who sheltered there. We can imagine one of the songwriters sitting on a bench resting in the sunlight watching a bird feeding her nestlings, and thinking about the happiness of one who can live in the LORD's house.



Announcements

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

Volunteers needed: Because the first Saturday of July often falls on July 4th weekend, we do not have a designated crew to serve the noon lunch, but rather we recruit different people each year. If you would like to serve in this capacity, please let Carol Walker know. 605-786-2814

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!



Ministry to Women Upcoming Events:

When You Pray - Bible study

Thursday mornings at 10:00am, June 11-July 23 at the church

Holy Ghost Stories - Fellowship at Martinez home, June 26, 6:30pm.

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



LOVE GOD • WALK TOGETHER • CHANGE LIVES

SUNDAY SERVICE

WORSHIP PLAYLIST



LISTEN AND WORSHIP TO THE MUSIC WE'RE CURRENTLY SINGING AT LWOC



Spotify



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

**The
Save
Date!**

Come Join The Party!

SURPRISE VBS PARTY!

The Unexpected Grace of Jesus

**Register your kids
HERE!**



**We need volunteers!
Sign up here!**



SCAN ME

Vacation Bible School

**June 15-19
5:30-7:30 pm**

K-5th Grade



**Why do dads take an extra pair of socks when they go golfing?
In case they get a hold in one**

**What kind of races do insects watch on Father's Day?
Gnats car**

**What did the electrician do to his misbehaving son?
He grounded him**

**What kind of test is just for dads?
A pop quiz!**

**What did the daddy water pistol say to the baby water pistol?
Hey, squirt!**

**How did the dad text his kids pictures of his hat collection?
In all caps**



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