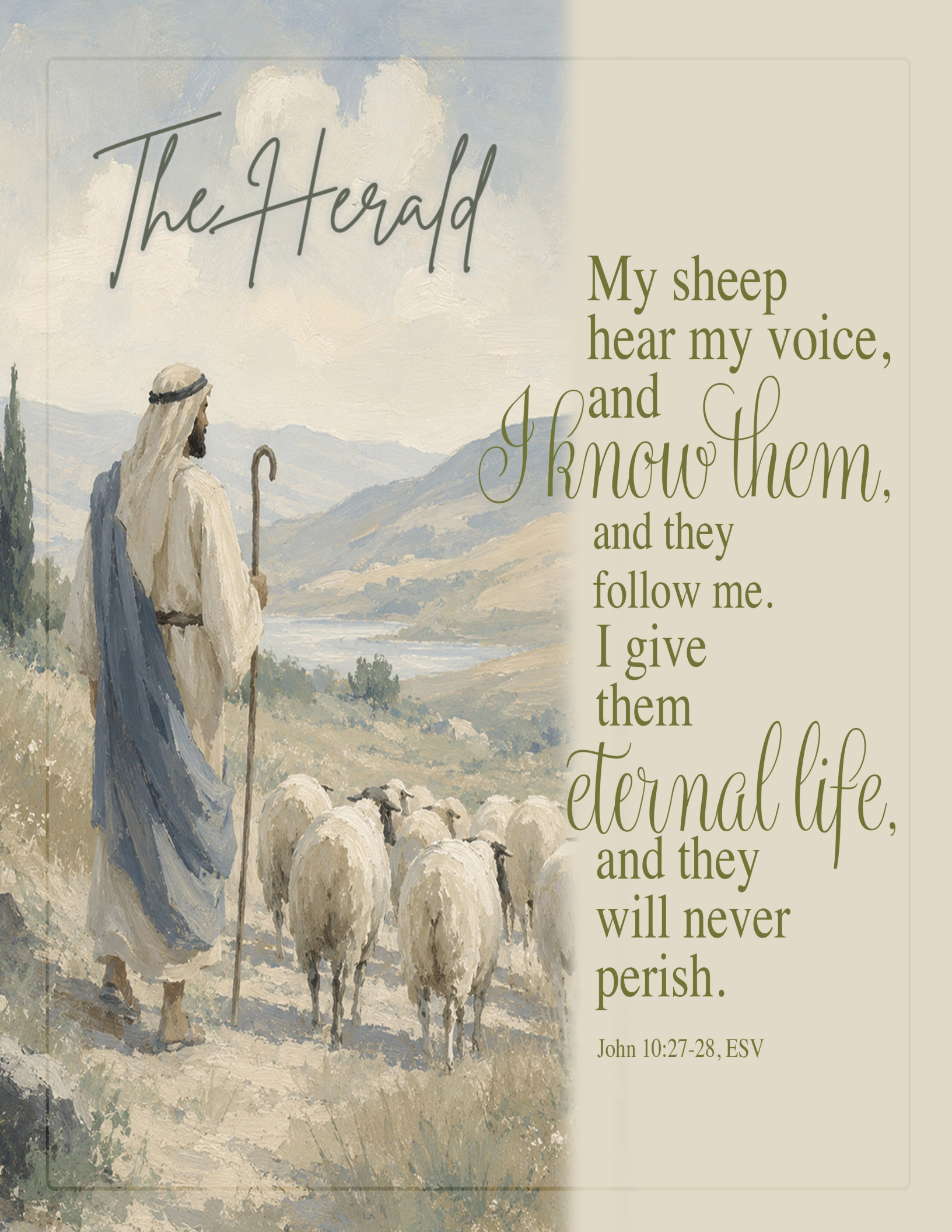


The Herald



My sheep
hear my voice,
and
I know them,
and they
follow me.
I give
them
eternal life,
and they
will never
perish.

John 10:27-28, ESV

Thoughts from a Pastor...

I am writing this the day after our church Annual Meeting and thought I should reflect on what took place yesterday. In case you were not here and have not yet heard, the congregation removed all of the Elders on the ballot, by not affirming them. All of the Elders received between 80-90 disapprovals on the ballot showing the congregation to be heavily united in this decision.

Now let me back up and share what I witnessed yesterday. The meeting was opened in prayer by Gini Pennel who spoke a beautiful prayer that I believe set the tone for the meeting. I believe many people were moved by it as I was. Some verbal reports were given as usual and then we came to the Floor Discussions. We had the five Elders sitting on stage with a mic to be ready to answer any questions directed to them.

I am not going to get into the questions asked, but the spirit in the questions and dialogue. I was proud of our church body who even though frustrated and desiring answers spoke calmly, with gentleness and compassion. Several people started off with scripture as they spoke. The Spirit of God was in this meeting as evidence in the tone and demeanor of those asking questions of the Elders. The Elders were able to respond to questions, and the body did not interrupt listening intently.

There was humility and repentance shown from some of the Elders taking responsibility for not functioning well and being in a state of division. It was an Elder who brought forth the recommendation to the congregation to not affirm any of them because of the disunity and struggles within the Elder Board. This recommendation was made from a heart that wanted to see The Little White Church thrive and to be led well.

I didn't see anyone treat poorly or come across as not caring about the Elders who have given so much of their time to do their best to lead this church. It was stated a couple of times from the body that they know and appreciate the Elders were doing their best in doing what they believed was right for the church. No matter how it came about, these five Elders will be hurting by not being affirmed by the people they love. We need to come alongside them the best we can to love and encourage them. Some have served this church in that capacity for quite a long time. Thank them and let them know they are wanted and part of this church body. Not everyone in the body agrees with the removal of the Elders in this way and they will be hurting and possibly anxious as well. Love and encourage those you encounter who feel this way.

Thoughts from a Pastor...

Ephesians 4:1-3 says, *"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."* May we walk together in love and humility as we seek to bring glory to God in all things.

So where do we go from here? Well, we have never been in this position before and need to make some careful decisions. First of all, I want it known that we are an Elder-Led church and there are no plans to change that. After the results were given by the D&D board there was a motion to form a committee who would present the congregation with a plan forward to rebuild the Elder Board and a recommendation of who would be given authority over the administration of the church until that can take place. This will be an official Congregational meeting to be held on August 16th after 2nd service.

Please be in prayer for our former Elders and be in prayer for the future of our church. As I stated above, there was a spirit of unity among the church body, and they are desiring to see this church bring glory to God in all that it does. Thank you for your continued prayers and encouragement.

In Christ, Pastor Ben Larsen



BE COMPLETELY
HUMBLE AND
GENTLE:
BE PATIENT,
BEARING WITH
ONE ANOTHER
IN LOVE.

Ephesians 4:2, NIV

Hill City Younglife

Hill City Young Life Update

As the summer begins to wind down and the beginning of the new school year approaches I am filled with gratitude for all that God has done and is doing through Young Life in our community.

Over the past year, we've watched high school kids build friendships, ask meaningful questions about God, life, and faith, and experience the love that Christ has for them through caring volunteer leaders week after week. Thank you for being an integral part of the ministry through prayer, encouragement, and generous giving.

The 2025-26 school year was full of Young Life clubs, campaigners Bible Studies, game nights, early mornings at Elizabeth's Coffee, and real life conversations. YL Leaders attended too many basketball games, volleyball games, band concerts, and school plays to count, and showed up for students in a multitude of ways. We had anywhere from 8-30 students at our events, and although we averaged about 12 students at clubs and campaigners, our Monday nights were deep and meaningful - a space for kids to come, laugh, have fun, step away from school and sport responsibilities. They got to hear and have conversations about Jesus and the abundant life that he has for each of them.

The annual Young Life banquet was held in March at High Country Guest Ranch and was our most successful yet - both financially and in community involvement. We are so grateful for each and every person who filled a seat to hear about the work that Young Life is doing in Hill City and the ways the Lord is growing the ministry.

In June, four Young Life leaders and ten students headed to Young Life camp at Crooked Creek Ranch in Colorado. Without their phones, social media, or school to think about, kids were able to experience a week of relationship, adventure, and an opportunity to see the gospel unfold in new and life-changing ways. Two Hill City students chose to follow Jesus at Young Life camp this year! Praise the Lord! Camp is expensive, but due to fundraisers created by local businesses, and scholarships funded by our donors, every kid who wanted to was able to attend camp!

On June 21st, Richey and I welcomed our son, Jack, into our family. He is such a joy and we are excited for him to attend his first YL club at just 10 weeks old this fall!

We are still looking forward to what God might have for Hill City Young Life in the future! We would love to be able to offer Wyldlife clubs and Bible studies for middle school students and are praying about what that may look like! Stay tuned!

Our 13th annual archery tournament is coming up on Saturday August 29th! This tournament helps us fund Young Life for the next fiscal year! You can help us host the tournament by donating a prize, becoming a business sponsor, providing food, helping set up or tear down, or by shooting at the event! Please come out and check it out on the 29th!

Ways you can help:

As we begin the fall semester, there are several ways that you can be involved or partner with Young Life:

- Pray regularly for students and leaders
- Invite friends, family, and coworkers to learn more about Young Life
- Provide snacks and meals for clubs and campaigners

Hill City Younglife

- Offer your home as a meeting place on Monday nights (we usually meet at the Hill City Center when it is available, but it is sometimes not!)
- Volunteer your time as a Young Life leader - Do you love Jesus? Care about High School kids? This could be for you! We need both male and female volunteers.
- Join the Young Life Committee - help plan, pray for, and guide the ministry!
- Consider becoming a monthly financial partner - Hill City Young Life is in need of more monthly donors. Although one-time gifts from our fundraising events are massively impactful, it is the monthly recurring donations from faithful and generous people that are the foundation and security of our annual budget! Please consider if monthly giving may be for you!
- Pray over and consider being involved in starting up our middle school ministry

Every prayer, volunteer hour, and gift helps us reach teenagers with the hope of Christ!

Prayer Requests

Please join us in praying for:

- New students to feel welcomed at club and campaigners this year!
- Wisdom and endurance for volunteer leaders
- Strong friendships to develop with kids and leaders
- Students who are searching for hope and belonging
- Meaningful gospel conversations throughout the new semester
- Our upcoming archery tournament
- New monthly donors to partner with Hill City Young Life
- Richey and I as we adapt to parenthood amidst a new ministry year

Thank you so much for your involvement in and prayers for Hill City Young Life. We look forward into the school year hopeful for what the Lord might do in the lives of the teenagers we love so much!

- Sarah Weischedel, *Area Director*



Church Care—Our Daily Bread Ministry

“Our Daily Bread” is a ministry of the Little White Church dedicated to supporting members and friends of the congregation and the wider community. The ministry offers home-delivered meals to individuals and families who are navigating challenging circumstances, such as illness, recovering from surgery, coping with injuries from accidents, experiencing stressful family situations, grieving the loss of a loved one, or celebrating the birth of a baby. Volunteers contribute by cooking meals or purchasing them, providing essential support and comfort to those facing difficult or transitional periods in life.

From July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, members of our congregation generously dedicated their time and resources to serve 12 families, delivering a total of 83 meals. This represents the highest level of participation since the ministry began in 2021. With the continued growth of our membership, we have been able to extend our support to more people within the community, demonstrating the ministry’s expanding reach and positive impact.

The success of this ministry is made possible through the generosity and commitment of our church members, who promptly respond to needs as they arise. A total of 81 individuals participated in this initiative. The achievement of these outcomes relies on the willingness of many members to contribute their assistance.

I want to recognize Elizabeth Denn for being available to coordinate meals while I was in Arizona. She coordinated 6 of the 12 families during the winter.

Taylor Robison has also assisted in the past few months and will now be our new Church Care Coordinator. You will be receiving email requests from her going forward, so be sure to add her email address to your contacts so it doesn't go to the junk folder. Her address is taylorjrobison@outlook.com And her phone number is 605-787-0875.

Please consider becoming a part of this valuable ministry. And thank you for your willingness to serve a meal and care for others through this ministry.

In His Service,

Lori Enders
(Outgoing) Church Care Coordinator

Taylor Robison
Church Care Coordinator

“If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 4:11

TROUBLES? PRAISE GOD!

Before He left to return to the Father's side, Jesus spoke some plain, uncomfortable-to-hear Truths to His disciples. (see **John 16**)

In the final verse of that chapter, He said:

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world, ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

My friends, Jesus **told** us — almost phrasing it as a promise — that we would face difficulties and problems in this world. It was told to His closest followers — the disciples. But, it is a Truth for **every** one of us who chooses to follow Him. Living as a Christian in this fallen world **WILL** bring troubles our way.

When we see them coming — or realize we're in the midst of them — we can be reassured that God knows all about it. It **isn't** a surprise to Him. We can praise Him for making us **aware** of it . . . and **thank** Him that He offers us peace, despite those troubles. Why? Because, Jesus reminded His disciples that He had already **overcome** this world.

None of those Truths negate the fact that those troubles **hurt**. It is heartbreaking to watch **ANY** family come apart at the seams because of disagreements. When it happens to our church family, it can be frightening. We wonder what will become of our church, and if we'll ever be unified again.

For me, personally, I find my reactions colored by my own family's reality. Of my generation and the two generations which preceded us, there are only two people left. All of the others have already passed from this world. So, when I see a family in a state of discord, my heart aches to help them make the most of whatever time they have together. But, that is **my** desire. My truth.

God's Truth is more basic. More simple: Unity and peace do NOT — **CAN** not — come from Earthly or human sources. No matter how much we care, or how hard we try, **WE** can never create those things. We don't have that kind of power . . . and we aren't **supposed** to have it.

Keeping the Family Strong

By: BJ Reese

God alone is the Source of peace and unity. **ONLY** through our connection to HIM — our relationship with Jesus — can we attain those things (see **John 15:5**). So . . . **how** do we handle our disagreements and problems when they arise?

We **RUN** to the Father. We thank Him for all His promises of help, refuge, and guidance. When words fail us, we lean in to the Holy Spirit He sent to be with us (see **John 14**). And, we consult HIS Word, which has LOTS of information for us on how to handle conflict in our lives.

Ephesians contains some great suggestions for us. **Ephesians 4:15** tells us, *“But speaking the truth in love . . .”*

Wondering exactly how that is done, I did some research on that passage. Here’s what I found: *“. . . to share honest or difficult facts with humility and gentleness . . . a pure desire to help, rather than to hurt or win an argument.”*

I also found some key **steps** for achieving this goal:

Check your motive. Make sure you want to build the other person up, not feed your own pride or vent anger;

Watch your tone. Calm voice, kind words.

Listen first. Ask good questions and try to understand their side before you state your view. And,

Focus on the issue. Use “I” statements to share how you feel, rather than labeling, or blaming the other person.

(Source: Gotquestions.org)

Then, the final two verses in Ephesians clearly tell us what to **do** with all those negative, hurtful thoughts and emotions.

My friends, we at the Little White Church have been given a **great** gift . . . God has revealed a flaw in the way our church family has been acting and conducting our church’s business. He has shown us a way to get back on track and begin again.

He has helped us perform a reset . . . in a loving and caring manner. Without hateful words that can’t be retracted. Without finger-pointing. Without singling out any one person. Without name calling. He has corrected us in grace and mercy. Now, it is our turn . . .

Keeping the Family Strong

By: BJ Reese

I could write for days on this topic, but I feel God asking for another response . . . for EACH of us to **SEEK Him**, in all of our difficulties. For **each** of us to go back to The Word and find HIS instructions.

(Our own, personal ideas for how to handle things are what caused this problem in the first place. We stepped out of The Word, and into our own heads. May God help us to heal, according to HIS will. May He lead us back to HIS Truth.)

I found some helpful passages to get us started. Rather than type out the text of them all, I've been Told to simply **list** them here. That way, EACH of us can read them and meditate on them in our own private time with God. In that setting, God can speak to **each** of us individually . . . telling **each** of us what He wants us to learn from each passage.

Romans 2:1

Psalm 27

Psalm 91

John 8:7

John 16:29-33

Ephesians 6:13

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

Psalm 121:3

Proverbs 25

James 4

In short, my friends: for THIS current storm, and ANY trouble we EVER face, we need to remember some important things:

1. WE are the family of the Living God. Brothers and sisters to — and joint heirs with — Jesus Christ. WE are not the enemy. But, the enemy IS affecting us. Rather than battle each other, we need to stand firm, shoulder-to-shoulder against him. We need to protect ourselves with the **Shield of Faith**, and fight him off with the **Sword of the Spirit**.
2. We need to USE the **Sword of the Spirit**. Take it all back to the Bible, every time.

No human has God's answer . . . it can only be found in **His Holy Word**, the **Book of His Truth**, which He wrote to help us through times just like these.

To His Glory . . . BJ

Echoes of God's Glory in Creation

Roseanne Hilton

Reflections from Psalm 89:8-15 (New Living Translation, 1997)

The first part of this psalm is an exuberant praise to the LORD God Almighty for His power as the creator of the universe and for His faithfulness of character.

“Where is there anyone as mighty as You, LORD? Faithfulness is Your very character.” We see that faithfulness is part of God's name, which He revealed to Moses in Exodus 34 in response to the request of Moses that he be allowed to “see Your glorious presence.”

Returning to Psalm 89: “You are the one who rules the oceans...The heavens are Yours and the earth is Yours; everything in the world is Yours—You created it all.

“Your throne is founded on two strong pillars—righteousness and justice. Unfailing love and truth walk before You as attendants.

“Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they walk in the light of Your presence, LORD.”

We often think of God's glory in creation, as being manifested in the stars, the pounding waves of the ocean or in lightning and thunder, but Ethan the Ezrahite, the author of this poem, reminds us that God created it all, even tiny creatures, such as this chipmunk collecting a soft turkey feather to take to line its bed in its burrow.



Newsletter Newsletter

Carried and Called to Follow

Jesus the Good Shepherd is one of Christianity's most endearing images. Scenes of Jesus holding a small lamb bring comfort during times of trouble, reminding us of God's tender care when we are weak or hurting. In those moments, we are grateful to be carried.



Yet this image also points to a deeper truth. The Shepherd's role is not only to carry the lamb, but to lead the flock. When we are restored and strengthened, we are called to rise, to walk and to follow where He leads.

God meets us in our need with compassion, but He also calls us forward with purpose. The same hands that lift us up also guide us on the path ahead.

There is a time to be carried, and there is a time to follow.

Who was Bartholomew?

Among the twelve disciples, Bartholomew remains one of the more intriguing figures, known more through connections than detailed accounts. Though he is not named in the Gospel of John, many scholars believe he is the same person as Nathanael, who appears only in John's Gospel.

This connection is often made because Philip introduces Nathanael to Jesus in John, while Bartholomew is consistently listed alongside Philip in Matthew, Mark and Luke. When Nathanael meets Jesus, the Lord declares, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" (John 1:47, NKJV).

Outside of Scripture, early church historian Eusebius provides one of the earliest references to Bartholomew's ministry. He records that Bartholomew brought a Hebrew version of Matthew's Gospel to believers in India. Tradition also holds that Bartholomew preached in regions such as Mesopotamia, Persia, Egypt and Armenia.

His death is remembered as a martyrdom. According to longstanding tradition, Bartholomew was either beheaded or flayed alive and then crucified upside down. His life and witness reflect bold faith and enduring commitment to the Gospel.

Why Me?

When we're faced with unexpected hardship, our first impulse is often to ask, "Why me, O God? Why me?"

Yet when a blessing comes our way, we receive it with gratitude and rarely ask the same question: "Why me, O God? Why me?"

Announcements



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.

Results from the Annual Meeting are posted on the Bulletin Board.

Any questions please see Pastor Ben or Lonnie Feddersen.

**There will be an official congregational meeting on
Sunday, August 16th after 2nd service.**

Hill City Younglife Archery Tournament – Saturday, August 29th @ the Deerfield



Wilderness Area. Registration fee is \$40.

To register scan the QR Code.

Visit facebook.com/hillcityyounglife for more info!

Hymn Sing & Potluck will be held Sunday, August 30th after the 2nd service.



Grief Share Support Group will be held on Tuesdays (begins Sept. 1st) from 5:45-8 pm. Supper provided. Scan QR code to sign up or contact church office. Need help dealing with grief? Find help at Grief Share.

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!**

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES: We are looking for volunteer coordinators for the following positions: Social Events, Food Pantry & Kid's Church.

Please see Pastor Ben or Stephanie if you are interested or would like more info!

Black Granite Retreat – FREE Annual Event

Campfire Worship, Encouraging Word, Baptisms, Food, Tomahawk Throwing, Archery, Bike Rides and More...

September 4-7 – Black Granite Road in Custer

For more information and itinerary, go to: www.blackgraniteretreat.com

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.



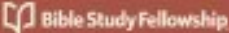
Encounter God. Build Friendships.

Who We Are

Bible Study Fellowship is a free, interdenominational 30-week study for all ages and levels of Bible knowledge to explore God's Word in community. We teach, train, and mobilize individuals to know and love God and others through His Word. Learn more at bsfinternational.org

How We Study

-  Read Bible & Answer Questions
-  Discuss in Small Groups
-  Listen to Teaching
-  Explore Lesson Notes

**2026-27 Study**

ROMANS FROM GUILT TO GRACE

Who: ☐ Men ☒ Women ☐ Young Adults
☒ Kids (0-5) ☐ Students (5-17)

Day: Thursdays (Begins Sept. 10) **Time:** 8:30 am

Location: The Little White Church

Register Today at: join.bsfinternational.org

**LWC Life Groups are a great way to get connected with the body!
Tony Denn is our new Life Group Coordinator! Join today!**

? *What are Life Groups?*

Life groups are small groups (typically 6-12 adults) that exist for people to be connected, known, and supported. In Life Groups fellow Christians WALK TOGETHER, loving and encouraging one another, exhorting one another in our relationship with Jesus Christ, and serving together in the church and community.



Who can Join a Life Group?

Adults of all ages are encouraged to become involved whether you are a long-time member or new to The Little White Church.



Why be Involved in a Life Group?

Life Groups seek to connect people in smaller groups where they can be more known, supported, and challenged to grow in their love and understanding of God. A Life Group is a place for you to walk through life with others, living out our Mission, Vision, and Purpose to LOVE GOD, WALK TOGETHER, and CHANGE LIVES.

PRAYING OVER
a new
school year



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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