

# Grace Deadwood/Blessed Emmanuel Sturgis

## March 2026 Newsletter

### The Reason for Lent

#### Brothers and Sisters!

Some may ask why we have a season of Lent, or any season of the church, but as soon as you start looking at a calendar and wondering how you're going to celebrate your faith in Christ, then you are already doing what we do with the season of Lent: you are finding ways to practice your faith. Our church year is derived from the Bible, that is, it follows the life of our Lord and His ministry, which in many ways followed the ancient festivals of Israel. The three anchors of the church year are Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost: everything flows to or from these important aspects of the life of our Lord and His church. For instance, Advent prepares us for Christmas and the birth of our Lord, and Lent prepares us for Easter and the passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord. The Epiphany and Pentecost seasons follow our Lord's ministry, His teaching, His miracles, and all the words and events pertaining to faith, discipleship, and the church.

Lent is a way to practice our faith, to prepare our hearts for the message of Easter. People are looking for spiritual discipline nowadays, they see the chaos of the world, and they want something that offers stability and integrity, that is, when it comes to our faith in Christ, people want some direction in how best to follow Him and be His disciple. The season of Lent provides that. It starts on Ash Wednesday, 40 days before Easter, not counting the Sundays. The 40 days are meant to be a time of spiritual discipline of the body and a reflection on what Christ has sacrificed for us and our salvation. Some of the traditions and practices that our church follows during Lent are: 1. Ashes on the forehead as a sign of penitence, 2. The word Alleluia or "Praise the Lord" is omitted during the Services in Lent, 3. Continuing with the focus on repentance, we also do not sing the Gloria in Excelsis during Lent, 4. Some form of fasting is encouraged in order to devote oneself to prayer and meditation on the Word of God, 5. Finally, we gather on Wednesday nights, 5:00 Blessed Emmanuel/Sturgis, and 7:00 Grace/Deadwood, to hear God's Word and study a theme that spiritually prepares us for Holy Week and Easter.

Life is not perfect, as I like to say, but this does not stop us from striving to make ourselves better disciples and followers of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is nothing more important that we could be doing with our time and talents and resources than working at improving our faith/life. What a witness this will be to others around us, and our prayer is that they too will join us for the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9).

Much of the month of March will be the season of Lent. However, Palm Sunday is on March 29<sup>th</sup>, as we begin to celebrate Holy Week. Maundy Thursday is April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Good Friday is April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Easter Sunday is April 5<sup>th</sup>, the first Sunday in April. The Lord be with you in your devotion to Him and His church and world.

Blessed Lent and Holy Week!

Pastor Hinckley and family

# Prayer Request

Kaitlin Clauser, Jared Hafner & Baby Brielle, Barb Canterbury, Brandon and Desiree Arndt, Rhandi Gonzales, Bill Denke, Michelle Bruzan, Cleo Naser, Michael Pickett, Gene Harms, Lavera Chord, Phyllis Beitelspacher, Kelley Hoffmann, Cal and Debbie Meredith, Doug Daniels, Todd Wyant, Karen Schumm, Samantha Gansberg, The Blair's great-uncle, Dana, Lanette Neitzert, Clee Wolske, Marvin Maynard with ongoing health issues.  
Home Visit Members: Al Ramero, Jane Andersen, Jeannine Jones, Lois Sorenson, Fred Straub.

5 Kim Schlecht	25 Todd Wyant
6 Karenne Wyant	27 Sheila Derr
11 Brenda McGruder	27 Phyllis Christianson
18 Craig Holmes	28 Dane Sundstrom
22 Kjell Sundstrom	29 Clara Ulmer



## Baptismal Birthdays

1 Taylor Ross
2 Amie Miller
2 Sharon Pearson
14 Phyllis Bietelspacher
15 Dale Larson
25 Jan Wilkins
31 Justus Hinckley
31 Sheila Derr

If you have a prayer request, or would like to remove either yourself or your loved one from the prayer list, please let either Pastor Hinckley or myself know.

You can email me at [glc.belc.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:glc.belc.secretary@gmail.com) or text me at [605.645.4903](tel:605.645.4903).

Also, if you'd like to be added to the monthly newsletter Birthday, Baptism Birthday, or Wedding Anniversary list, please let me know.

If you see a mistake in the newsletters or bulletins, please also let me know! Thank you everyone—I appreciate you!

- Erin Burke-Ross, Secretary



### "We Care Program"

Don't forget to bring in your Lynn's receipts to church. At Blessed Emmanuel, place them in Gene Zurcher's box. At Grace Lutheran, place them in the black mailbox on the small table—Every little bit helps!



# 2026 Lent Schedule Commandments 4-10

## Service Times:

**5:00pm** Service at Blessed Emmanuel

**5:30pm** Dinner at Grace Lutheran

**7:00pm** Service at Grace Lutheran

### The Fourth Commandment

**Ash Wednesday, February 18th**

**Honor your father and your mother.**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

### The Fifth Commandment

**Lent 1: Wednesday, February 25th**

**You shall not murder.**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

### The Sixth Commandment

**Lent 2: Wednesday, March 4th**

**You shall not commit adultery.**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

### The Seventh Commandment

**Lent 3: Wednesday, March 11th**

**You shall not steal.**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

### The Eighth Commandment

**Lent 4: Wednesday, March 18th**

**You shall not give false testimony**

**Against your neighbor.**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

### The Ninth Commandment

**Lent 5: Wednesday, March 25th**

**You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

### The Tenth Commandment

**Maundy Thursday, April 2nd**

**You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

# The Imposition of Ashes at Blessed Emmanuel



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 Pastor Robert Hinckley | 605.413.2671 | [rmhjr2@gmail.com](mailto:rmhjr2@gmail.com)  
 Secretary Erin Burke-Ross | 605.645.4903 | [glc.belc.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:glc.belc.secretary@gmail.com)



**2026** Holy Communion is celebrated the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays at Grace Lutheran and every Sunday at Blessed Emmanuel

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 Second Sunday in Lent</b> Grace Service <b>8:30am</b> BELC Sunday School/Bible Study <b>9:15am</b> BELC Service <b>10:30am</b> BELC Confirmation <b>11:30am</b>	2	3	<b>4</b> Grace Bible Study <b>2:00pm</b> BELC Bible Study <b>3:45pm</b> BELC Lent Service <b>5:00pm</b> Grace Lenten Dinner <b>5:30pm</b> Grace Lent Service <b>7:00pm</b>	5	6	7
<b>8 Third Sunday in Lent</b> Grace Council Mtg <b>7:15am</b> Grace Service <b>8:30am</b> BELC Sunday School/Bible Study <b>9:15am</b> BELC Service <b>10:30am</b> BELC Confirmation <b>11:30am</b>	9	<b>10</b> Grace LWML mtg <b>9:00am</b>	<b>11</b> Grace Bible Study <b>2:00pm</b> BELC Bible Study <b>3:45pm</b> BELC Lent Service <b>5:00pm</b> Grace Lenten Dinner <b>5:30pm</b> Grace Lent Service <b>7:00pm</b>	12	13	14
<b>15 Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> Grace Service <b>8:30am</b> BELC Sunday School/Bible Study <b>9:15am</b> BELC Service <b>10:30am</b> BELC Confirmation <b>11:30am</b>	16	17	<b>18</b> Grace Bible Study <b>2:00pm</b> BELC Bible Study <b>3:45pm</b> BELC Lent Service <b>5:00pm</b> Grace Lenten Dinner <b>5:30pm</b> Grace Lent Service <b>7:00pm</b>	19	20	21
<b>22 Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> Grace Service <b>8:30am</b> BELC Sunday School/Bible Study <b>9:15am</b> BELC Service <b>10:30am</b> BELC Confirmation <b>11:30am</b>	23	24	<b>25</b> Grace Bible Study <b>2:00pm</b> BELC Bible Study <b>3:45pm</b> BELC Lent Service <b>5:00pm</b> Grace Lenten Dinner <b>5:30pm</b> Grace Lent Service <b>7:00pm</b>	26	27	28
<b>29 Palm Sunday</b> Grace Service <b>8:30am</b> BELC Sunday School/Bible Study <b>9:15am</b> BELC Service <b>10:30am</b> BELC Confirmation <b>11:30am</b>	30	31				

# LCMS March Bible Verse Challenge

## **Week of March 01, 2026** *1 Peter 2:24*

He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

## **Week of March 08, 2026** *1 John 2:2*

He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but for the sins of the whole world.

## **Week of March 15, 2026** *Ephesians 2:4-5*

God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.

## **Week of March 22, 2026** *Romans 5:1*

Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Week of March 29, 2026** *Romans 8:1*

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Grace Lutheran/Deadwood

Blessed Emmanuel/Sturgis

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