

Grace Deadwood/Blessed Emmanuel Sturgis

July 2026 Newsletter

Brothers and sisters!

This July 4th is special as it is the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. Our nation was founded on July 4th, 1776, when the forefathers signed the Declaration of Independence, part of which states: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Thomas Jefferson penned these words, but they are almost Biblical in their presentation and content. There is a lot to celebrate in these words.

The first thing to mention about these words of the Declaration is that they acknowledge we have a Creator. We confess this every Sunday in one of the creeds, that God is our Father, the maker of heaven and earth, and indeed all people. In Genesis 1 it says that God created mankind in His image, and blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it" (Gen 1:28). It is a basic tenet of our faith that we have been created by God, both male and female, and that He made us to have a family, sons and daughters, who are to be stewards of the earth and indeed make His blessing known to all. From the truth of our Creator the founding fathers of this country drew their inspiration and calling. In fact, they held these truths to be "self-evident," which is what we call the "natural law," that is, the law of God that everyone can acknowledge or at least ought to acknowledge is true.

Please note that the Declaration of Independence is saying it is not governments that grant these unalienable rights, but it is God who does so. God has "endowed" or gifted us with these rights, which are: Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. These are God-given rights that ought to belong to all people. Just pause for a minute and meditate upon that! Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness are gifts that God our heavenly Father has endowed every human being, whether they are in the womb or preparing for the end of earthly life.

There is so much to discuss in these simple lines. What does it mean to have life, what does it mean to have liberty, what does it mean to have the pursuit of happiness? All these aspects, given by our Creator, are what make our country great. There is nothing like it in all the world, and indeed, people have recognized this throughout our history and have sought to implement these principles into other nations around the world. We used to have what they called a "manifest destiny" and we still ought to, for we have much to be thankful for. God has certainly blessed us, not just for ourselves, but to be a blessing to others. "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men" (Jn 1:4). Let us use this blessed occasion of our nation's birthday to inspire us all to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others, even to all the world, for "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (2 Cor 3:16).

With love in Christ,
Pastor Hinckley and family

Prayer Request

The family of Fred Straub, Rocky Rantapaa, Laurie Denke, her mother and family, Sandy & Davey Dale, Karenne & Todd Wyant, Kaitlin Clauser, Jared Hafner & Baby Brielle, Barb Canterbury, Brandon & Desiree Arndt, Michelle Bruzan, Cleo Naser, Michael Pickett, Gene & Jeanine Harms, Lavera Chord, Kelley Hoffmann, Doug Daniels, Karen Schumm, Samantha Gansberg, The Blair's great-uncle, Dana, Marvin Maynard, Carrie Suessmith, Izzy Fowlkes & Unborn Baby, Jamie Turnbow with ongoing health issues.

Home Visit Members: Al Ramero, Jane Andersen, Jeannine Jones, Lois Sorenson, Harlan Gustafson.

Happy Birthday

1 Troy Burns
4 Randy Hornback
5 Rocky Rantapaa
10 Karla Curran
10 Max Larson
12 Nick Alberts
19 Ronda Morrison
23 Randy McGruder
26 Bill Vaughn
27 Sandy Dale

Happy Anniversary

1 BRANDON & MEGAN SNYDER
6 BILL & SHARON VAUGHN
15 GARY & PATTY KENNEDY
16 KIRBY & KIM SCHLECHT
20 ROCKY & MARGIE RANTAPAA

Baptismal Birthdays

3 Shenae Alberts 23 Kirby Schlecht
5 Robert Van Sickle 25 Stacey Sundstrom
6 Howie Albrecht 25 Karla Curran
13 Randy Hornback 27 Wade McGruder

We Care *Dakotamart*
program
Save Receipts Earn Money
For Your Organization
For every \$10,000 bundle of Dakotamart receipt tapes your organization collects it will receive a check for \$100.

If you have a prayer request, would like to remove yourself or a loved one from the prayer list, or would like to be added to the newsletter, please let either Pastor Hinckley or myself know. You can email or text me at:

glc.belc.secretary@gmail.com

605.645.4903

Thank you!

Erin Burke-Ross

**GOD BLESS
AMERICA**

250 Years of Freedom

**HAPPY
FOURTH OF JULY!**



Announcements



GRACE
LUTHERAN
ICE CREAM
GIVEAWAYS
FRIDAYS
4-7PM
AT THE
DEADWOOD
FARMERS
MARKET

1876
DEADWOOD
FRIDAY FARMERS
MARKET

Producers, Makers & Farmers on GORDON PARK
Where the community gathers



Get ready for a new season!
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

JUN 12	JUN 26	JUL 3
JUL 10	JUL 17	JUL 31
AUG 14	AUG 28	SEP 4

OPENING DAY is
FRIDAY
JUNE 12, 2026
4-7PM



LWML

Lutheran Women in Mission

Blessed Emmanuel's LWML could use your help with their pew cushion fund! Having added an additional layer of high-density foam with a batting material wrap, we have incurred extra costs that were not initially budgeted for the new cushions on the pews. Please consider donating to the LWML cushion fund by either giving the funds to our treasurer, Sandy Dale, or placing it in an offering envelope and marking it "LWML Cushion Fund"

Thank you for your consideration
PTLA



VBS AT BLESSED EMMANUEL

JULY 13TH-17TH

We are in need of teacher helpers, craft helpers, and playground assistants. VBS starts at 9:00am and concludes with lunch at 12:00 noon. It's always a fun time for the kids learning about Jesus. This year's theme is "Emerald Crossing." Also, if you have any unused footballs, basketballs, or soccer balls, we are expanding the outdoor activities. We are also in need of a moveable basketball hoop and some soccer goals. If you could be a helper, or have the items needed, text Kari K. 952-290-0430 or Kim S. 605-347-7817. Thank You!



Food donations are needed for 3 of our supper meals. Items need to be dropped off before 4:00 pm on the day the item is to be served. We also have freezer space so items can be cooked and frozen and brought to the church most days of the week prior to the start of Rally.

To sign up, go online and visit:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/2026RallyFoodDonations>

- ◇ Monday – we will need 8 pans of lasagna, 9x13
- ◇ Tuesday – we will need 6 meatloaf, 2 lbs. each
- ◇ Thursday – we will need 6 pot pies, 9x13 each

For questions, call Blessed Emmanuel at 605-423-5870



Frequently Asked Questions

FREE TO BE FAITHFUL is a focused education and awareness campaign aimed at protecting American citizens' freedom of religion, maintaining rights afforded in the Constitution for future generations and responding faithfully to increasing intrusions by government in the realm of the Church.

Who can get involved?

Religious liberty is the right to live according to one's religious beliefs privately and in the public square. It is a liberty in equal standing to free speech and guaranteed in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. That means everyone — young and old, men and women, clergy and laity — is already involved to some degree and can join this effort.

What can I do?

Other Christian denominations and religious groups are already working hard to aggressively defend religious liberty as a fundamental freedom in our society. A number have encouraged The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) to take a leading role on a national level. We in the LCMS have the opportunity to boldly confess our faith (*Witness*), speak on behalf of those whose voices are weak or absent (*Mercy*), and educate or advocate among others as a church body (*Life Together*).

When do we start?

Free to be Faithful began in 2012, and our presence in this defensive fight is needed now more than ever. We cannot stand idly by as if we are not affected by changes taking place in our culture. In the face of what might appear to be a daunting or even a discouraging challenge, we remember the words of Mordecai to Queen Esther: "For if you keep silent at this time ... you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14 ESV). We start today.

Where does this campaign's work happen?

Much of the current work flows from or through our Synod's national headquarters in St. Louis. Moving forward, the LCMS plans to establish an enduring LCMS presence in Washington, D.C., in the form of a special office. Serving as an epicenter of activity, the office will coordinate a compelling Christian witness where it will be needed most in the years to come.

Why does *Free to be Faithful* matter?

Nearly two centuries ago, those who would eventually form the LCMS came to the United States seeking the religious freedom guaranteed in our nation's Constitution. Today, the religious freedom they sought is under assault and being eroded. As disciples of Jesus and citizens of the United States, we are compelled to speak out in defense of our right to live — publicly as well as privately — according to the teachings of our faith.

What *Free to be Faithful* does:

- Educate and motivate rostered workers and laity to take informed action in defense of **one-man/one-woman marriage**, the **sanctity of life** and **religious liberty** and all the cultural issues that touch these three issues
- Encourage LCMS Christians to pray for the country, president and public officials
- Provide resources to help LCMS Christians participate in respectful discussions and participate fully as citizens in the political process

Free* resources at lcms.org/freetobefaitiful

- Quarterly newsletter
- Frequent webinar pertaining to the issues of life, marriage and religious liberty
- Resource toolkits
- Advocacy resources
- Church and school resources
- Information on youth organizations

*Thanks to generous donors who support *Free to be Faithful*.

For more information about *Free to be Faithful* and/or supporting this effort through charitable gifts, please contact:

LCMS Mission Advancement
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
1333 S. Kirkwood Road
St. Louis, MO

Toll-free: 888-930-4438
Email: mission.advancement@lcms.org

Please make checks payable to *The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod* and write "Free to be Faithful" on the memo line to support this campaign. Give online at lcms.org/makeagift/specialinitiatives.



2026

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 Grace Lutheran Church|827 Main St. Deadwood, SD 57732|605.578.2219|gracelutherandeadwood.org
 Pastor Robert Hinckley|605.413.2671|rmhjr2@gmail.com

Secretary Erin Burke-Ross|605.645.4903|glc.belc.secretary@gmail.com

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
			1	2	3	4 
5 Pentecost 6 Grace 7:15am Council Mtg Grace 8:30am Service BELC 10:30am Service	6	7	8 Grace 6:30pm Service	9	10	11 BELC 9:00am Set Up for VBS— <i>Please help if you can</i>
12 Pentecost 7 Dual Parish Service—10:00am at the park in Lead - Picnic to Follow -	13 VBS at BELC 9:00am-12 w/ lunch <i>Registration 8:30am</i>	14 VBS at BELC 9:00am-12 w/ lunch	15 VBS at BELC 9:00am-12 w/ lunch Grace 6:30pm Service	16 VBS at BELC 9:00am-12 w/ lunch	17 VBS at BELC 9:00am-11:30am Program	18 Pastor gone 18th-23rd to AZ for The LCMS National Convention →
19 Pentecost 8 Grace 8:30am Service BELC 10:30am Service - Pastor Gardner will be preaching for both Services -	20	21	22 No Service at Grace	23	24 Pastor will return →	25
26 Pentecost 9 Grace 8:30am Service BELC 10:30am Service - the Elders will lead Service this Sunday Service -	27	28	29 Grace 6:30pm Service	30	31	



Week of July 05, 2026 *John 5:39*

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.

Week of July 12, 2026 *Hebrews 1:1-2*

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world.

Week of July 19, 2026 *1 John 4:18*

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.

Week of July 26, 2026 *Ephesians 4:29*

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Grace Lutheran/Deadwood

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827 Main Street

Deadwood, SD 57732