

St. Valentine and the God of Love

Brothers and sisters!

**Blessed Emmanuel/Sturgis  
&  
Grace/Deadwood  
February 2025 Newsletter**

It might come as a surprise that February 14<sup>th</sup>, Valentine's Day, is named after a Christian saint. Valentine was a priest and physician in Rome. He, along with St. Marius and his family, comforted martyrs during the persecution of Emperor Claudius II, the Goth. Eventually, Valentine was also arrested, condemned to death for his faith, beaten with clubs, and finally beheaded on February 14, AD 270. He was buried in the Flaminian Way.

It is amazing to think about what so many believers have sacrificed because of their love for Christ. Today in America, we have so many freedoms I wonder if we realize what a great privilege it is. We have the freedom to worship however we wish (so long as it does not break any laws), we can freely go to church on Sunday mornings or at other times, we can pray whenever we want, and so forth. Actually, very little is required of us in this country to follow Christ. It puts us to shame when compared with what the early Christians had to endure for their faith.

It ought to give us pause, to stop and think, how might I love the Lord and my neighbor better, starting this month, starting today. If we look to the example of Valentine, we have much to ponder. He loved the Lord and his fellow brothers and sisters in the faith to the point of death. To the point of death! What is more, we have the words and example of our Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "This is My commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:12-14). Christ loved us so much that He gave His life for us, and this is His commandment, that we love one another as He has loved us. Valentine did just that.

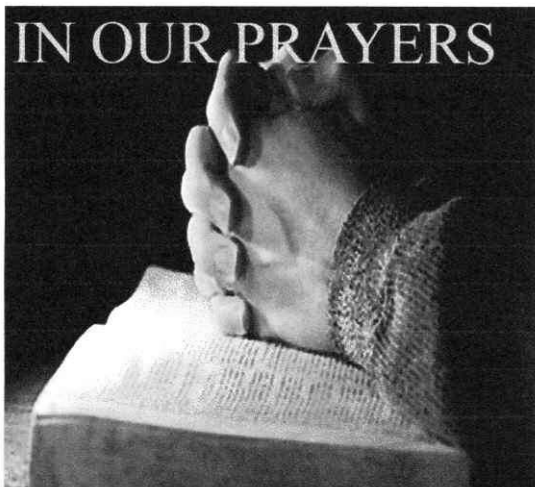
Let us therefore recommit ourselves to love one another as Christ has loved us. Let us be faithful to our spouses and family, to our fellow brothers and sisters in the faith, and our fellow mankind, both those of our own country and the entire world. What a difference the world would be if we all lived like this! The book of Acts records how the early Christians were of one accord and shared everything in common (Acts 2:44-47). They were an example to the rest of the world of what it was like to love one another. Others would see how they loved one another and would be drawn to them.

St. Paul says in Philippians 1:3-6, 9, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more. . ."

St. John says in his first epistle, chapter four, verses 7-10: "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

The Lord be with you!

Pastor Hinckley and family



Gene Harms, Jeanine Harms, Jolene Young, June Kosola, Lavera Chord, Mark Miller, Maury Anderson, Phylliss Beitelspacher, Sheila Derr, Al Ramero, Alexis Larson, Brian Koester, Bruce Harms, Fred Straub, Geoff Bonar, Julie Kruger, Mitch Fuller, Sharon Pearson, Kelley Hoffmann, Brielle Trimble with ongoing health issues. Also for **Drake Sundstrom** who recently joined the US Army and is currently at basic training.

Home Visit Members: **Jane Andersen, Jeannine Jones, Al Ramero, Lois Sorenson, Fred Straub, Millie VanDerWerff**



1 Robbie VanSickle	23 Justus Hinckley	8 Ed Nickerson	12 Leo & Kara Diede
1 Sharon Pearson	28 Terry Miller	9 Amelia Hinckley	21 Todd & Karenne Wyant
5 Jaime Wolf	29 David Gross	22 Leo Diede	25 Justin & Alexandra Lux
7 Amelia Hinckley		26 Bob Burns	
22 Amie Miller			
22 Jay Pearson			



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Blessed float for the parade of lights, donating items, taking lights down, etc. A big thank you to Gene and Jeanine Harms for the use of your equipment. Also, thank you to all the volunteers for both Grace and Blessed who continuously help things run smoothly. We appreciate you!



### ***"We Care Program"***

Don't forget to save your Lynn's receipts! Please put them in Gene Zurcher's box at Blessed, and in the black mailbox labeled "Lynn's Receipts" on the table at Grace, and Erin will pick those up each week to give to Gene. This is a great way to raise funds for our churches!



We have hired a new secretary, Erin Burke-Ross. She began working for both churches in January. Her family attends Blessed Emmanuel. Her husband, Josh Ross, is the Blessed Council Vice President, and her children, Payton and Luca, regularly attend Sunday school and confirmation.

Don't forget to fill up the baby bottles with change, dollars or checks and return to either Blessed Emmanuel or Grace Lutheran by February 23rd!



## Blessed Emmanuel Goings On

**VOLUNTEER**  
*you can make a difference!*



Are you looking for a way to be more involved in the life of Blessed Emmanuel? Looking for *volunteers to play music on Sundays and for special services*. For more information see Sandy Dale.

**Don't Forget**—Adult Bible Study every Sunday at 9:15am, led by Bob Van Sickle. This month he will be covering *Hosea, Joel and Amos*.

## GRACE Goings On

**Ushers—February and March**— Are you looking for a way to being more engaged in Worship at Grace? We are looking for USHERS for February and March. See the signup in the back on the bulletin board.



There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary. Please sign-up to bring baked goodies to Fellowship time which is held every Sunday after Worship in the basement. Thank you!



**Where: Grace Lutheran**

**When: Sunday, February 23rd 2:00-4:00**



Grace Lutheran will be sponsoring a chili contest fundraiser for local LWML. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the back of Sanctuary, as well as the back table at Blessed Emmanuel. There will be 5-7 entries, so get your name on the list early! There will be free-will donation samplings to vote. We also have an attendee sign-up on the board, so the entries will know how much chili to make.



Grace Lutheran Church 825 Main St., Deadwood, SD 57732 605-578-2219

*Secretary email: glc.belc.secretary@gmail.com Erin's cell: 605-645-4903*

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</b> <i>Grace Worship 8:30am</i> BELC Sunday School 9:15am BELC Worship 10:30am BELC Confirmation 11:30am						1
<b>3</b> <i>Grace Worship 8:30am</i> BELC Sunday School 9:15am BELC Worship 10:30am BELC Confirmation 11:30am			<b>5 Grace Bible Study 2pm</b> <i>Grace Worship 6:30pm</i> BELC Bible Study 3:45pm			8
<b>4</b> <i>Grace LWML 9am</i>			<b>6</b> <i>Grace Bible Study 2pm</i> <i>Grace Worship 6:30pm</i> BELC Bible Study 3:45pm			
<b>5 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</b> <i>Grace Council Mtg 7:15am</i> <i>Grace Worship 8:30am</i> BELC Sunday School/Bible Study 9:15am BELC Worship 10:30am BELC Council Mtg after worship BELC Confirmation 11:30am			<b>12 Grace Bible Study 2pm</b> <i>Grace Worship 6:30pm</i> BELC Bible Study 3:45pm			
<b>6</b> <i>Grace LWML 9am</i>						
<b>7</b> <i>Grace Bible Study 2pm</i> <i>Grace Worship 6:30pm</i> BELC Bible Study 3:45pm						
<b>8</b> <i>Grace Bible Study 2pm</i> <i>Grace Worship 6:30pm</i> BELC Bible Study 3:45pm						
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<b>15</b> <i>Grace Bible Study 2pm</i> <i>Grace Worship 6:30pm</i> BELC Bible Study 3:45pm						
<b>16 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany</b> <i>Grace Worship 8:30am</i> BELC Sunday School/Bible Study 9:15am BELC Worship 10:30am BELC Confirmation 11:30am BELC LWML 12:00pm Brew Berry Bistro			<b>26 Grace Bible Study 2pm</b> <i>Grace Worship 6:30pm</i> BELC Bible Study 3:45pm			
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<b>29</b> <i>Grace Bible Study 2pm</i> <i>Grace Worship 6:30pm</i> BELC Bible Study 3:45pm						
<b>30</b> <i>Grace Bible Study 2pm</i> <i>Grace Worship 6:30pm</i> BELC Bible Study 3:45pm						

# **LCMS February Bible Verse Challenge**

## **Week of February 2, 2025**

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

## **Week of February 9, 2025**

1 Chronicles 16:25–26

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

## **Week of February 16, 2025**

Numbers 23:19

God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

## **Week of February 23, 2025**

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

Grace/BE Lutheran Church

827 Main Street

Deadwood, SD 57732