

# Grace Deadwood/Blessed Emmanuel Sturgis

## January 2026 Newsletter

Mary and Martha and New Year's Resolutions

Brothers and Sisters!

In the Gospel of Luke, we hear about Mary and Martha (10:38-42), a story which provides an important lesson about our Christian walk with God and is something we could apply to our New Year's resolutions.

It is a lesson about hearing the word of the Lord and being teachable.

You may remember how it goes. One day, Jesus was visiting the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. They were friends of His, and supporters of His ministry and the apostles. They lived in Bethany, a village just over the Mount of Olives, about two miles from Jerusalem. Jesus liked to stop there on occasion to relax and be with friends before He entered the big city.

While He was there, He began to teach, as was natural for Him to do, after all, they called Him the “Teacher” (Luke 10:25). As Jesus was teaching, Mary sat at the Lord’s feet, listening to Him. She was inspired by what He said and was learning a great deal. However, her sister Martha was “distracted with much serving” (Luke 10:40). What could Martha be doing that was more important than listening to Jesus? Perhaps she was tending to her guests or preparing them a meal. Certainly, one can understand she had guests in her house and that she wanted to show hospitality and kindness to them. Yet, in all her busyness and determination she was missing out on the main event: Jesus’s teaching. She was so distraught that she even interrupted the Teacher and asked Him: “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me” (Luke 10:40). Martha thought she had good reason to miss out on Jesus’s sermon, but instead, the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:41-42).

We don’t hear the end of this story. My hope would be that Martha realized her fault and stopped what she was doing and joined in listening to Jesus teach. Mary was teachable, and Jesus said she had chosen “the good portion.” The good portion was the words that fell from His lips, the gospel of our salvation.

To be teachable is a godly virtue, and something we could all work on, even me. I hope this year we find ourselves more like Mary and less like Martha.

A blessed Epiphany to you all!

Pastor Hinckley and family

# Prayer Request

**20 Cal Meredith**

**25 Payton Ross**

**26 Erin Burke-Ross**



Rhandi Gonzales, Jeanie Fries, Bill Denke, Michelle Bruzan, Cleo Naser, Michael Pickett, Dave Gross, Gene Harms, Lavera Chord, Phyllis Beitelspacher, Sheila Derr, Kelley Hoffmann, Cal and Debbie Meredith, Brenda Cavanagh, Doug Daniels, Todd Wyant, Ig Gruenwald, 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

## Baptismal Birthdays

**1 Denny Kannenberg**

**4 Jay Pearson**

**26 Laurie Denke**

**31 Bill Denke**

If you have a prayer request, 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.

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!

Happy New Year to you and your families! I appreciate you!

- Erin Burke-Ross, Secretary

## "We Care Program" 2025 Recap:

*Blessed Emmanuel raised \$300*

*Grace Lutheran raised \$600*



Keep bringing in your Lynn's receipts—  
every little bit helps!

# Upcoming Events

**Sunday, January 4th:** Blessed Emmanuel will have their First Fruit Offering as well as their Officer Installation.

**Tuesday, January 6th:** *Memento Men* will meet at Blessed Emmanuel at ***6:30pm***, and will be every Tuesday at that time, unless otherwise stated. Speak with Brandon Snyder for more information.

**Wednesday, January 7th:** Blessed Emmanuel will have Youth Group at ***6:30pm***, and every Wednesday thereafter, unless otherwise stated. Speak with Brandon Snyder for more information.

**Saturday, January 10th:** Blessed Emmanuel will take down their Christmas decorations at ***9:00am***. Their LWML will meet after.

**Sunday, January 11th:** Grace Lutheran will have their council meeting at ***7:15am*** and then during the Sunday Service, they will have their Officer Installation.

**Tuesday, January 13th:** Grace Lutheran LWML will meet at ***9:00am***.

**Friday, January 16th:** St. Paul in Spearfish will be holding a Lock-In for youth group kids. There will be food and games. For more information, please speak with Brandon Snyder from Blessed Emmanuel.

**Sunday, January 25th:** Grace Lutheran will be hosting their annual Chili Contest. Sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board, and the tables at both churches. Anyone is welcome to attend. For more information, please speak with René Larson from Grace Lutheran.



Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, our New-Born King and Savior, you are invited to join me (on my 28<sup>th</sup> tour of the Holy Land Nour Tour.) A native of Israel, born in Nazareth on a Journey to the Holy Land for an experience of a lifetime to visit Israel for a spiritual NOUR-ishment.

**We will depart from Chicago on September 29 and return on October 12, 2026**

During this 13-day NOUR TOUR You will experience the life of the land in new ways—sounds, smells, and sights of two civilizations the old and the new. You will stand at the crossroads of history—HIS STORY, why He came to earth; and know the vibrant influence of how this land shapes all other lands; but more importantly your heart will be renewed, refreshed and rejuvenated with the love and truth of Holy Scripture.

Along the way you will....

Walk where Jesus walked

Cruise the Sea of Galilee

Climb the Mount of Olives

Walk the Triumphal road as Jesus enters Jerusalem

See the Old City of Jerusalem

Visit Tabgha, the site of the miracle of the Loaves and Fishes

Visit the Mount of Beatitudes

Visit the site of the Sermon on the Mount and where Jesus chose the 12 disciples.

Walk the Via Dolorosa (Road of suffering) to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher

Stroll the Garden of Gethsemane

Visit Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity—the birthplace of the God-Man Jesus Christ.

And much, much more!

On this journey you will learn of the three “Cs”: 1. *Context* is king, 2. *Culture* is queen and, 3. *Christ* is the CENTER! We will do more than just visit sights. We will go off the beaten path and have personal and daily devotions and be spiritually NOUR-ished. The Bible will be our map, compass and guide. Experience the Holy Land—a place like no other. Please join me on this blessed adventure. The price is \$5, 290.00 p/p including: air fare from Chicago to Tel Aviv and back to Chicago, hotel accommodations (for double occupancy) tips, entry fees and all meals.

For further information contact:

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7701 S. Tuscan Club Circle.

Sioux Falls, SD 57108

605-201-6998 (Cell)

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With assistant funds from Thrivent Action Team and the Deadwood VFW Auxiliary 5969, Grace Lutheran Church sponsored 37 children for Christmas this year. Grace members delivered the gifts to the school on December 15th.



Members from Grace Lutheran filled goody bags December 21st to be handed out at the Christmas Eve Service.



The Blessed Emmanuel kids' Christmas Program, *Every Heart Prepare*, took place Wednesday, December 17th as part of the Advent Service.. A big thank you to Kim Schlecht & Kari Kannerberg for planning the program!

***Every Heart Prepare***



Blessed Emmanuel Lutheran Church 2942 Pine Tree Trl, Sturgis, SD 57785 605-423-5870 [blessedemmanuelsturgis.com](http://blessedemmanuelsturgis.com)

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Pastor Robert Hinckley Cell: 605-413-2671 email: [rmhjr2@gmail.com](mailto:rmhjr2@gmail.com)

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\*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>4 2nd Sunday After Christmas</b> Grace Service 8:30am BELC Sunday School/Bible Study 9:15am BELC Service 10:30am BELC Confirmation 11:30am BELC First Fruit Offering & Officer Installation	<b>5</b> <i>The Epiphany of Our Lord</i>	<b>6</b> <i>The Epiphany of Our Lord</i>	<b>7</b> Grace Bible Study 2:00pm Grace Service 6:30pm BELC Bible Study 3:45pm	<b>8</b> <i>Happy New Year!</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> BELC—take down Christmas Decorations at the church <b>9:00am</b> LWM will meet after
<b>11 1st Sunday after Epiphany</b> Grace Council Mtg 7:15am Grace Service 8:30am- Officer Installation during Service BELC Sunday School/Bible Study 9:15am BELC Service 10:30am BELC Confirmation 11:30am BELC Council Mtg TBD	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Grace LWM mtg 9:00am	<b>14</b> Grace Bible Study 2:00pm Grace Service 6:30pm BELC Bible Study 3:45pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18 2nd Sunday after Epiphany</b> Grace Service 8:30am BELC Sunday School/Bible Study 9:15am BELC Service 10:30am BELC Confirmation 11:30am	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Grace Bible Study 2:00pm Grace Service 6:30pm BELC Bible Study 3:45pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25 The Transfiguration of Our Lord</b> Grace Service 8:30am Grace Chili Contest 2:45pm BELC Sunday School/Bible Study 9:15am BELC Service 10:30am BELC Confirmation 11:30am	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Grace Bible Study 2:00pm Grace Service 6:30pm BELC Bible Study 3:45pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

# LCMS January Bible Verse Challenge

## **Week of January 04, 2026** *Psalm 37:23–24*

The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the Lord upholds his hand.

## **Week of January 11, 2026** *Ephesians 1:7*

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

## **Week of January 18, 2026** *1 John 2:2*

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

## **Week of January 25, 2026** *Leviticus 19:18*

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Grace Lutheran/Deadwood  
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