

Brothers and Sisters!

I am excited about our study for Advent Wednesday services this year. We will be learning the Ten Commandments. For Advent, we will study Commandments 1-3, and during the Lent Wednesdays of 2026 we will look at Commandments 4-10.

You may recall the first three Commandments, and I am going to recite them here from the King James Version:

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.
2. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God, in vain.
3. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

I am sure all of us can remember when we learned these commandments in Sunday school and Confirmation. That was a long time ago for me. A refresher would be good, after all, these are the Ten Commandments, the holy Law, which God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai in the form of two tablets of stone; where God Himself wrote the words on the tablets with His finger (Exodus 31:18). "The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets" (Exodus 32:16).

Sadly, before Moses was ever able to give these laws to the people of Israel they began to worship a golden calf at the foot of the mountain. The people waited for Moses, but apparently, he took too long for them. After 40 days they grew impatient and thought Moses had died. They lost faith and begged and persuaded Aaron to oversee the fashioning of a golden calf out of their jewelry, even saying about it, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" (Exodus 32:4). When Moses finally came down the mountain and heard the singing and "saw the calf and the dancing" (Exodus 32:19a), "he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain (Exodus 32:19b). The tablets of the holy law broke just as the people had broken the first command, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:3). It is a sad commentary on our inability to keep the law; they couldn't even keep the first one! Sometimes I feel like Moses on Mount Sinai, running up and down the Hills between Grace and Blessed Emmanuel churches preaching the Law and the Gospel. I have gotten to know Boulder Canyon Road quite well by now. I really enjoy it, and I look forward to our series on the Ten Commandments this Advent. Please come, as I am sure you will be surprised how relevant to our faith the commandments are. They are such a core and unique blessing and go to the heart of it all. They reveal to us the holy will of God and His desire for holiness in our lives. They are a sure guide to follow throughout all our days of pilgrimage.

When we keep the commandments, we please God and our neighbor and enjoy many blessings that God wishes for us here on earth. However, when we disobey the commandments, we bring much heartache and trouble into our lives and the lives of others. They are somewhat of a double-edged sword, for good when we keep them, for bad when we don't. The question is, are we going to choose the good? I hope so! However, when we don't the commandments show us our sin, and in this way teach us to flee to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for His forgiveness.

You may remember how Jesus summed up the Ten Commandments with two when He said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40). Jesus Himself preached the Ten Commandments. Indeed, He preached the Law of God as severely as any preacher ever could. Nevertheless, we must remember that Jesus also died for our sins and was raised for our justification (Romans 4:25) and that this is why He came, to preach the truth in both Law and Gospel. It is certainly true that the preaching of the Law makes the Gospel that much sweeter. To that end, I pray that this Advent/ Lent series will bless us.

A blessed Advent and Christmas to you all!

Pastor Hinckley and family

## IN OUR PRAYERS



Bob & Rose VanSickle's daughter, Rhandi Gonzale, Jeanie Fries, Bill Denke, Sandy Dale's daughter, Michelle Bruzan, Phil Wilkins's sister, Cleo, and his and Jan's granddaughter, Jaedra Yantis, Ken and Eileen Pickett's son, Michael, Dave Gross, Gene Harms, Lavera Chord, Phyliss 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 Straub, Kevin Klein.

4 Micaela Zachmeier	23 Colt Blair
4 Ron Brandt	23 Bob Burns
6 Eileen Pickett	25 Denny Kannenberg
14 Marc Straub	31 Bill Denke



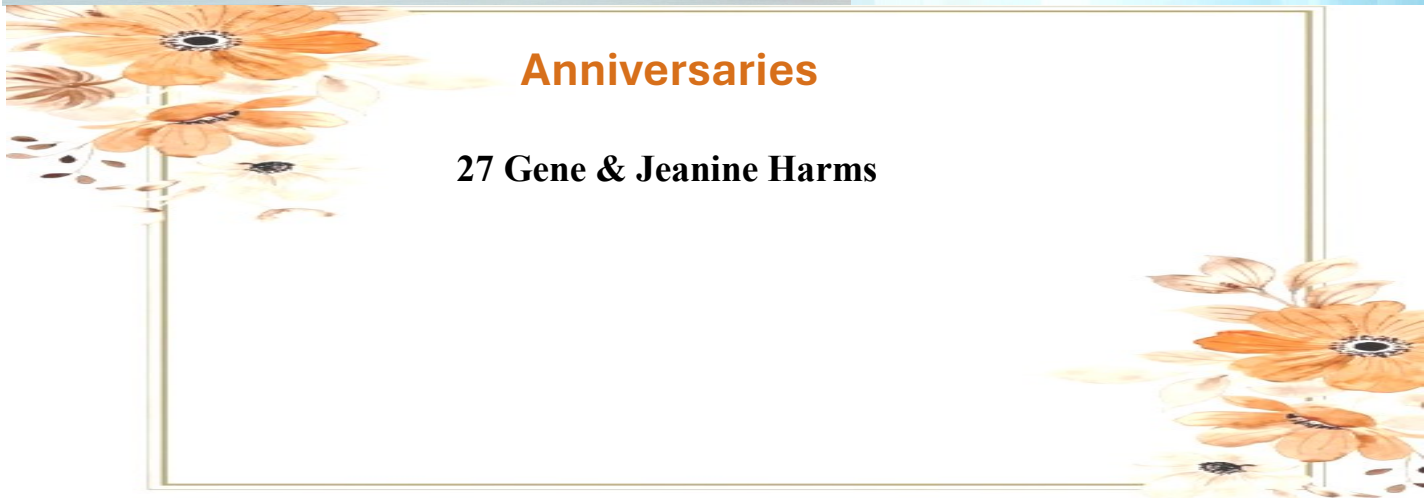
## Baptismal Birthdays

1 Lee Christianson
1 Jim Guest
8 Max Larson
10 Payton Ross
26 Micaela Zachmeier
31 Marc Straub



## Anniversaries

27 Gene & Jeanine Harms



### *"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!



# Announcements



Anyone wanting to donate gifts to the Lead/Deadwood school children please let Dotti Oldenkamp know.

Grace LWML will be filling goody bags after Service on Sunday, December 21st. For more information, please see René Larson.



Grace LWML is hosting a diaper/wipe drive throughout the Advent season. Please donate if you can.

Blessed Emmanuel Lutheran Church's Annual Children's Christmas Program will be held Wednesday, December 17th this year at 5:00pm during regular Advent Service.





### **Grace Lutheran LWML upcoming events:**

Currently, they are selling cards and napkins on the back table of the Sanctuary. Cards are \$7.50 and napkins are \$4.75.

They will be holding a diaper/wipe drive for the Bella Pregnancy Center throughout the Advent season, beginning Sunday, November 30th.

The Grace LWML meeting this month will be ***Tuesday, December 9th at 9:00am.***

Anyone wanting to donate gifts for the school children, please let Dotti know.

Grace LWML will be filling goody bags after Sunday Service on ***Sunday, December 21st.***

### **Blessed Emmanuel Lutheran LWML upcoming events:**

A big thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for Advent.

Sturgis Parade of Lights will be Friday, December 5th.

Advent dinners will be December 3rd, hosted by Stacey Sundstrom & Karenne Wyant, 10th, hosted by LWML, and again on the 17th hosted by Stacey Sundstrom & Karenne Wyant.

Christmas Cards/Stockings: LWML will gather for Patty Kennedy.

BELC LWML will not meet in December, but will meet on ***Saturday, January 10th at 9:00am*** after taking down Advent decorations/decorating for Epiphany.





**Blessed Emmanuel Lutheran Church** 2942 Pine Tree Trl, Sturgis, SD 57785 605-423-5870  
**Grace Lutheran Church** 825 Main St., Deadwood, SD 57732 605-578-2219  
**Pastor Robert Hinckley** Cell: 605-413-2671 email: rmhjr2@gmail.com  
 Secretary Erin email: glc.belc.secretary@gmail.com Cell: 605-645-4903  
 \*Holy Communion is celebrated 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays at Grace and every Sunday at Blessed

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>30 1st Sunday in Advent</b> <b>**Grace LWML hosting</b> <b>diaper/wipe drive</b> <b>Throughout Advent**</b>	1	2	<b>3</b> Grace Bible Study 2:00pm BELC Bible Study 3:45pm BELC Advent Service 5:00pm/ Dinner to Follow Grace Dinner 5:30pm Grace Advent Service 7:00pm	4	5	6
<b>7 2nd Sunday in Advent</b> Grace Council Mtg 7:15am Grace Service 8:30am BELC Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 9:15am BELC Service 10:30am/ Confirmation after	8	9 Grace LWML 9:00am	<b>10</b> Grace Bible Study 2:00pm BELC Bible Study 3:45pm BELC Advent Service 5:00pm/ Dinner to Follow Grace Dinner 5:30pm Grace Advent Service 7:00pm	11	12	13
<b>14 3rd Sunday in Advent</b> Grace Service 8:30am BELC Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 9:15am BELC Service 10:30am/ Confirmation after	15	16	<b>17</b> Grace Bible Study 2:00pm BELC Bible Study 3:45pm <b>BELC Children's Christmas</b> <b>Program 5:00pm/Dinner after</b> Grace Dinner 5:30pm Grace Advent Service 7:00pm	18	19	20
<b>21 4th Sunday in Advent</b> Grace Service 8:30am <b>Grace LWML fill goody</b> <b>bags after Service</b> BELC Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 9:15am BELC Service 10:30am/ Confirmation after	22	23	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve Schedule:</b> <b>Grace Lutheran 4:00pm</b> <b>Blessed Emmanuel 6:00pm</b>	25	26	27
<b>28 1st Sun. After Christmas</b> Grace Service 8:30am BELC Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 9:15am BELC Service 10:30am/ Confirmation after	29	30	<b>31</b> Grace Bible Study 2:00pm BELC Bible Study 3:45pm Grace Service 6:30pm			

# **LCMS December Bible Verse Challenge**

## **Week of December 07, 2025 Genesis 3:15**

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

## **Week of December 14, 2025 Zephaniah 3:17**

The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

## **Week of December 21, 2025 John 1:4**

In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

## **Week of December 28, 2025 Luke 2:10-11**

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Grace Lutheran/Deadwood

Blessed Emmanuel/Sturgis

827 Main Street

Deadwood, SD 57732