

# Grace Deadwood/Blessed Emmanuel Sturgis

April 2026 Newsletter

## Holy Week Devotion

### Brothers and Sisters!

I know many people think Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year, and it may be, but your pastor thinks that Holy Week is the best time of year. I like both the celebrations of Christmas and Easter, but there is something very special about Holy Week. You won't understand unless you attend all the services in succession: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday. If you just show up for Easter, then you miss out on the fullness of the Gospel message. Some churches have services every day of Holy Week, in fact, some have multiple services on certain days, like Good Friday. It is a profound experience to attend all the services of Holy Week. Let us walk through them briefly here.

**Palm Sunday** - Jesus enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday riding a donkey while the crowds cheer Him on and hail Him as their King. That, in and of itself, has much to say to us. Is He your king? How would you greet Jesus if He were to come your way? What would you say to Him? What would you do? The people and disciples who saw Him ride into Jerusalem that day sang psalms and laid palm branches and their cloaks on the road before Him!

**Maundy Thursday** – This is the day in which Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with His disciples in a large upper room in Jerusalem, and when He instituted the Lord's Supper by taking the bread of the Passover and saying, "Take, eat, This is My Body, which is given for you, this do in remembrance of Me" and the cup of wine saying, "Drink of it, all of you, This Cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." After supper, He took a bowl of water and wrapped a towel around His waist and washed the disciples' feet, teaching them humility and that they were to love one another as He had loved them. That night, while Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane for the Father's will to be done, He was betrayed by Judas for 30 pieces of silver and arrested and taken before Caiaphas the High Priest and the Sanhedrin (Jewish High Council) and put on trial and accused of blasphemy (among other things).

**Good Friday** – On Friday morning, Jesus was sent to the Roman Governor of Judea, Pontius Pilate, and examined by him concerning His charges by the Jews. Pilate, after questioning Jesus, thought He was innocent but had Him flogged and then wanted to release Him. However, the chief priests and scribes stirred up the crowd against Him, and Pilate released Barabbas instead, and gave the order for Jesus to be crucified. So, the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and put a purple/scarlet robe on Him and mocked Him saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then, carrying His own cross, Jesus was led to Golgotha (place of the skull), the hill outside the city walls where the Romans performed crucifixions, and there He was stripped of His clothes and nailed to the tree. Jesus was crucified between two criminals or thieves (more like insurrectionists) and mocked while He hung on the cross. Darkness covered the land for three hours while He was up there. Yet, Jesus spoke seven times from the cross, and they are all amazing to consider. His final word was, "It is finished," or "It is accomplished": Jesus had completed His work of atonement for our sins. When Jesus bowed His head and gave up His spirit it is said the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. Jesus is our Great High Priest and leads us through the veil of this life to heaven itself, indeed we have access to God the Father through Him. A Roman soldier pierced His side, and out came blood and water.

**Easter Sunday** – Early in the morning, when the sun had yet to break the horizon, several women came to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus with myrrh and spices. Instead, they found the stone rolled away and angels appeared to them, announcing that Christ has risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia! And He has conquered sin and death and the power of the devil, all for us and our salvation. Much more could be said but let this be enough to encourage you in your Holy Week devotion this year!

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, Phyliss 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.

9 Ken Pickett

11 David Derr

27 Laurie Denke

29 Howie Albrecht

30 Justin Lux



## Baptismal Birthdays

2 Kim Schlecht

3 Colt Blair

5 Robbie VanSickle

17 Gene Harms



*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 birthdays/anniversary, please let either Pastor Hinckley or myself know.*

You can email or text me at:

[glc.belc.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:glc.belc.secretary@gmail.com) 🌸 605.645.4903

Thank you!

- Erin Burke-Ross, Secretary

**We Care** program  
**Dakotamart**

**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.  
**It's Just That Easy!**



Members of Grace Lutheran Church's *Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)* filled "Easter Bunny Bags" to hand out Easter Sunday at the church. The bags and supplies were funded by *Thrivent*.



# PALM SUNDAY



Members of Blessed Emmanuel Lutheran Church enjoy celebrating Palm Sunday each year.

# PALM SUNDAY

Blessed Emmanuel Lutheran Church|2942 Pine Tree Trl. Sturgis, SD 57785|605.423.5870|blessedemmanuelsturgis.com  
 Grace Lutheran Church|827 Main St. Deadwood, SD 57732|605.578.2219|gracelutherandeandwood.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  |
|--|-----------|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| <b>5 Easter Sunday</b><br><br><b>He is Risen!</b><br>Grace 8:30am Service<br>- breakfast to follow<br>BELC 10:30am Service  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>                              | <b>1</b><br>Grace 2:00 pm Bible Study<br>BELC 3:45pm Bible Study<br>Grace 6:30pm Service  | <b>2</b><br><br>5:00pm BELC<br>7:00pm Grace | <b>3</b><br><br>5:00pm BELC<br>7:00pm Grace | <b>4</b><br>9:00am BELC<br>Decorate the Church |
| <b>12 2nd Sunday of Easter</b><br>Grace 7:15am Council Mtg<br>Grace 8:30am Service<br>BELC 9:15am Sunday School/<br>Bible Study<br>BELC 10:30am Service<br>BELC 11:30am Council Mtg/<br>Confirmation following | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b><br>Grace LWML<br>Mtg 9:00am | <b>15</b><br>Grace 2:00 pm Bible Study<br>BELC 3:45pm Bible Study<br>Grace 6:30pm Service | <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b>  | <b>18</b>                                      |
| <b>19 3rd Sunday of Easter</b><br>Grace 8:30am Service<br>BELC 9:15am Sunday School/<br>Bible Study<br>BELC 10:30am Service/<br>Confirmation to follow<br>BELC 11:30am LWML Mtg                                | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b>                             | <b>22</b><br>Grace 2:00 pm Bible Study<br>BELC 3:45pm Bible Study<br>Grace 6:30pm Service | <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b>                                      |
| <b>26 4th Sunday of Easter</b><br>Grace 8:30am Service<br>BELC 9:15am Sunday School/<br>Bible Study<br>BELC 10:30am Service/<br>Confirmation to follow   | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b>                             | <b>29</b><br>Grace 2:00 pm Bible Study<br>BELC 3:45pm Bible Study<br>Grace 6:30pm Service | <b>30</b>  |  |  |

# LCMS April Bible Verse Challenge

## **Week of April 05, 2026 Romans 10:9-10**

Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

## **Week of April 12, 2026 Ephesians 2:13–14**

Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.

## **Week of April 19, 2026 Mark 12:29–31**

Jesus answered, “The most important [commandment] is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

## **Week of April 26, 2026 John 17:17**

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Grace Lutheran/Deadwood

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