



The Way of the Cross

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons (and daughters) of God. For you did not receive the Spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” ~ Romans 8: 14-17, NKJV

Paul (and, one could add the New Testament as a whole) never denies the ecstatic expressions or gifts of the Spirit — things like tongues and interpretation of tongues, prophetic utterances, healing — but it is also clear that the real test of the Spirit is not ecstasy, but rather the suffering way of the cross. The Spirit is evidenced in lives that are marked by radical, servant love — a love that willingly suffers for others, even for one’s enemies. Thus, in speaking of “the suffering way of the cross,” the Bible is not only or specifically speaking of the suffering of persecution, tribulation, or trial in the name of Jesus, though radical, servant love may involve those things as well (and likely will if we are living into the fullness of Christ).

This readily points to why, historically, the Church has focused on ecstatic expressions, even overemphasizing them in many cases. For, the idea of gaining notoriety for spontaneously bursting into tongues

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or for dramatic acts of healing is far more appealing than bending one's knee and bringing oneself low in order to wash the feet of a dying AIDS victim or sitting in the terrible silence of grief with a family torn apart from drug abuse. Yet, we are called much more to the latter, "ordinary," acts of gathering near to the vulnerable and hurting, sharing with others the love of Jesus in simple and sincere acts of service, than (for instance) declaring "thus saith the Lord" to the halls of power and privilege (though this too is a necessary work).

Though we like to laud what we term the extraordinary, even going so far as to give thanks in our heart of hearts that we have not been called to it, we cannot escape the truth that it is what we term "the ordinary" simple acts of loving service that most effectively witness to the power of God. Indeed, it is often the "fruit of the Spirit" (things like love, peace, joy, patience, goodness ... self-control) that most profoundly testifies to a life transformed by Jesus Christ, not the "gifts of the Spirit" that we constantly fixate upon. In fact, apart from the "fruit," I wonder if the "gift" is quite useless. After all, how many times have we seen people turn from Jesus because they came to see that, for all the fantastic expressions of tongues or healing (for all the "thus saith the Lord's") spewing from the Church, there was yet no love? As Paul testified, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels [though I exhibit the most extraordinary gift] but have not love [but lack "fruit"], I have become sounding brass of a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing" (1 Corinthians 13: 1-2, NKJV).

How will people know that we belong to Jesus Christ? They will know, not because of the "show" we put on, but the "suffering" we willingly endure. They will know that Jesus is in us (indeed they will be drawn to Jesus in us) when they see His radical, servant love in our eyes, when they experience His compassionate tenderness in our hands reaching out to hold them ... when they witness Jesus in us drawing near to them to

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bear their burdens. They will know that Jesus is in us when we stop trying to glorify ourselves (or glorify “our” church) and seek instead to be “glorified together” — all God’s children serving out of love, sharing His joy, living in peace, patient with all ... holding oneself in control. So, let us walk the way of Jesus, the suffering, beautiful way of cross — “a more excellent way” (1 Corinthians 12: 31b, NKJV).

Shalom,
Pastor Todd

ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

PRAYER LIST: World, National, and Local leaders. Paula Cottrill; Rodger, Michele (parents), and Dylan Slott (spinal cord injury); Grayson Chapeau; Pat Patterson (cancer); Rhian Elmid (sponsored child); Elsie Hanson; Angie Riggs (friend of Lorie Umphrey – 3rd round of cancer battle); Les Turgeon; Lorrie Loobey (Jo Hansen’s sister) and Martina Loobey (Jo Hansen’s niece) for health concerns; Marna Bergstrom for recovery; John Daum; Hilda Locke; Joyce Collins; Carolyn Greenfield; Karen and Bob Collins; June Klinkel; Elaine Jongeling; Leo Orme; Hannah Andres (prayers for successful hip and shoulder surgeries).

Please let Shirley B. know if you have any updates or additions.



FIRST ROSES OF SUMMER! The rose bush in front of the church has lots of blossoms on it. It should burst forth with many roses soon!

ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

SUMMER SUPPER SERIES: The Summer Supper Series is a go! Each Wednesday in July, we'll meet at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for a light supper, followed by a short presentation (about 20-30 minutes) from a church member. We'll be finished by 7:00 pm. **EVERYONE** is invited to attend any or all of the sessions! We have our speakers lined up but are looking for volunteers to provide a main dish, side dish, and/or dessert for selected suppers. It would also be great if we had some volunteers to bring paper plates, plastic silverware, and napkins. **There is a sign-up sheet on the glass counter.**

Here's the lineup of speakers for this year's Summer Supper Series:

- July 1 "Women of the Bible" with Shirley Brost
- July 8 "Ark of the Covenant" with Glenn Umphrey
- July 15 "Then Sings My Soul" with Shirley Brost
- July 22 "Exercise on the Beatitudes and Gifts of the Spirit" with Connie Zimbleman
- July 29 "TBD" with Karen Turgeon

Mark your calendars and join us for fellowship and fun.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION



GRADUATION: Congratulations to Antonio and the DeGioia family! Antonio graduated from Western Dakota Tech on Saturday, May 16, with an Associate degree in Surgical Technology. A reception for Antonio was held in the Fellowship Hall that afternoon. Pictured are Antonio, his parents, grandparents, and siblings. Thanks to Katie Hood for the photo.

BULLETINS: You may have noticed that some of the Sunday bulletins are being printed on colored paper now. We have a large supply of colored paper in the printer room that has been there for quite a while. Paper has a limited shelf life – in addition to fading, it can dry out making it harder to print on. So, rather than waste the paper, we're using it for the bulletins. It should last us for quite a while!

JACKETS AND COATS: Are you missing a jacket or a coat? There are 4 of them hanging on the rack outside the office, waiting for their owners to claim them!

Father's Day celebrates dads on the third Sunday in June every year. Originating in Washington state, it became a national holiday in 1972.



ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

PASTOR'S OFFICE COMPUTER:

The computer in the pastor's office is extremely outdated and cannot run current software. We have created a fund to replace the obsolete computer with a new laptop. Please stop by the office before June 1 if you would like to contribute to this fund. You can also drop a check in the collection plate with Computer Fund on the memo line. Thank you!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:

Twelve women from the congregation gathered at Killian's for a luncheon and fellowship on Wednesday, May 20. The women take the summer months of June, July, and August off, so the next meeting of Women's Fellowship will be on September 16 at 1:00. The September meeting is always a lunch meeting with the food provided by the WF executive board. Location of the meeting will be announced as we get closer to September. Thanks to Lorie Umphrey for the pictures.



ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

DEACONS' MEETING: A Deacons' Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, June 14**, after the worship service.

COUNCIL MEETING: A Council Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, June 28**, after the worship service.



JUNETEENTH: The church office will be closed on Friday, June 19th, in observance of the Juneteenth federal holiday. Juneteenth commemorates the day in 1865 when African Americans in Galveston, Texas, finally received word of their freedom. Occurring over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, it marks the effective end of slavery in the United States. The day is not just for historical remembrance but for celebrating Black culture and achievements.

LITURGISTS/USHERS: There are signup sheets on the glass counter for Liturgists and Ushers/Greeters – please consider volunteering!

ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

MISSIONS NEWS: We will continue to provide food for the Good Shepherd Clinic on the third Monday of the month. We have been contacted recently in regards to a slight change in the food. The GS Clinic is now treating more patients with dental issues. As a result, many of them are unable to eat the crunchy fruits and vegetables that we are providing. The clinic has now asked us to substitute some soft items for the raw crunchy items. For example, instead of 8-10 snack bags filled with raw veggies they are asking for a large bottle of fruit or veggie juice. Instead of the crunchy fruits they are asking for 8-10 individual fruit or jello cups. The GS Clinic will provide cups and plastic spoons for serving these items. If you have any questions in regards to this change, please contact Marcie Nuenke 605-717-7808 (home #) or 605-63-9719 (cell #). **THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING.**

Just a reminder to any Spearfish UCC graduating High School seniors or Spearfish UCC students currently attending a College or University. If you will be attending a college or university this Fall, you can submit an application for a Spearfish UCC scholarship. All currently enrolled college or university students are required to submit proof of their GPA. It must be a minimal of 2.5 to qualify. The scholarship application is available in the church office. It must be completed and returned to the office along with the proof of their applicant's GPA by Sunday, July 26th. The applications must be approved by the council. Any questions in regards to the Spearfish UCC Scholarship contact Marcie Nuenke 605-717-7808 (home) or 605-639-9719 (cell). It is the responsibility of the Mission Committee to oversee our church's scholarship fund.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION



FLAG DAY: In 1949, June 14th was officially designated Flag Day by President Harry S. Truman. Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the United States flag by the Second Continental Congress in 1777.

OUR DAILY BREAD: The *Our Daily Bread* booklets for June-July-August 2026 are available in the holder on the glass counter. Help yourself!

CONCERT: The second concert of the UCC Concert Series 2026 was held at the UCC Congregational Church in Spearfish on Sunday, May 24 at 4:00 pm. The concert featured BHSU music faculty Dr. Skye Van Duuren (trumpet) and Dr. Symeon Waseen (piano). 36 people attended the concert, and \$317.75 was raised for the Spearfish Food Pantry.

~~ June 2026 CALENDAR ~~

Tues	6/2	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study at Edgewood
Wed	6/3	10:45 am	Chapel at Edgewood
Sun	6/7	9:30 am	Worship/Communion/Fellowship
Tues	6/9	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study at Edgewood
Sun	6/14	9:30 am	Worship/Fellowship Deacon's Meeting after Service Flag Day
Tues	6/16	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study at Edgewood
Fri	6/19		Juneteenth Office Closed
Sun	6/21	9:30 am	Worship/Fellowship Father's Day
Tues	6/23	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study at Edgewood
Sun	6/28	9:30 am	Worship/Fellowship Council Meeting after Service
Tues	6/30	9:00 am	Coffee Time/Bible Study at Edgewood



June Anniversaries

June 9th Glenn & Lorie Umphrey

Happy Anniversary!

June Birthdays

June 4th John Daum

June 6th Loretta Endres

June 24th Glenn Umphrey

June 25th Jan Pharr

June 26th Summer DeGioia

June 27th Lynn Levensgood
David Stearns

Happy Birthday!



If your birthday or anniversary is missing or wrong, please let the office know so we can update our records. Thank you!

Pastor Todd's Office Hours:

M 8:00 am – 12:00 noon

Shirley's Office Hours:

M-F 8:00 am—12:00 noon

June Liturgists

June 7 Jim Hood

June 14

June 21

June 28

June Ushers & Greeters

June 7 Lorie & Glenn Umphrey

June 14 Loretta Thomas

June 21

June 28 Dana & Brian Eberhard

May Attendance & Facebook Viewers

May 3 42 / FB Viewers: N/A

May 10 42 / FB Viewers: 1

May 17 33 / FB Viewers: N/A

May 24 37 / FB Viewers: 1

May 31 N/A

June Good Shepherd Clinic Volunteers

Fruit & Veggies: Marcie Nuenke

June Altar & Tables Committee

Tables & Alter: Marcie Nuenke

INSPIRE

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