

# g GRACE CHURCH

Bi-Weekly E-Newsletter



## From the Pastor

As a staff, and even as a Lead Team, we have been convicted lately at our retreats, that it is important that we demonstrate by example the spiritual growth and commitment that we are asking of you.

I have been working on my own Spiritual Growth Plan, as I hope you have, and my focus has been primarily on my witness and worship. As I do that, I see that those two things are closely related.

I often find that my own growth, especially my desire to grow in Christ, is stimulated by exploring the prophets of the Old Testament. As I work through this book of Joel to prepare messages for instance, the Lord is reminding me of many things and that the need to persevere, especially in bad times, is so important to growing in Christ.

One of the biggest things I have been reminded of is that I need to resist blaming when things are not going well, whether that be at home, at church, or anywhere. When I blame, I am turning responsibility for my well-being over to something or someone else. If I blame evil, or Satan, or some human institution like government or corporations, or Hollywood, or whatever, even church, I don't have to look at myself.

I don't have to acknowledge the possibility that maybe my "loving God" might be bringing difficulty to me to test the genuineness of my faith. "I'm a pastor after all, I am farther along in this journey of growth than most, so I don't have to work as hard at it". What a dangerous way of thinking. Maybe we even have these thoughts if

we've been "Christians" for our whole life. "I can go on cruise control now".

No, the more we grow, the more the Lord expects of us, the more Satan buffets us. And God is always asking for us to acknowledge Him in everything, to continually confess and repent, surrender to Him, so that He may be seen, His reputation glorified in the world through His church, you and I.

I don't always like it at first, but I do always appreciate the reminder from the Lord that I alone am responsible for my words and deeds no matter what the circumstances, and who or what is responsible for them. Thank You Jesus!

- Pastor Sean



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# Youth



## City-Wide Garbage Clean Up

Jr. Youth - May 1<sup>st</sup> & Sr. Youth  
May 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Grace Youth, along with the other youth groups in Winkler will be taking part in a City Wide Clean Up. This is a great service event that we get to be a part of that serves our community

We will be meeting at the church at 5:30 for Pizza then going out and picking up garbage till 8:00

Youth are encouraged to wear clothing that can get dirty, rubber boots as there still might be water in the ditches, and gloves.

The congregation and Parents are invited to join us as we serve the community! If you are planning on joining, please let me know so I can order pizza accordingly.

## Prayer and Praise

Pray for our shut-ins and those with on-going health issues:

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| • Marie Klassen      | • Agnes Giesbrecht  |
| • Katherine Krahn    | • Guenter Strempler |
| • Marie Brown        | • Henry Hiebert     |
| • Anne Enns          | • Margaret Ayala    |
| • Marilyn Hildebrand | • Linda Jenkins     |
| • Abe Hildebrand     | • Dennis Wiebe      |
| • Helen Gerbrand     | • Irene Hildebrand  |
| • Marian Harder      |                     |



Congratulations to Kinsey & Phil Edwards on the birth of their son, Silas James, on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Silas was 7lb 8oz and 20 inches long.

May God bless you in your new role as parents and as you continue to serve at YWAM in Texas.



# Coming Events



## GRACE

# CAMPING WEEKEND

June 9-11, 2023

Plum Coulee Campground

EVERYONE is welcome to join us for activities, fun and fellowship.  
Come for some or all events

<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
<b>Evening:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bonfire</li> </ul>	<b>Afternoon:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lawn games</li> <li>Beach fun</li> </ul> <b>Evening:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weiner Roast Supper</li> <li>Baseball</li> <li>Bonfire with singing and sharing</li> <li>Outdoor movie for kids</li> </ul>	<b>Morning:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baptism at the beach</li> <li>Worship Service in the park</li> </ul> <b>Afternoon:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bunker catered lunch</li> <li>Games and activities for all ages</li> </ul>


ALL activities are open to everyone, whether you are staying overnight or going home to sleep. We'll continue to provide more details as the event draws closer.

There are still a couple of sites available for camping. Contact Ashley Fehr or Jodi Wiebe to register.

## How to Study the Bible Workshop

Understanding the Sun, Moon & Stars  
(Isaiah 13:10 and others)

New Date! **Tuesday, May 2**  
**7:00 pm**



# Thank You Volunteers!

## Ode to Church Volunteers

There are many among you who volunteer here  
You volunteer tirelessly and (usually) with cheer

Even though we ask you at the last minute,  
If it needs to be done, we can count on you to be  
in it.

You help teach our children or dry the dishes  
You plant or uproot things based on our wishes

Some flip pancakes, some fetch donuts  
How coffee gets made all the while is beyond us.

You decorate the church and then take it down  
You host the fun things we do around town

You greet and usher and serve Communion,  
Every Sunday is like a volunteer reunion!

Some of you sing and hit the right notes,  
Others play music great composers wrote.

You shuffle papers for mailings and fold the  
bulletins

You lead classes and meetings no matter what  
room they're in.

You commit for a day, a month or the year,  
When you see staff coming towards you, you  
cover in fear

It's not that you're "Done", you are just  
overcommitted

As you are kind, generous, gorgeous and quick-  
witted!

Every great volunteer is in great demand  
Without you these little jobs can get out of hand

We know you have lives and it's hard to commit  
We hope the difference you make, makes all this ...  
worth it.

The impact of your kindness brings many folks  
cheer,  
Grace Church volunteers: we are in awe of you this  
year!

Thank you, thank you, and thank you again,  
"Well done, faithful servants," well done, our  
friends!

## Thank You to our faithful Partnership Ministry Reps:

Steve Zacharias (The Bunker)

Chris Kalansky (Children of Hope)

George & Martha Olfert (Habitat for Humanity)

Walter Friesen (Camp ministries)

John Neufeld (MDS)

Karl Hariraj (Salem Home)

Judy Klassen (Salem Auxiliary)

Mel Hamm (UGM Sandwich Ministry)

## Thank You

Hi all! I just wanted to say a big thank you to all of you who came out and supported YFC at our annual Fish Fry Fundraiser last week. We were able to raise just over \$13,000 for the center! Unfortunately, I was frying so I wasn't able to talk and connect with those of you that came out, but from the sounds of it was a good turn out and I know we had a lot of fun in the shed frying up the fish for all of you! Thanks again to all of you that supported and with your help we continue to ministry to the youth of Morden and the surrounding area!

- Jaden, YFC Morden





# Community Events

## Bake Sale for Teya

A bake sale is planned on May 6 at the Winkler Co-op to help Teya Friesen (Derksen) pay for her medical expenses. If you'd like to help contribute baking please contact Evelyn, or drop it off at Co-op that morning. Or come out and purchase some delicious home-baked goods to support this cause.

## Coffee and Dessert Night Fundraising Concert!

This is D'Friesens kickoff to their spring and summer event schedule. Everyone is welcome to join us Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm, at the Winkler EMMC for some gospel music from Glorybound Quartet and D'Friesens, with dessert to follow. Free admission, freewill offering to be taken, with all proceeds going to support ongoing Low German ministries. Hope to see you there!



**THE BUNKER**  
545 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE

# FISH FRY

FUNDRAISER  
MEALS ARE BY DONATION  
DEEP-FRIED FISH, BAKED POTATO, TOSSED SALAD, & DESSERT

**SUNDAY, MAY 7TH**  
AT 11:30, 4:30, & 5:45  
BOOK YOUR SPOTS ONLINE!  
BUNKERMINISTRY.COM



Steinbach Bible College

# ANNUAL SBC GOLF TOURNAMENTS

*Quarry Oaks*  
JUNE 6 / 2023  
QUARRY OAKS, STEINBACH

*Minnewasta*  
JUNE 20 / 2023  
MINNEWASTA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, MORDEN

SBCCOLLEGE.CA/GOLF



pay it  
**FORWARD**  
MAY

**CHANGING OUR COMMUNITY, ONE GOOD DEED AT A TIME**

MORDEN AREA FOUNDATION  
Invest. Partner. Build.

#PIFMAY

WINKLER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Let's join together for

# MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

MAY 1 - MAY 5  
7 PM - 9 PM  
WINKLER ARTS + CULTURE  
547 PARK ST | WINKLER

All events are FREE to the public.  
No registration or fees required.

Brought to you by:

eden foundation ACCESS CO-OP GOLDEN WEST LODGE KING TRIPLE E

Join us for Mental Health Awareness Week 2023! This year's theme is **#getreal**. And we're doing just that, with stories from our community. We're doing our part to erase the stigma surrounding mental health. Can we count on you to provide a positive future of mental wellness in our communities?

Check [edenhealthcare.ca](http://edenhealthcare.ca) for details.