

# g GRACE CHURCH

Bi-Weekly E-Newsletter

## From the Lead Team

I drove away from Gateway, where I had dropped off my recycling, and noticed a hand painted sign on a front lawn – COUNT IT ALL JOY!!!

Hmm . . . Really??? Now??? What would that look like for me today? Maybe that is like counting your blessings one by one? Or every cloud has a silver lining?

OK – I'll try that:

- I still feel incredibly blessed to live in southern Manitoba. We haven't been ravaged by fire or flood.
- My children grew up with the blessings of a Christian family, school, friendships. That good foundation.
- As a farm family, there will be no bumper crop but we'll be ok – God has always taken care of us.
- Grace Church, my home church from the get go, is standing firm on the Word of God!

But I know this 'message' really means much more. It reminds me that:

- When I watch the news – to PRAY for the strife and turmoil everywhere and for the many broken peoples. Jesus came to save ALL!
- God has a plan and He is in control of EVERYTHING!
- He's not finished with me yet! Like the Israelites in the desert moving towards the promised land, God is teaching me His perfect ways, His faithfulness, His purpose for my life. And yep, sometimes it's slow going. Like an athlete striving for the Olympics, trials develop our

spiritual muscles, giving us the stamina and endurance to stay the course.

May I learn to walk with positive expectation, faith, trust, and even joy.

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." James 1:2-4.

- Melody Hamm

## Getting back to church

With the latest announcement of easing of restrictions we are now allowed 150 people to attend our services in person. It's so exciting to be able to worship together again.

We ask that you register and we'll reserve a spot especially for you. (register by emailing or calling the office, or use the link on our website).

If you'd like to attend every week, let us know and we'll add you to our "**Regulars**" list. Then just let us know when you can't come.

If you'd like to be part of the greeting team, talk to Mel Friesen or Wendy.

# Coming Events



August 8 | Online Community Service

Guest Speaker

Danny Mackay

Testimony

Ryan Rempel

Music

Orlando & Grace Sukkau

Children's Feature

Jeanette Hoeppner

A collection will be taken and will be divided between  
Eden Foundation, Danny Mackay's Preaching Ministry & Give the Word

Cheque donations can be made out to Bethel Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
and sent to Box 197, Winkler, MB, R6W 4A5. They will handle receiving.  
You can also donate online at ourbethelchurch.com.

## Grace Annual Pool Party



August 12  
7-9 pm

Everyone is invited to join us at the Winkler Aquatic Center for an evening of fun. This is a free event, but please register so we know how many to expect. Call the office or click the link on our website to register.

Bring snacks to share. We'll provide the drinks.

## Sunday School

What a strange year it was to be a Sunday School Superintendent and teacher. In the last year we started, stopped, came back in an alternate format, and stopped again. Offering online lessons from Saddleback Church from the USA as an alternative to in person lessons.

Fall of 2021 we are planning to come back in person for those that feel comfortable to do so. To do this, we will need a few things:

- Teachers for Age 3 – grade 12
  - Teach by yourself, or find someone to partner with
- Classroom Helpers
- Washable toys for Age 3 – Kindergarten Classroom

Grace has some of the best covenant community members that have stepped up in the past, and we've seen the impact it has on the children when they get to see their church family teaching them. I encourage anyone that is interested to reach out to Tania Thiessen or Jordan Froese to learn more.

## CHURCH PICNIC

August 8 | Following the Worship Service

Join us for an afternoon of fun. Bring your own picnic, we'll provide the dessert and games!



# HAPPILY Ever After

Celebrating our soon to be married couples.

## Elicia Wiebe & Matt Young



Getting married on October 10, 2021

Matt and I originally met at Briercrest in 2015 but reconnected at country cycle in May 2020. We are planning on living in Winkler for a little while.

## Grace Wedding Shower



This past week our Shower Committee delivered gifts to all our couples getting married in 2021 (including 2 that were married in 2020). Each gift basket contained some generic cleaning supplies, the book "The Five Love Languages" and a gift certificate for the couple to purchase some needed items for their new home.

We celebrated the marriages of Juan & Breanna Harms, Levi & Chantal Froese, Jesse & Rosie Dueck, Jami & Ben Schroeder, Chelsea Gerbrandt & Rylan Price, Dominik Klassen & Chelsea Braun, Ethan Friesen & Sarah Roopchand, Elicia Wiebe & Matt Young, and Kinsey Magi & Philip Edwards.

## Prayer and Praise

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

- Margaret Peters
- Agnes Giesbrecht
- Maria Loewen
- Karl Redekop
- Dawson Froese
- Marie Klassen
- Katherine Krahn
- Marie Brown
- Anne Enns
- Henry Hiebert

"Thank you to the church family for your prayers. The doctors have cleared me to start walking again, as the ankle is healing." - Dennis Wiebe



This week we praise God for 2 great-grandbabies!



Neil and Ellie Reimer are thrilled to announce the arrival of Beckett Reid Rempel, a little brother for Easton. Beckett was born on June 3 to Brad Rempel and Macenzie Thompson. Beckett's grandparents are Bev and John Rempel.



Congratulations to Dennis & Sue Driedger on the birth of their first great-grandchild, Olive Wren Janzen, who was born on July 17 to Mike & Sarah Janzen of Abbotsford, BC. Proud grandparents are Garry & Michelle Janzen.