

WHITEWATER MENNONITE CHURCH

April 19th, 2020

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

BULLETIN

FROM THE PASTOR'S Desk:

- ❖ Bible Reading: Monday, April 20: Deuteronomy 16-17, John 17, Psalm 85
- ❖ Bible Project videos:
 - Deuteronomy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMhmDPWeftw>
 - Acts <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQhkWmFJKnA>
- ❖ Current Covid-19 updates, Manitoba Health's website. <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/>
- ❖ Boissevain Ministerial: - Suggesting 9 am prayers for health, community, nation, world.



April 22 is Earth Day. Earth Day is not a Christian holiday, but it should be...renamed, Creation Day, of course. And, it would fittingly be celebrated just after Resurrection Day which marks out the new creation, when God did a new thing in Jesus, the first fruits from the dead. The Earth (and the rest of creation) is indeed the Lord's. And all creation, alongside us, longs for the final setting of all to rights. Let this sink deeper into your being and interrogate your actions and assumptions, *even as we*, creatures, labor with creation to bring forth food, fiber, energy and all the things that make for human flourishing. We are brothers and sisters under one God, Creator, Judge, Redeemer, and Friend. God has held out the choice to us: will we be adversaries or partners on the way of life.

- Embrace that almost lost Mennonite virtue: simplicity.
- Turn of the lights at 7:00 on the 22nd for an hour.
- Consider the lilies, wild asparagus, returning birds and give thanks.
- Participate in the financial and political system in ways that testify to Christ' death and resurrection.

If the groundwork hasn't been sufficiently done, I'm including a *quick* sketched outline of an attempt to take God as creator seriously.

- God is the creator. Gen 1 & 2, John 1, and significantly Israel often appealed to God as creator when they were appealing to God for salvation (Is 40:28-31, Is 66.2). Therefore...
- God in Gen 1 & 2 put humanity *within* creation (we *are* creation ourselves) as God's stewards.
- Creation is God's (Ex 19:5, Ps 50:10-11), not humanity's (Lv 25:23).
- Non-human creation has a purpose and even personality/agency/feeling separate from humanity (Gen 4.11, Lv 18:28, 20:22, Num 16:32, 22:21-30, Jonah's whale, Rm 8:19-23).*
 - Therefore, non-human creation also suffers from the Fall, and can also be sinned against (see the ground in Cain's field, Balaam's donkey or the fields in Lv 26:34-35, the fruit trees of Dt 20:19b).
 - Creation awaits, like us the final redemption (and judgement)...and will receive it. (Rom 8:19-23, Col 1:15-20, Lv 20:22, Is 65:17, 25)
 - God cares about his non-human creation. This is implicit from the passages already cited, but Jesus says God watches over each sparrow (Lk 12:6).
 - We are to be creation's priesthood. That is, humans, as stewards and representatives, exercising God-like dominion we are to lift up the praises of creation to God as the psalmists do (Ps 8, 104) and as creation will if we don't (Lk 19:40).

What's missing? What would you do differently?

* That these examples don't fit within a flat, modern, materialistic worldview are of little consequence to my point. Whether or not all these creatures are indeed somehow willful or whether the language is purely metaphorical, the rest of creation is biblically conceived of as *neighbor not mere resource*.

Stewardship: Thank you for your gifts, offering envelopes may be dropped in **Peter Neufeld's** mailbox
or mailed to Box 715.

PRAYER, PRAISE, BLESSINGS & REFLECTION

- Health, healing, comfort:
Mel & Lynn, brother & sis in law - **Catherine Heide**
- Congratulations! **Lena Franz** on the birth of Great G Son, **Patrick**, on March 26
- Condolences: **Joan West** on the passing of sister, Donna.
- Communicate with residents @ **Evergreen & Westview** via I-Pad.
To make arrangements and connect: **Westview** - 204 534 2455, **Evergreen** - 204 534 3337
- For all those in care, first responders, our political leaders, small business owners, employees both laid off and working.



- ✚ April 22 ~ Earth Day
- ✚ 30 ~ Bidding ends - John Deere Light String, current bid \$20 Send bids to wmc.office.1927@gmail.com
- ✚ Return to normal church scheduling is directly related to government guidelines.

COMMUNITY AND YONDER:

- Ω For Services, Sermons & other, visit: MCCan <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/worshipservices>
MCM <https://mennochurch.mb.ca/>
Sunday School Resources <https://shinecurriculum.com/shineathome/free-resources/>
Whitewater M C Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/whitewatermc/>
MCC 100 stories <https://mcc.org/centennial/100-stories/through-lens-mcc-100>
- Ω **Teaching** has gone online publically and privately, bringing challenges to teachers & students. Unique methods come into play, requiring additional focus on the part of the student as well as the teacher.
- Ω **Camps With Meaning** – ADV Spring Sessions, May 25 – June 5, have been cancelled.
- Ω **MCMb Board:** ... following the departure of **Ken Warkentin** on June 30, **Rick Neufeld** will add the role of *Interim Executive Minister* (EM) to his current position as Leadership Ministries Director. **Peter Rempel (Charleswood M C)** will take on EM administrative tasks following his and **Elsie's** return from voluntary service in Germany.
.... Search continues for full time *Executive Minister*
- Ω Mennonite Collegiate Institute 'MCI': New Leadership team ~ **Harold Schlegel**-Executive Director, **Toby Wiens** - Acting Principal, **Paul Peters**- Director of Student Life. <https://mciblues.net/>
- Ω MCC Manitoba Thankyou video from **Darryl Loewen** has a Boissevain connection:
<https://mcc.thankview.com/video/5e8ce51e84b24/whitewater-mennonite-church>
- Ω White Heart movement: mennochurch.mb.ca/article/8837-whiteoutmb-karen-and-moses-start-a-movement
- Ω **Church Building Committee: Spring 1960**, intense planning for new church to be built in Boissevain continued.
Additions to board of **Peter Cornelson**, **George G Fast**, **Jake J Heide**, **Jacob P Dyck** & **Peter Franz**, were **Peter Heide** & **John Engbrecht**

Anyone who has grown mentally, physically, or spiritually knows that growth is not found in comfort." Unknown