

WHITEWATER MENNONITE CHURCH

April 26th, 2020

SUNDAY'S BULLETIN



FROM THE PASTOR'S Desk:

- ❖ Bible Readings: Monday, April 27: Deuteronomy 30-31, Acts 3, Psalm 92
- ❖ Bible Project video: Joshua https://youtu.be/JqOqJlFF_eU
- ❖ 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 26 WMC Video Service: P Wes will send out a link via e-mail & WMC's Facebook page. Participants are Bernie Tiessen, Sheldon Dyck & P Wes. Scripture: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35
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When I shop, I tend to wander. I don't have laser focus in the grocery store. That's changed somewhat recently. I'm reminded of my mission by the friendly interrogation I get from Sidney upon entering and by the bright orange arrows guiding my movements through the store. When I've been there, it seems like the stores been completely taken over by high schoolers, whose part-time jobs to provide spending money, down payments for cars, or college are suddenly "essential." Essential workers have, of course, always been essential to our communities, and now is a good time to recognize our friends and neighbors for service they provide, to thank them, to thank God for them and to cover them with prayer. There no reason this should change when the virus is gone.

As talk of (and, to the South, protest for) the reopening of normal life begins to swirl, let us be careful to avoid sloganizing or snap judgements. There is always a calculus at work consciously and unconsciously calculating risks. (We calculate the risks, count the cost, when we head to Brandon on an icy morning--our lives and the lives of other motorists.) Be that as it may, let us take care in our thinking (and acting) when it comes to adding to the risk essential workers and those with underlying health issues are exposed to. They will bear the brunt of the increased health risk. The former because of all their social contact, the latter because they truly suffer if they contract the Covid-19 virus. Let us rely on of the life of Jesus (and Jesus as the Way, Truth and Life) as our guide for action and reasoning in the world.

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**, **Sheldon Dyck**
- *Congratulations!* **Lena Franz** on the birth of Great G Son, **Patrick**, on March 26
- Condolences: **Greg & Amber McCoy** & family **Judy Adams** & family
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.
- For the many who are affected by the recent tragedy at **Portapique**, Nova Scotia. See prayer below.



- ✚ April 30~ Bidding ends - John Deere Light String, current bid \$25 Send bids to wmc.office.1927@gmail.com
- ✚ May 10~ Mother's Day
- ✚ Return to normal church scheduling is directly related to government guidelines.

COMMUNITY AND YONDER:

- Ω For Services, Sermons & other, visit: YouTube – **P Wes** will send link prior Sunday for **WMC service**
 - Whitewater M C Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/whitewatermc/>
 - MCCan <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/worshipservices>
 - MCM <https://mennochurch.mb.ca/>
 - Sunday School Resources <https://shinecurriculum.com/shineathome/free-resources/>
 - CommonWord Resources www.commonword.ca
 - MWC www.mwc-cmm.org/courier.
 - MCC 100 stories <https://mcc.org/centennial/100-stories/through-lens-mcc-100>
 - MDS (on pause) <https://mds.mennonite.net/>
 - Ω **Boissevain Food Pantry:** The shelves are emptying fast. Could use all all the regular items. Cereal, canned veggies, rice, pasta, tomato sauce, canned fruit, \$\$\$, etc
 - Ω **Teaching** public and private has gone online, bringing challenges to teachers & students. Unique methods come into play, requiring additional focus on the parts of the students as well as the teachers.
 - Ω **Camps With Meaning** – ADV Spring Sessions, May 25 – June 5, have been cancelled.
 - Ω **MCMb Board:** Search continues for full time *Executive Minister*
 - Ω MCM Info re Pandemic Responses; www.mennochurch.mb.ca/virusresponse
 - Ω **MCC:** - Manitoba Offices are closed, please hold donations of kits items & comforters until further notice.
- Annual Golf Tournament postponed to September 10th.
 - Ω Counseling for a broad range of mental health challenges is available from:
 - a. Recovery of Hope. 204-325-5355 or ehcs@edenhealthcare.ca**
 - b. The Counseling Centre 204-726-8706 or info@counsellingcentre.ca**
 - c. Eden Health Care <https://edenhealthcare.ca/the-wellness-support-line/> 204-325-6585**
- WMC is willing to help lower the financial barriers preventing someone's access to this benefit by covering 50% of the cost of the first 3 sessions to either of the counseling services listed. Contact Pastor Wes or Leadership.

*"In the Jesus business, community is always a part of healing. Even though community is never perfect."
— Nadia Bolz-Weber*

Prayer for Portapique, Nova Scotia

Written by Rachel Siemens, Pastor of Carman Mennonite Church, Carman, MB
Permission is granted by the author for you to use this in your worship.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

We bring you our broken hearts and place into your great care

all of the lives lost in Nova Scotia in this rampage.
We entrust their souls to your bountiful love which knows no end in time or eternity.



Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We weep with those who are weeping.
Send your Spirit of comfort to the many many people who are mourning the death of their mothers and fathers, their sons and daughters, their family and neighbours, their friends and colleagues.
Embrace them as their grief is compounded by the inability to come together to mourn in person and comfort each other with hugs and tears.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Grant your strength and your comfort to the many people who are working to help in a variety of ways: for first responders, investigators, funeral directors, mayors and town councils, for pastors and journalists, and those whose work goes unnamed.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We bring to you our shock, our grief, our fear, our outrage;
"This doesn't happen in Canada!"
But this did happen.
We bring you our loss of innocence.
As we react and respond to this awful event,
may we not become cynical and close our hearts to others or to you.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

God of compassion and mercy,
we offer you our prayer in the strong name of Jesus, Our Risen Saviour,
who taught us to pray, ***Our Father...***