

# WHITEWATER MENNONITE CHURCH

May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## BULLETIN



### FROM THE PASTOR'S Desk:

- ❖ Bible Readings: Monday, May 25: 1 Samuel 3-4 , Romans 3 , Psalm 121  
Bible Project videos: 1 Samuel <https://youtu.be/QJOju5Dw0V0>  
Romans [https://youtu.be/ej\\_6dVdJSIU](https://youtu.be/ej_6dVdJSIU)
- ❖ May 24<sup>th</sup> WMC Video Service: P Wes will send out a link via e-mail & WMC's Facebook page.  
Participants: **Marc, Amy, Micah & Justice Loewen, Marg Kroeke, r Sheldon Dyck & P Wes.**  
Scripture: *Psalm 93 1 Peter 5:6-11 John 17:1-11*
- ❖ The church carpets are clean and electrical outlets updated in the balcony. Thanks to the hard work of Herman, Peter (Candy-Man), Matt, P. Wes, Jake N, Ed A., Don N., Anaïs and Maeve. What fun! And thanks!
- ❖ Ministry opportunity: How could we honor our high school grads? Ideas?
- ❖ Boissevain Ministerial: - Suggested 9 am prayers for health, community, nation, world.
- ❖ Current Covid-19 updates, Manitoba Heath's website. <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/>



Ascension Day - 21 May

Ascension Day was not part of my religious upbringing. Here, it was celebrated, but from what I've heard children, at least, didn't always know why. For some, it was about getting out of school, and, according to Jake Unger, shooting gophers! While I would not seek to lift up the Ascension to the level of, say, the incarnation, or death or resurrection of Jesus, it does dovetail in very nicely with all three. The Ascension speaks, very practically, to the problem of Jesus and his body. What happened to it? No! What happened to him? How does the resurrected and glorified God-Man assume his throne? What/how is physicality in heaven? Or in the combined heaven and earth of new creation? These are questions the Ascension provokes and invites.

In Christ Jesus, God took humanity right into the very life of Godself. Historic Christian faith affirms that God did not change into and then out of human flesh, but rather through incarnation (through birth), death and resurrection took humanity from its current form subject to death and futility through to new creation in the person of Jesus Christ first, and then to all who believe. How reality squares with our ability to comprehend it is, well, sort of our problem and joy to dream up, God willing.

(Not) Cole's Notes for N.T. Wright's The Resurrection of the Son of God.

Wright argues from the historical record that 1) "resurrection" meant bodily coming back to life from real death, and 2) the early church proclaimed the resurrected Jesus. Furthermore, the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth implies that he really was (is):

1) Israel's Messiah. In [Jesus], "the creator's covenant plan to deal with the sin and death that has so radically infected his world has reached its long awaited and decisive fulfillment." (728) In other words, Israel's hopes and God's promises to Israel were fulfilled in Jesus (incarnation, life, death & resurrection) albeit in unexpected ways. This is largely what Paul is talking about when defending the righteousness of God in his letter to the Romans.

2) "the world's true sovereign", "the true monarch of the gentile world." This was the subversive claim by Jesus before Pilate, and the New Testament church when they spoke of Jesus as Christ, Lord and son of God in the face of Roman Emperor Caesar's claim to those titles.

3) the "personal embodiment and revelation of the one true [G]od." The claims made of Jesus, the honor given to him by the church required a new way of thinking about the one true God. Jesus Christ (and the subsequently sent Holy Spirit) are distinct from Israel's one true God--known in this formula as Father--and yet, indivisibly unified, one in essence. This is a mystery.

While the book was a major slog to get through (2 years, 738 pages) and its claims to the historicity of the resurrection of Jesus were already held by me, the sorting through the history, the biblical texts, and the working towards the implications of the resurrection were life-giving, challenging and energizing for me. The challenge in all times is to let the gospel, the power of God let loose in Jesus Christ and continued in the Holy Spirit's outpouring work on us, bringing us from death to life. I thank God for Wright's book as it helped me in that process.

**Stewardship: *New way to give!*** - Send E-transfer to [wmcstewardship@gmail.com](mailto:wmcstewardship@gmail.com) This option is for those with internet banking. Offering envelopes may continue to be dropped in **Peter Neufeld's** mailbox or mailed to Box 715.  
**Thank you for your gifts!**

### PRAYER, PRAISE, BLESSINGS & REFLECTION

- Health, healing, comfort: **Ernie** - Lena Franz's son, **Sheldon Dyck**  
**Mel & Lynn**, brother & sis in law - **Catherine Heide**
- Communicate with residents @ **Evergreen & Westview** via I-Pad.  
To make arrangements and connect: **Westview** - 204 534 2455, **Evergreen** - 204 534 3337
- Local government, businesses, recreation facilities & individuals are all concerned with the easing of Covid-19 restrictions. May wisdom, patience and understanding be prominent in the coming daze.
- This year's spring planting season is upon us, bringing challenges and optimism in the fields and gardens. May the Spirit abound and grant spring renewal to nature around us and to the efforts put forth in this sowing season.



- ✚ **TODAY!~ Ascension Sunday**
- ✚ May 31 ~ Pentecost
- ✚ June 7 ~ Trinity Sunday
- ✚ 20 ~ World Refugee Day
- ✚ 25 ~ MCC 56<sup>th</sup> AGM via Zoom, notice of meeting, details coming soon
- ✚ Return to normal church scheduling is directly related to government guidelines.

### COMMUNITY AND MORE:

- Ω For Services, Sermons & other, visit: YouTube – **P Wes** will send YouTube link prior to Sunday's **WMC service**  
Whitewater M C Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/whitewatermc/>  
MCI Chamber Choir 'North' <https://youtu.be/R7TCos06SZY> Natasha & Andrew Heide  
MCCan Sunday Service <https://www.hmc.on.ca/mc-canada> begins 9:45 EDT,  
Chinatown Peace Church, B C Acts 1:6-11, John 16:5-28, 33 communion included in this service  
- International Witness Director Jeanette Hanson <https://youtu.be/fjYi7PcnFTY> Ephesians 2:17-22  
MCM - <https://mennochurch.mb.ca/>
- \*\*\*\* - [Hope Unleashed page](#) *Crystal City / Trinity M C's merge story*, singing, children's stories  
Sunday School Resources <https://shinecurriculum.com/shineathome/free-resources/>  
CommonWord Resources [www.commonword.ca](http://www.commonword.ca)  
- Bible Storytelling with Carrie Miller [www.commonword.ca/go/2022](http://www.commonword.ca/go/2022)  
MWC [www.mwc-cmm.org/courier](http://www.mwc-cmm.org/courier)  
MCC - 100 stories <https://mcc.org/centennial/100-stories/through-lens-mcc-100>

- Centennial Colouring Book [mcccanada.ca/media/resources/10546](http://mcccanada.ca/media/resources/10546)
- Abuse response & Prevention [www.abuseresponseandprevention.ca](http://www.abuseresponseandprevention.ca).

MDS (activities suspended) <https://mds.mennonite.net/>

- Ω **Boissevain Food Pantry:** Donations graciously & gratefully accepted.  
Cereal, canned veggies, rice, pasta, tomato sauce, canned fruit, \$\$\$, etc
- Ω **Camp Koinonia Inc.** is very pleased to announce that **Evan Laramée** and **Meara Sparling** have recently moved to Camp Koinonia. Once Camp is reopened, *currently closed due to Covid 19*, Evan and Meara will be employed by the camp as *Onsite Caretakers*. We are very excited to have Evan and Meara on our Camp Koinonia Team.
  - **Camps w Meaning:** Overnight camping has been cancelled for the summer of 2020, disappointing many staff, campers and parents. This places finances in a difficult situation.
- Ω **MCMb Board:** Praying for wisdom throughout interviews of potential candidates for Executive Minister.
- Ω **MCM** Info re Pandemic Responses; [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/virusresponse](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/virusresponse)
- Ω **MCC:** - **Brandon Thrift Store** is again accepting donations, Covid-19 conditions will be applied re delivery and prepping for in store display. Please contact the store prior to delivery. If you are wishing to volunteer, contact Amy Loewen regarding necessary precautions.
- Ω **WMC History:** 60 years ago, 2 lots for a new church building in Boissevain were purchased from the Mrs. George Strong for \$2,393.45, town frontage fees \$129.15 and lawyer's fees of \$23.50 concluded this purchase.

*"The simple act of paying attention can take you a long way." Keanu Reeves*