

## PRAYER, PRAISE, BLESSINGS & REFLECTION

### WMC FAMILY:

\*... **Joan West**

\*... Health, healing, comfort:

**Lisa Heide**

\*...The family of **Jessie Neufeld**, thanks those who sent food, cards and condolences. Your prayers and presence at the Memorial Service are greatly appreciated.

**Our Community...** With the **Christmas** drawing near many plans for gathering, Travelling and celebrating. May the gathering be with joy, the travels safe and that Christ may be the center of our celebrations.

### Wider Church....

... **CPT, Christian Peacemaker Teams:** will be actively working on the United States/Mexico borderlands, Feb 19-29, 2020. Prayers for those joining this team as they are immersed in the reality of migrants in detention, effect on local residents in the bordering communities. [www.cpt.org/delegations/borderlands](http://www.cpt.org/delegations/borderlands).

... **Camps with Meaning:** staff applications [www.campswithmeaning.org](http://www.campswithmeaning.org)

... Transitions: **Ken Warkentin** has announced his resignation as Executive Minister, MCM, effective June 2020. Ken's will have served 9.5 years in this capacity

### WMC's Identity Statement:

'With our feet firmly planted in our Anabaptist and Mennonite beginnings, we work to reach out with our hands to welcome and lift up all who come here. We encourage one another with the heart of Christ to learn and to grow in spiritual maturity **and to take amazing risks for God.**'

#### Whitewater Mennonite Church

**Pastor:** Wes Goertzen

Office: 204 534 2996

Cell: 204 305 0665

Email: [whitewaterpastor@gmail.com](mailto:whitewaterpastor@gmail.com)

**Ministers:** The Congregation

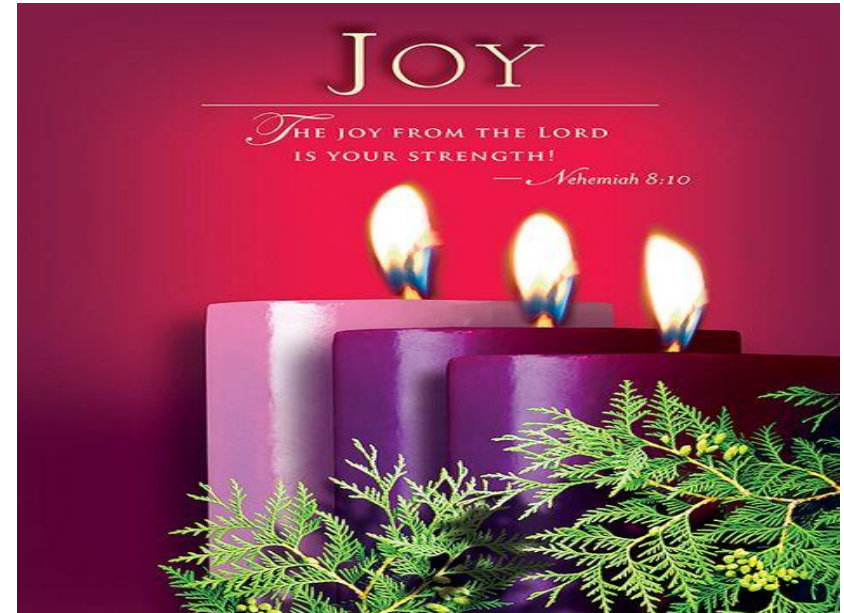
**Administration:** Herman Dyck 534 6889

Email: [wmc.office.1927@gmail.com](mailto:wmc.office.1927@gmail.com)

**Custodians:** Matt & Heather Heide 534 3270

Church Booking? Contact Matt or Herman

# Whitewater Mennonite Church



Worship Leader:

Lorraine Reimer

Message:

Pastor Wes

Music:

Sheldon Dyck

*December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 @ 10:45 a.m.*

**Isaiah 35:1-10 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Supporting Texts: Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-11, Matthew 11:1-11*

ISAIAH CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE

N A G E L L S T Y T O R N M A N	BEAST	REJOICE
D A N N E A R T O O S P O T I T	BLOSSOM	SHARON
D E E M I A F N R O J S E E N S	CARMEL	SIGHING
M E R L E H G O M O S E R N M A	DESERT	SINGING
K A H H C U G B O O N E S A E L	FEARFUL	SONGS
C N A C E N H I L L H G E L I D	FOOLS	SORROW
Z E E A R S U B S T S R O O T W	GROUND	STREAMS
W I P E R A R O O F T T N E E D	HEART	STRONG
W H O E S E P H A S E S S A V E	HIGHWAY	THEREIN
M A T N J S O S H T H A K A N T	JOY	THIRSTY
D A Y O W B D I I N H N R E E D	KNEES	TONGUE
W E I S T O G E S N O I R F N B	LION	UNCLEAN
I C S A S H R O E R G E R U U D	OBTAIN	WATERS
E V I E W S N R A R M I O S T L	OPENED	WAY
S N E A R G S H O O T R N U T S	PARCHED	WEAK
A B Y S S T S A Y S G O N G S Y	REEDS	ZION



James 5:7. A meditation: Out of context. "The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains." While there is distance geographically and chronologically between biblical times and ours, Jesus' birth and ours, I'm struck again how agrarian, how earthy, the Bible is. How close its imagery is to our own rural experience. Yes, it takes careful and repeated reading, listening, and study to really latch onto the richness and depth of scripture, but God wants to communicate, longs to be known by you, knows you and loves you exactly where you're at, waiting for a good harvest, hoping for a good Spring. The Lord is compassionate and merciful at the end of time. In the meantime.



**TODAY ~ Third Advent! Welcome!**

- Dec 19 ~ MCI Christmas Concert, 7:30pm
- 21 ~ 'The Longest Night', St Paul's U C 7pm #2
- 21 & 22 ~ Faith & Life Choirs Christmas Concerts #3
- 24 ~ Christmas Eve Special, 6:30pm, come join us @ WMC

**Activities & Interests ...**

**WMC:**

- a. **WMC Annual reports and budget** considerations should be happening, due in **9 days**. (Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>)
- b. **Thank you** for your giving so far this year. We have not given anything to the Missions part of our budget yet. We need \$6,500.00 to meet our budget commitments. Thank you, **Finance Committee**
- c. **Advent media** suggestions:  
  - YouTube -The Bible Project - hope, peace, joy or love
  - Podcast: The Ten Minute Bible Hour - Matt Whitman's daily podcast offers a deep dive into historical and contextual background of Matthew's gospel account in easy, 10 minute chunks.
  - Favorite contemporary Christmas album: Josh Garrels, "The Light Came Down"

**Community....**

1. **Boissevain Christmas Cheer** – Donations welcomed, collection container under WMC mailboxes.
2. **The Longest Night**, a service of hope and healing from grief and loss, 7pm on December 21st at St. Paul's United Church.
3. **Faith & Life Choirs Christmas Concerts:** "O Come Let Us Adore Him"  
 Dec 21, 7pm @ Bethel MC Wpg      Dec 22, 3 pm Altona Berghaler MC

Boissevain Youth: Stuart Burnett 557-7486 [stuart\\_burnett@live.com](mailto:stuart_burnett@live.com)  
 Bible Studies end this week for 2020: Tuesdays: Jr - 3:30-5pm, Sr - 7-9pm  
 Dec 20 ~ Sr - Christmas Banquet

*"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope." Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI)*