

g GRACE CHURCH

Bi-Weekly E-Newsletter



from the Pastor

AI: Ease < Struggle

AI has become a constant companion for many of us—helping with work, offering advice, even providing friendship through chatbots. For those guiding teenagers, this presents both opportunities and challenges we can navigate together.

ChatGPT is being used to ask for help about friend drama, using AI tutors for school, or work problems. Some have even formed emotional bonds with AI companions that never disagree or have bad days. Sounds perfect, right? But here's the catch: real growth happens through struggle, not shortcuts.

Why It Matters

When AI does the thinking for us—whether in work advice or problem-solving—we miss out on building critical thinking skills. This is especially concerning for young people whose brains are still developing, but we all need that mental exercise. And those "perfect" AI friends? They can teach us that relationships should be effortless, skipping the messy but essential work of empathy, forgiveness, and compromise that shapes mature character.

Spiritually, instant AI answers can replace the sacred space of wrestling with God, waiting in prayer, and sitting with mystery—something we all need, regardless of age. As Proverbs 25:2 reminds us, there's glory in the search itself, not just the answer.

Moving Forward Together

Start conversations with those around you about how they use AI tools and what they use them for. Help them see the difference between AI as a

helpful tutor versus a replacement for their own thinking. Create tech-free zones where face-to-face connection thrives.

Strive for healthy tech habits that create space for time with God. One hour a day, one day a week, one week a month, one month a year, where you put aside the distractions to spend time with our Saviour and Lord

Technology and AI are not going anywhere, so let's learn to be wise, discerning, and good stewards of what God has placed under our control. Remember, we're called to Love God, Love Others, and Make Disciples. It is then important for us to develop healthy boundaries and habits around technology and AI to help us in that.

Recommended Books:

- 12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You by *Tony Reinke*
- The Anxious Generation by *Jonathan Haidt*
- Engaging God's World by *Cornelius Plantinga Jr.*

- Pastor Brad

usher needed

We need an usher to help out on one of our usher teams. If you'd like to serve as an usher or have questions, please talk to Loni Derksen or Wendy.

grace youth

Hey Grace Church!

We have kicked off the new year by continuing our series on the Upside Down Kingdom and seeing how Jesus instructed us to live in the Sermon on the Mount. It is always amazing to see how relevant Jesus' teaching is to us 2000 years later and how upside down it is to the way the world operates.

This week

Jr. Youth

- Jan. 19 - Regular Youth Night (7:00-9:00)
- Topic - How Jesus Prayed - The Lord's Prayer
Bring your Bibles

Sr. Youth

- Jan. 21 - Worship Night
- Everyone is welcome (Church, Friends, etc.)
- Topic - How Jesus Prayed - The Lord's Prayer
Bring your Bibles

Youth Retreats!

Sr. Youth Retreat!

When: January 30-February 1

Where: Camp Cedarwood

Deadline to sign up Jan. 21

Jr. Youth Retreat!

When: February 13-15

Where: Winkler Bible Camp

Deadline to sign up Jan. 26

Upcoming / Youth Retreat Dates

Jr. Youth

Jan. 26 - Small Groups

Feb. 2 - No Youth - P.D. Day

Feb. 9 - Regular Youth Night

Feb. 13-15 - Jr. Youth Retreat - Winkler Bible Camp

Sr. Youth

Jan. 28 - Small Groups

Jan. 30-Feb.1 - Retreat - Camp Cedarwood

Feb. 4 - Regular Youth Night

Feb. 11 - Regular Youth Night

As always, if you have any questions, please ask :)

Blessings,
Pastor Brad

sunday school

It has been great being back after the Christmas break. A reminder that our giving is still going to Esperanza Orphanage.

See you Sunday!

senior's supper

Date: Tuesday - January 20th

Time: 5:00 pm

Where: Grace Church, Fellowship Hall

Who: All seniors (55+) are welcome

welcome
little one



Congratulations to Dustin & Kaitlin Dyck on the birth of their daughter, Everly Mae, on Dec 30th. Everly was born weighing 5.11 lbs and 19" long.

Congratulations, also, to proud grandparents, Harv & Connie Dyck.



Prayer and Praise

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

At Home:

- Linda Hiebert
- Gladys Wiebe
- Anne Enns
- Helene Kuhl
- Linda Jenkins
- Florence Dyck
- Dennis Wiebe
- Marie Brown
- Marilyn Hildebrand
- Alexander Sauer
- Allan Derksen
- Leo Braun

Notre Dame: Irene Hildebrand

In Salem Home: Helen Loepky
Elva Hildebrand
Agnes Giesbrecht
Maria Klassen

Thanks

I'm glad to be home from the hospital. Thanks to all of you who visited me! Also, thanks to Grace for your help throughout the year - visits, friendly chats, many rides, coffees, etc. and for giving me the chance to serve as usher for many years! I like to come to Grace!

- Leo Braun

I want to thank Pastor Tim for conducting the Memorial service for Tom.

Thank you to all who sent cards and/or donations. A big thank you to the team, who at short notice, provided a delicious meal.

The Hesom family appreciate everyone's kind thoughts and prayers.

- Les Hesom

Missions Night

Thursday, January 29 @ 7pm

Anita Wiebe, director of Central Station will be here to share about the different programs and services Central Station provides and the needs they strive to meet. She will also be sharing about ways for you to get involved. The evening will also include ideas for how, Grace Church, can support Central Station. Coffee & Snack will be served.



Mission Update

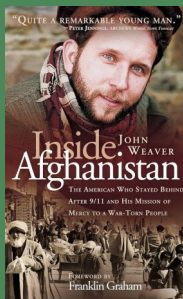
Coming to a Church Library Near You!

One of the areas the Missions Team is planning to work on more this next year is providing missions books for our church library. The goal of these books is to share how God is and has worked around the world as well as help individual better know how to pray for those serving at home or on foreign soil. We also hope to include some books for younger readers so that their faith may grow from the testimony of others. Our church does already have some missions books which will get a yellow dot to help you find them more easily. Here are a few to start:

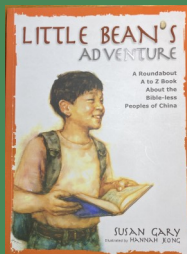


Prayer Patterns by Dan Baetz is the book series that the missions team has been working through this past year. There are 7 books in the series but it is not necessary to read all of them or read them in order. The overall focus is praying for mission advancement. Dan

Baetz is the former director for Africa Inland Mission which our friends in North Africa serve with.



Although not a new book, John shares his story of staying in Afghanistan after 9/11. He share about the devastation of a war-torn country where terror has reigned and the reasons for hope.



Children's Book: This is another book that is not new. It is a fiction story about a boy who travels throughout China learning about the many different people groups. He is shocked to find out that some groups of people do not have Bibles.

There is a glossary, appendix, and phonetic pronunciations included which all enrich the story but may also require so adult assistance to fully understand.

community events



WINKLER BIBLE CAMP / Fundraising Event

WINTER CARNIVAL

FEBRUARY 16 12-5PM

Winter Activities!

\$5/person

- Free hotdog per person included
- Additional food available for purchase

For more information, visit www.winklerbiblecamp.com

Winkler Bible Camp invites you to our **Winter Carnival** on February 16th from 12-5 p.m. For just \$5/person, you can come and enjoy our **winter** activities, good food and so much fun with family and friends. Plus, every guest receives a free hotdog! Check out winklerbiblecamp.com for more information!



TOGETHER FOR GOOD
marriage workshop

Want to invest in your marriage? Join Mark & Irma Sawatzky (pastor at Bethel Church) on Saturday, Jan 24 from 9:00-4:00 at Bethel Church in Hochfeld, as they lead a 1-day seminar entitled "Together for Good"; a Family Life Canada program to strengthen marriages.

We will be using video and in person teaching covering 5 main topics: drift, communication, conflict, sex and faith in a fun, relaxed approach with conversation between the two of you.

Cost is only \$30 per couple with lunch included.

Please use the link or QR code below before Jan 20 to register.

<https://form.jotform.com/26006501222237>




THE Jesus CONFERENCE
The Joy of the Resurrection
January 23-24, 2026

Session 1
It's A BRAND NEW DAY!
Resurrection joy in the Gospels

Session 2
VICTORY OVER DEATH!
Resurrection joy in 1 Corinthians

Session 3
CHRIST WINS IN THE END!
Resurrection joy in the Book of Revelation

Featuring Guest Speakers:
Plus Workshops!

Dave Reimer
SBC President

Gord Penner
SBC Professor - Old Testament

Layton Friesen
SBC Professor - Bible & Theology

\$30
Saturday Lunch Provided

Winkler Bible Camp
16037 Highway #3, Winkler, MB
WWW.SBCCOLLEGE.CA/JESUSCONFERENCE

The Jesus Conference is sponsored by Steinbach Bible College and several Winkler-area congregations.



THE DATENIGHT TOUR
CLEAN COMEDY FOR COUPLES

FEATURING COMEDIANS
DAREN STRELOW, MONIQUE BELLAMY & LEE HARDIN

FEBRUARY 2, 2026
WINKLER, MB
PATHWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH

TICKETS AND INFO
FUNANDFAITH.COM

funFAITH **MAF Mission Aviation Fellowship** **yesTV**



steps in hope Healing Our Pregnancy Experiences

A support group for women impacted by miscarriage or stillbirth

Sessions focus on sharing your experiences, learning to cope, cycles of grief, self care, honouring your difficult journey & creating a keepsake

Steps in HOPE is facilitated with a licensed therapist

6 sessions - Fridays - 10-11:30 am
500 Main Street (Winkler PVPCC)
starts February 6, 2026

Registration is required contact us by February 3 to sign up

This is a FREE & CONFIDENTIAL program

Pregnancy Care Centre
pvpcc.com
pvpccpregnancycare
PVP Pregnancy Care Centre
Ph: 204-325-7900
E: stepsinhope@gmail.com