

g GRACE CHURCH

Bi-Weekly E-Newsletter



From the Lead Team

Happy New Year church family!

It is my hope that you all had a very blessed Christmas where you could reflect and give thanks for God's many blessings.

I wonder how many of us are making resolutions this new year in order to offset the Christmas feasting? (It sure wouldn't do me any harm)

New year, new me. That's what people say right? We seek to better ourselves, maybe put down a bad habit or pick up a positive one. More often than not though, these changes are short lived and don't really amount to that much overall change. Which can kind of be dissuading to begin with.

Thankfully God can help us in these kinds of things and He wants for His children to succeed.

Proverbs 16:3 "Commit your work to the Lord, and he will establish your plans"

Establish! Like help our plans succeed! Our heavenly Father loves us and is there for us. He has new beginnings in store for each of us. But just as plants require sunlight, warmth and rain to bear fruit, so too do we need the refreshing rain of God's grace and the warmth of His steadfast love to be made new. We can't do it alone; we weren't made for that. That heavenly refreshment is one Godly bear hug away. We just need to open our hearts toward Him.

One issue I have with the whole New Year's resolution thing is that it's just an annual reminder. For someone like me, that's not often enough. Things tend to slip my mind quite easily if I don't set reminders or take immediate action. Each

new day is a gift and opportunity from God. I think that's a good place to start. Starting each day with thankfulness, as another opportunity for heavenly refreshment.

- Connor Bergen

Mark Your Calendar

- January 9 Adult Bible Study
- January 11 Ladies Breakfast - 9 am at Buttercup Café
- January 14 Grace Skating Party (see below)
- January 16 Senior's Supper (55+)
- January 17 Mom's morning at 9:30-11:30
- January 21 Baptism service
- January 22 Parent Night

- March 7 Annual General Meeting

Grace Skating Party



Everyone is invited to join us at the Plum Coulee Arena on Sunday, January 14 from 2:45-4:45 pm for a fun afternoon of skating. Bring some snacks to share. We'll provide the beverages. If you don't want to skate bring a table game and enjoy the fellowship!



GRACE YOUTH

I hope that you have had a great Christmas break filled with lots of quality time with family and friends!

There are a couple of changes to our schedule, so please take note of them below.

This next week:

- Jr. Youth - Mon, Jan. 8 - Small-Group Night
- Sr. Youth - Wed, Jan. 10 - Gym Night - JR Walkof
- Bring indoor shoes

Jr. & Sr. Winkler Flyers Youth Group Night, Jan. 17:

Winkler Area Youth Leaders (WAYL) and the Winkler Flyers have come together to host a youth group night!

- Where: Drop off and pick up will be at Winkler Centennial Arena
- Time: 7:00-9:30 pm
- Cost: Free for all youth. They can bring money for concessions if they want snacks.

Parent Nights!

One of the ways that we want to walk alongside you as parents is in the new year, we will begin offering Parent Nights. These nights are designed to help equip and encourage you as parents in different areas where youth might be struggling.

First Parent night: January 22 at Grace Church @ 7:00pm. More information in next week's bulletin.

Important: Youth Winter Retreats

Sr. Youth - Feb. 2-4 - Camp Cedarwood
- Registration due Jan. 10

Jr. Youth - Feb. 16-18 - Winkler Bible Camp
- Registration due Jan. 15

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

Blessings, Pastor Brad



Lost & Found

Please check the Lost & Found area located above the coat rack at the back entrance for any items you may have forgotten. Everything remaining after Jan 21 will be taken to thrift.

Sunday School

We are looking forward to seeing you all again on Sunday!

For attendance purposes we would like to start having everyone (age 3-Grade 12) come through the Genesis room closest to the front door before heading to their classes.

We look forward to hearing your verses and continuing to learn and grow together in 2024!

The Sunday School Team

Ashley Fehr

Christa Reimer

Jodi Wiebe

Prayer and Praise

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

- Marie Klassen
- Katherine Krahn
- Marie Brown
- Anne Enns
- Marilyn Hildebrand
- Marian Harder
- Helen Gerbrand
- Allan Derksen
- Helene Kuhl
- Agnes Giesbrecht
- Guenter Strempler
- Henry Hiebert
- Margaret Ayala
- Linda Jenkins
- Irene Hildebrand
- Katy Dyck
- Alexander Sauer

Please pray for Gladys Wiebe who suffered a stroke this past week.

Condolences

We extend our sincere condolences to Jake & Sylvia Peters, Carol Froese, Ray & Phyllis Wiens, Robert & Janice Gerbrandt and their families on the passing of their aunt, Tina Hildebrand, on Dec 27th. May God grant you peace in this time of loss.

Maintenance Update

Dustin Dyck has resigned from his position as our maintenance person. If you are interested in this position or would like more information please contact the church office or Pastor Sean. Here is a brief job description:

The maintenance staff is responsible for:

- General building and equipment maintenance and repair responsibilities
- inform the Admin Manager or Lead Pastor of needed repairs
- perform all minor repairs
- have basic knowledge in the following areas
- heating and cooling, maintaining good room temperature
- emergency lighting
- fire detection equipment
- kitchen equipment
- keeping entrances, exits and walkways clean in winter and summer
- notify lot clearing contractor along with Admin Manager
- other duties as needs arise based on regular inspection of facility and staff reports



Mailboxes

We have updated some of our mailboxes this past week, adding some for our new attenders. We did our best to keep them alphabetical, but some are in the closest spot available, so look around to find your name. If you are regularly attending our church but do not yet have a mailbox, find Wendy and she'll get you one as soon as possible.

Missions Update

Merry Christmas! Did you know that the missions team sends a gift card or e-card to each missionary and camp worker Grace Church supports? This is our way of saying Grace Church is here for you. It is our prayer that each family and individual feels loved and encouraged by these cards. This year a photo of the missions team and letter writers was also sent so that there are a few recognizable faces whenever those who live farther away are able to come home.

End of Year Giving - Like many of you, our missions team had some end of year giving to do. Since there had been no relief/global giving in this calendar year, \$10,000 from the surplus was sent to The Canadian Foodgrains Bank to use where it is need most with a request to have distribution through one of the partners we have previously approved. Last year the CFB helped provide food assistance for 617 008 people experiencing humanitarian emergencies in 21 different countries. The lingering effects of the pandemic and the global hunger crisis have led to incredibly high costs of food, making food even more out of reach for people facing hunger. For more information on the work of the CFB talk to Renee Klassen or Isaac Froese.

Pembina Valley Bible Camp also received \$5,000 to use towards one of several projects they hope to complete this spring before the next camping season. Please continue to pray for the staff as they prepare for the 2024 season.

An Answer to your Prayers: Kinsey Edwards (Magi) is excited to let us know that her green card was approved this week. The physical papers have not yet arrived but it does mean that she & Phil can start planning for a visit in spring or summer this year!

Thank you for your continued support.