July 5, 2024 • Volume 6 • Issue 14

# GRACE CHURCH Bi-Weekly E-Newsletter



### From the Lead Team

Seeing and hearing the growth in our church through the birth of new babies and through baptisms is exciting but also a reminder that we need to protect our families, the ones we are born into and the ones we have chosen to be a part of.

My granddaughter Harlow's birthday is this month and I can't help but feel old when I say – where did the time go?! Watching my granddaughter grow is a reminder to me as to how God watches us grow. With every milestone He celebrates with us and with every bump and bruise He encourages us to get back up and try again because he knows we need to fall to grow. I reflect on my own life and ask:

- How do I encourage my children to grow, especially as they move into adulthood?
- How do I support and encourage my spouse to grow?
- How do I encourage growth in my other relationships?

It scares me to think what kind of a world my granddaughter will grow up in and I want to keep her little forever. Even though I know its not possible, it speaks to our desire to keep things status quo, circle the wagons and protect. What we are doing, in fact, is preventing our children, our marriages, our relationships to grow and fulfill God's calling for them.

Matthew 5:15,16 "Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

As a father, God has called me to protect my family, but that does not mean I bubble wrap them. While I would do anything and everything for my children, I need to allow them to scrape their knees and grow because that is, in fact, the best way to protect them. They have a light that needs to shine. I think growing or allowing that light to shine can look like a hug, or encourage them to get up and "rub some dirt on it", or just being silent and allowing them to figure it out.

Just like our heavenly Father, it never means that we don't love them, it's because we love them.

- Derek Hiebert



**Every Sunday all summer** 

**NO SERVIETTE** 

**LUNCH ON JULY 7** 

**DUE TO A FUNERAL** 

LOVE GOD · LOVE OTHERS · MAKE DISCIPLES

## Prayer and Praise

#### Pray for our shut-ins and those with ongoing health issues:

#### At Home:

- Marie Klassen
- Katherine Krahn
- Marie Brown
  Henry Hiebert
- Anne Enns
- Marilyn Hildebrand Linda Jenkins
- Marian Harder
- Irene Hildebrand

• Agnes Giesbrecht

Guenter Strempler

Margaret Ayala

- Helen Gerbrand
- Katy Dyck
  Gladys Wiebe
- Allan DerksenHelene Kuhl
- Dennis Wiebe

Helen Loeppky

- Walter Siemens
- Alexander Sauer

At Salem Home: Mary Friesen

### Condolences

We express our deepest sympathies to Kara & Dwayne Wieler and their family on the passing of Kara's mom, Lois Bergen, on Sunday, June 30. The funeral will be held at Grace Church on Sunday, July 7 at 2 pm.

We pray for God's peace and comfort for the Bergen family during this difficult time of loss.

## Partnership Focus



A BIG Thank You to Bev Hiebert & Kaden for their faithful work with the UGM Sandwich

Ministry!! Bev stepped in and kept this outreach from Grace going when it looked like it would not continue. Their service came from their hearts and I know they hope to be able to volunteer again.

At this time, there is a need for someone to fill this gap on a regular or part time basis. The responsibilities for each week include picking up the donated bread, slicing the sandwich meat and cleaning the slicer. The time commitment would be about 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours each Friday. Anyone interested in helping out can contact me for more details.

- Melody Hamm

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### Library Update

We are very excited to announce that the library is now fully open to borrow books from all the genres.

The library is open before church service on Sunday, and during office hours throughout the week. Please follow the instructions to manually check-out books when library is unstaffed.



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