



STAYING CONNECTED

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MCIVOR CHURCH FAMILY

February 1, 2026

REFLECTIONS ON IDENTITY – PASTOR MIKAYLA

This past weekend 8 young adults made the long and cold trip up to the Kenora region for our Young Adults Bible Study Retreat. The theme was “Identity”, which I purposefully chose for the broadness of interpretation and opportunity. We had several young adults do longer sessions and then some who did shorter, more personal devotionals. We also enjoyed some singing of worship songs and times for rest and reflection.



I want to highlight a few things I spoke on during the session I led. I opened the session by role-playing with a few of our group members. To set the scene, imagine that we are out for coffee and I say, “Tell me about yourself.”

The group members mentioned their professions, their hobbies, their relationship status, achievements, etc. These answers are expected and not at all bad things to mention when someone is wanting to get to know you.

This is often how I would lead as well: I love thrifting, crafting, outdoors, etc. But if I’m being honest, there are times where these things become my primary

identity and can come above the most important identity I should be claiming, which is a Christ follower.

The thing about gaining our sense of identity from places other than God, is that ultimately they will fail and decay at some point. They do not remain a sustainable place to put our identity.

But this is where we look to Jesus and the Bible. We are reminded that despite our life circumstances, and no matter our personal identities, there is one constant that brings all believers together, which is identity in Christ as our Saviour.

And the beauty is that this identity is not earned, or taken away, based on our own actions. Our identity in Christ is something we receive upon accepting Him as our Lord and Saviour. It is not received when we’ve “hit a certain mark”. Our ability to be set apart from the world is not because we’re better, or have a higher status than others, but rather because we belong to God; the one who sets us apart.

The next part of the lesson was focused on action. I posited that when we live in the knowledge of our identity in Christ, this should push us into a life of obedience and holiness as Christ was holy.

Obviously we are not perfectly holy in our imitation of Christ, but identity in Christ means being set apart and choosing to follow Jesus over all other worldly identities. And so we as Christians need to be carefully considering our actions and notice if these align with our identity in Christ which should be primary in our lives.

Identity in Christ is ultimately about understanding the balance. We must acknowledge our fallibility and need to lean on Jesus, but also feeling agency and a sense of action as His followers. It is by living in this balance that we can peacefully experience God’s gracious love and also bring this love to others.



Welcome Baby Klassen!



Happy 90th Esther!



Young Adults Winter Retreat



VOTE OF AFFIRMATION

Council previously announced that there will be an affirmation vote on Sunday, February 8 for the Interim Teaching Pastor position. This vote will now be postponed to Sunday, February 15, 2026, immediately following the Sunday service. More information regarding the candidate will follow shortly, at which time we welcome your vote online or by calling the office.

GIVING

We accept donations by cash, cheque, e-transfers to mcivor@mcivorchurch.com, or via credit card (scan the QR code). For Direct Deposit, contact the office.

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