



STAYING CONNECTED

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MCIVOR CHURCH FAMILY

March 1, 2026

"AND GOD SAW THAT THE LIGHT WAS GOOD." GENESIS 1:4 – PASTOR JON

Reflecting on this moment in creation, Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes:

"God looks at His work and is pleased with it, because it is good. This means that God loves His work and therefore wills to uphold and preserve it. Creation and preservation are two sides of the same activity of God. It could after all not be otherwise than that God's work is good and that God does not reject or destroy it, but loves and upholds it. As God looks at it, that work comes to rest and becomes aware of God's pleasure in it. God's looking keeps the world from falling back into nothingness, from complete destruction." (Creation and Fall Ch.3)

Lately I have been thinking about the sustaining power of love. When we love something, our love sustains life. My grandfather meticulously cared for his 1997 GMC Sierra, which he had purchased brand new and which remained his prized possession for the rest of his life. At the time of his death in 2016, it remained in near-showroom condition. His love for his truck sustained his prized possession.

We pour our lives into the things that we love, which has the effect of sustaining those things. Our love for our spouses, children and friends draws us toward those people, causing these precious relationships to continue and grow. Even when loved ones die, our love for them holds them in our memory.

In Genesis 1, as God creates the heavens and the earth, we see God's immediate look of love on what he has made. Repeated throughout the creation account is the refrain: "And God saw... and it was good."

As Bonhoeffer writes, God's love for what He has made is what holds creation in existence. Bonhoeffer muses that if God would ever look away, if His creation would ever escape His gaze, it would suddenly cease to exist. But because God loves His creation, God will not look away. The creation will never escape the sight of the Creator; God's look remains fixed upon the object of His love.

It is a great comfort to know that we are held and sustained in the loving eyes of our Creator. Though we waver, God will not look away, God's love is steadfast. Though our bodies fail, God's love cannot fail. And even in death, God's love sustains us. We have this unmatched hope, that death only serves to draw us deeper into the loving presence of our Creator.

***How priceless is Your unfailing
love, O God!***

***We take refuge in the shadow of
Your wings.***

***We feast on the abundance of Your
house; You give us drink from Your
river of delights.***

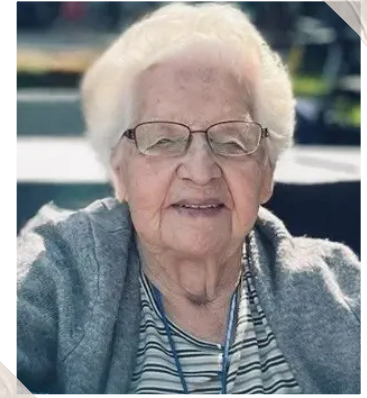
***For with You is the fountain of life;
in Your light we see light.***

– Psalm 36:7-8

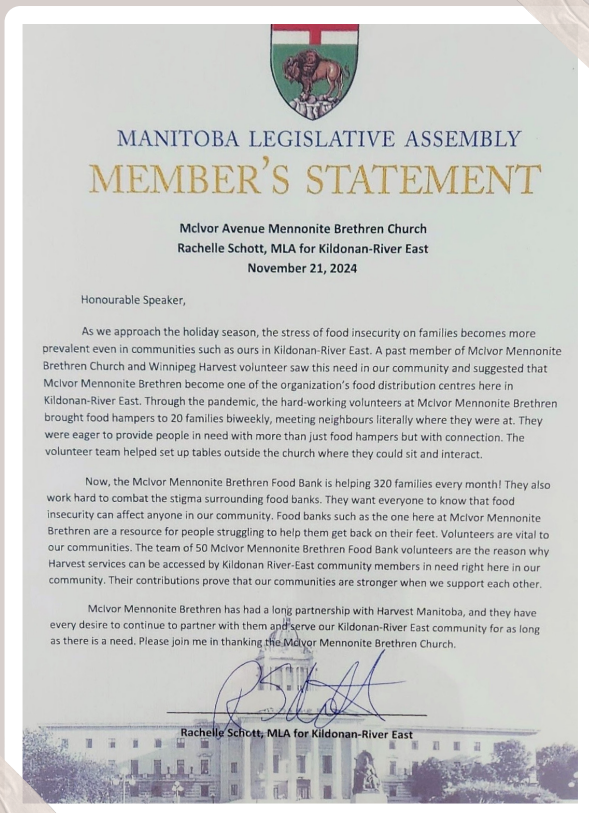
ELSIE FRIESEN

(May 12, 1926 - February 20, 2026)

We want to express our deepest condolences to Roger and Anne Friesen, and Vern and Karin Friesen and their families as they mourn the passing of their mom and grandmother, Elsie Friesen. The memorial service for Elsie will be held at 2 p.m. on March 14 at Mclvor Church. She will be missed greatly, not only by her family but also by many of us at Mclvor, where Elsie was a member for many years and a dear friend.



MCIVOR'S HARVEST PROGRAM HONOURED



Thursday morning Rachelle Schott, the MLA for Kildonan-River East, came by to give this Member Statement honouring the Harvest Manitoba program run at Mclvor. It was read in the Legislature on November 21, 2024, but she wanted to give it to Rodney in person. Today they finally met and she gave it to him and our church.



AFFIRMATION VOTE

Sunday, February 15, we affirmed Bruce Wiebe for Council and Dr. Pierre Gilbert as Interim Teaching Pastor during Pastor Jon's parental leave from February 24 to May 24.



Dr. Pierre Gilbert



Bruce Wiebe

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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