

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Our Church family

- Church Council will have a meeting this week, there is much work to attend to. Let us remember to pray for our congregational leaders and deacons as we process and move forward.

- Pray for Dave & Hildie Regehr as they are working in the Ukraine. If you want to see what they are doing, check out their blog at <http://regehrsukraine.blogspot.com/>

Our Community

- MC Manitoba Executive Director – Ken Warkentin

- Pray for Canada General Secretary – Willard Metzger

- Eden Health Care Services is looking for a new CEO as James Friesen has retired. Pray for this search.

Our World

- In January, Amanda Falla traveled from Colombia to Chicago for medical diagnosis of the considerable swelling in her hands. Tests have shown that the swelling is not related to a return of cancer, but to Raynaud's Syndrome, a condition in which arteries in her fingers narrow and temporarily limit blood flow. Amanda was informed that this is a permanent condition, though medication should ease the symptoms. Pray for Amanda as she remains in Chicago while medications are adjusted. Amanda continues to rejoice in God's healing from kidney disease and for relief from cancer. She now requests healing for her hands and a speedy return to the ministry she shares with her husband, Gamaliel. Pray also for Gamaliel as he awaits Amanda's return and continues to encourage church leaders through difficult situations in Colombia. Amanda and Gamaliel are Witness Partners through Mennonite Mission Network.

- March 10-11 MC Sask delegates, members, and guests will be gathering together with the theme of **Extending the Table: Enough for All**. Pray that the bread and the cup will nourish all who are present, and that it might be a time of hope and joy as we gather in the presence of the Spirit to discuss and worship together.

- *If you would like to add or remove any prayer requests, please contact Dan Kehler or the church office.*

From the Pastor

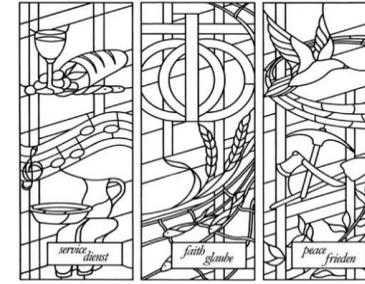
Lenten Theme: Restore Us, Oh God

Our world is filled with many distractions and voices that call us away from God—consumerism and materialism, violence and fear, hectic schedules and constant busyness... As Christians, we are not immune to the side effects of living in this environment and can feel overwhelmed and afraid, filled both with doubt and an inner disquiet.

To counter this cultural trance that we sleep walk in we need something to call us to be present with the God who is here with us. Lent becomes one such wakeup call. Lent is a 40-day period in the Christian calendar that provides a chance to step back and create space to experience God's presence with us. It brings opportunities for reflection on the bigger picture. It is a time to repent, to renew our commitment to God's ways, and to empty ourselves of what distracts us from hearing God's voice. Lent is often referred to as a wilderness, a space where the "business as usual" of this life is challenged and we take time to engage our brokenness.

This year the Lenten Scripture texts highlight stories that call us to change our view, see the world with a different set of eyes and be invited to experience new life. Jesus began his ministry alone in the wilderness, fasting and prayer as he faced temptation. Nicodemus and the Samaritan women at the Jacob's well encounter Jesus and have their lives turned around. The unnamed man who was blind from birth received not only his eyesight but a new way of looking at the world. And those who witnessed Jesus' friend Lazarus coming out of the grave had their lives restored as they put their faith and trust in the one who has power over death. These stories call us into the depths of humanity as we experience our thirst, hunger, breath, sight, temptation. But then through longing and seeking, wondering and hoping, finding and healing, they end with renewed life.

You are invited to enter into this Lenten journey of new life. This is not a journey of perfection, but one where we face both the limits of our humanity and our need for divine transformation. Restore us, O God!



Altona Mennonite Church

Sunday School – Adults & Children: 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 am

VOLUME LVI No. 10

March 5, 2017

Restore us O God! We hunger

Prelude

Welcome, greeting one another, announcements

Hymn HWB #514 Lord, I am fondly, earnestly

Call to Worship and Prayer

Leader: In the midst of myriad distractions, we gather, longing for you.

All: Restore us, O God! We hunger.

Leader: In the midst of the temptation to live in fear, we gather, trusting in you.

All: Restore us, O God! We hunger.

Leader: In the midst of the challenges of daily living, we gather, craving your presence.

All: Restore us, O God! We hunger.

Leader: Come, worship the One who feeds our deepest hungers and sustains us with love.

HWB #506 I sought the Lord

Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-6; Psalm 32

Offering

Children's Time

Hymn SJ #29 You are all we have

Pastor: Dan Kehler

Office Hours:

Wed. & Thur. 9:30 am to noon

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Confession and words of assurance

Leader: God of abundance, you give us *all* we need. We confess that, too often, we focus on what we *don't* have. We forget that it is you who truly sustains us. Forgive us. Satisfy us with your steadfast love, and help us to take refuge in remembering that what you provide is good. It is enough.

(Pause for silent confession)

Leader: God of abundant grace,

All: restore us.

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord and be glad. Sing praises to the Lord! Taste and see that the Lord *is* good

Hymn STJ #86 Taste and See

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon Forty Dan Kehler

Hymn HWB #472 I am the bread of life

Lenten Ritual

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn STJ #54 Longing for light

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Leader: Elaine Loewen

Song Leader: Marilyn Houser Hamm

Accompanist(s): Gina Enns

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS at AMC

March 7 2:00 pm Book Study, ready Chapters 18 & 19

7:00 pm Church Council Meeting

March 9 7:00 pm Coffee at The Poplars
hosted by Hilda Elias – all are invited

March 12 9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17; Matthew 17:1-9 *Lenten Theme:* Restore us O God! We wonder *Worship Leader:* Lori Hiebert *Song Leader:* Lori Hiebert *Accompanist(s):* Loren Hiebert *Sound:* Nathan Loewen *Coffee:* Karey & Andrea Hildebrand

March 13 7:00 pm Education Meeting

March 14 2:00 pm Book Study

March 17 2:00 pm Worship Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Coffee Gathering:** Hilda & Cornie Elias have invited us to come for coffee at 7 pm on Thursday, March 9. Enter #110 in the Poplars, and go through to the lounge. You may want to park at the daycare.

- The Rejoice! books for March – May are here. *The cost of each book is \$10. If you regularly use this devotional, consider making a donation to help the Education budget!*

- **Pop up small group – an experiment.** Book Study group is reading *Naked Spirituality: A life with God in 12 simple words* by Brian McLaren. We meet at 2:00 PM at the church. Read Chapters 18 & 19 for Tuesday.

- **AMC Auxiliary Members** - please consider making a designated donation to auxiliary for our MCC Global Family commitment. Thank you.

Birthdays: March 6 – Madelyn Mierau-Friesen; March 8 – Nicole Wood; March 9 – Paul Hiebert; March 10 – Irv Giesbrecht

COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **CommonWord has many Lenten resources** – for the congregation and for the home – including curriculum, devotionals, worship and family resources. Check www.commonword.ca/go/481.

- Exhibitions by Timothy Joel Dyck, Seth Woodyard and Frank Livingston OPEN Friday, March 10, 7:30PM, MHC Gallery, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd. March 10-April 29.

- MCI presents the musical production "Seussical" March 9, 10 & 11 at 7:30 pm with a Saturday matinee at 2:00 pm. If you are a student in Grade 5-11, you may be eligible for a free ticket! To purchase tickets visit our website at www.mciblues.net or to inquire about a free ticket call us at (204)327-5891. See poster.

- **Southern Manitoba Choral Society** presents: **Singing Joyfully, Together**. SMCS has invited First Mennonite Church choir to join us in concerts at Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church on March 18, 7:00pm and at Winnipeg First Mennonite Church on March 19, 3:00pm. Everyone is welcome, and a free-will offering will be taken.

- Rosemary Siemens in concert with Ray St. Germain, March 18, 7 pm in Buhler Hall hosted by Mennonite Collegiate Institute. Visit www.mciblues.net to purchase your ticket or call MCI at (204)327-5891.

- **Camps with Meaning** registration is now open for all three locations! For details visit www.campswithmeaning.org

- The Camps with Meaning "Raise the Roof" Song-a-thon will be March 18th from 1-9 PM! See poster!

- **Consider volunteering at camp** this summer. Camps with Meaning staff and volunteer applications are now available at www.campswithmeaning.org/summer/camp-staff

- **Mennonite Collegiate Institute, located in Gretna, Manitoba, is searching for a principal** to start in August 2017. Please visit www.mciblues.net to find out more about this exciting position. Applications close March 31st, 2017.

- On Wednesday, April 5 plan to attend **Spring at CMU** – an evening fundraiser in support of CMU's mission and programs. The CMU PAX Award will be presented to Sarah Thompson, Executive Director of Christian Peacemaker Teams, and we will celebrate the leadership of the Capital Campaign Cabinet in constructing Marpeck Commons. Go to cmu.ca/springatcmu for more information.

- **The annual Manitoba MDS Awareness & Fundraising Events** are approaching. Come hear MDS stories from 2016 projects and plans for 2017 - especially, Fort McMurray. Please attend either the Arborg area supper at the Morweena E.M Church on APRIL 8th; or the Altona area event (Details to follow shortly) on APRIL 22nd. See the poster for details. Reserve your complimentary attendance by calling **MDS at 1-866-261-1274**.

- The General Board of Mennonite Church Canada has set the date for a final review of Future Directions proposals to re-organize national and area church bodies. Mennonite Church Canada delegates are invited to a special assembly Oct. 13-15 in Winnipeg, Man. The event will begin with a dinner on Friday and conclude with worship on Sunday. The venue, costs, and other details are pending.

- New documents outlining the re-vitalization of Mennonite Church Canada and Area Churches as a result of our Future Directions process have been posted at futuredirectionsmc.ca/the-proposal.

Check the bulletin board for more info on these...

- Newsletters / updates
- xPlore – Keep Thinking – enrichment courses for 55+
- April 2 at 3:30 pm fasp, fellowship and song – Salem fundraiser
- April 9 – "In Harmony for Hope" Concert for Eden Foundation