

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Our Church family

- 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

- What does it mean for Anabaptists to live out faith in community? Mike Nimz, a resource worker with the Mennonite Trust in the UK, and his wife Cheryl, a volunteer with the Anabaptist Network in the UK, say it begins with showing vulnerability and being accountable to one another. Pray for Mike and Cheryl as they embody these traits and encourage community through their partnership with Mennonite Church Canada.

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

The Lenten Banner

Worship visuals help us encounter God without words - through colour, shape, and design. They are a resting place for our eyes and a way to soak in the assurance and knowledge of God's presence.

For this season of Lent, a traditional liturgical colour has been chosen to represent each Sunday's focus statement. Brown = hunger; Purple = wonder; Blue = thirst.

From the Pastor

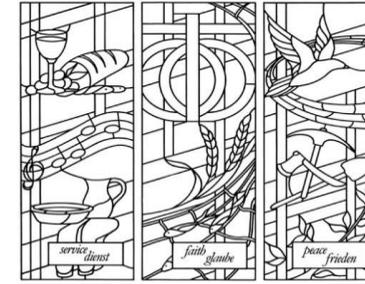
Some homework. Next week's theme is about sight. In preparation for our worship you are invited to wear a blind fold for at least an hour during the week. (And wearing it while you sleep doesn't count!) Perhaps you might try it for a meal or as you get ready for bed. Or if you are daring, go for a walk with a trusted friend or spouse - a kind of "walk a mile in others shoes" experience. As you encounter part of your daily living in the darkness, wonder about what it means to be able to see and perceive the world around you.

Lenten Theme: Restore Us, O 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 inner disquiet. Lent becomes a way to counter these cultural trends; 40 days that provide a chance to step back and create space to experience God's presence with us.

This year the Lenten texts and theme call us into the depths of humanity as we experience our thirst, hunger, breath, sight, and 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. 12

March 19, 2017

Restore us O God! We thirst.

WE PRAISE

Prelude

Call to Worship - Psalm 95:1-7

Hymn HWB #372 O healing river

WE THIRST

Lenten Symbol - God's Living Water

Prayer of Longing

Leader: God, our living Water,

All: Restore us.

Leader: Let all who thirst, come. Come and drink from the living Water.

Let all who have nothing, come to the Lord. Come—without money or price.

Come and draw freely from the well of our Lord, which will never run dry.

Song: As the Deer - see insert

Children's Time - Thirsty

Offering

WE STRUGGLE

Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7

Hymn HWB #474 I hunger and I thirst

Message What's the big deal about water? Dan Kehler

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WE LONG FOR RENEWING WATERS

Song STJ #49 Rain Down
Prayers of the People
STJ #29 You are all we have
Receiving God's gift of Water
The Lord's Prayer

WE PRAISE

Hymn HWB #433 Go, my children
Benediction
Postlude

Worship Leader: Marilyn Houser Hamm
Song Leader: Kevin Neufeld
Accompanist(s): Nancy Ratzlaff

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS at AMC

March 21 2:00 pm Book Study, ready Chapters 22 & 23
March 26 9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14;
John 9:1-41 *Lenten Theme:* Restore us O God! We see.
Worship Leader: *Song Leader:* Loren Braul
Accompanist(s): *Sound:* Dale Klassen *Coffee:*
Dale & Sandra Klassen
March 28 2:00 pm Book Study
April 2 9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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 22 & 23 for Tuesday.

Birthdays: March 20 – Marlene Dyck; March 24 – Ken Loewen, Sarah Sawatzky, John Thiessen

Anniversaries: March 25 – Greg & Lorraine Heinrichs

COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Southern Manitoba Choral Society** presents: **Singing Joyfully, Together.** SMCS and the choir from First Mennonite Church present a concert today at the First Mennonite Church in Winnipeg at 3:00 pm. Everyone is welcome, and a free-will offering will be taken.

- **Aboriginal Film Event** - Two short films about tough issues and gritty dreams: When the water goes up behind the Keeyask Dam in northern Manitoba, one family will lose more than any other. In Laird, Saskatchewan, an old land claim sparks new friendships and determination to right past wrongs. March 19, 7:30 pm, Kenmore Theatre in Morden. Q&A to follow. Sponsored by local churches and MCC.

- **Camps with Meaning** registration is now open for all three locations! For details visit www.campswithmeaning.org Early bird deadline, March 31.

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

- **CMU Open House, Wednesday, March 29:** Be part of a grade 9–12 student 'come and go' Open House to explore programs and opportunities at CMU. Join a campus tour (scheduled every 30 minutes), participate in a class, meet professors and current students, and enjoy free gelato. Parents welcome. Drop in at Marpeck Commons (library and bookstore commons at 2299 Grant Avenue) anytime between 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. For more information go to cmu.ca/openhouse or call [204-594-0537](tel:204-594-0537).

- **Mennofolk** is an annual expose of fringe Mennonite art and music. This year we invite you hold your fear, stand beside it, or perhaps glare at it from a distance. In this world which gives fear the power to draw boundaries, to validate existence, and to arrest truth, we ask: where does hope meet fear? Shall we resist our very consumption? Bring your family, bring your friends. March 25, 2017, 7:00 pm @ X-cues 551 Sargent Avenue For more information check out the event page - <https://www.facebook.com/events/1565795743438392/>

- **Friends of the Mennonite Centre in Ukraine AGM** on April 1, 10 am, at Sam's Place, 159 Henderson Hwy, Wpg.

- 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.

- **MCI Celebrates 50 Years of Musicals!** Join us for our Fundraising Gala Concert and Reception, featuring musicals from the past 50 years, on April 8th at 7:30pm in Buhler Hall, Gretna, MB. To reserve a seat for the show, call MCI at [204-327-5891](tel:204-327-5891). Opportunity for donations will be available at the concert.

- **Women Encountering Jesus** Saturday April 29th 9:00-4:30pm You are invited by Mennonite Women Manitoba to come spend a day together exploring stories of women's encounters with Jesus then and now. Our day will include: worship, engagement with a variety of spiritual practices, story telling, lunch and introduction to resources for the journey. Resource Person is Spiritual Director Laura Funk. Register online at: www.mennochurch.mb.ca or call [204-896-1616](tel:204-896-1616) and ask for Kathy Giesbrecht. Registration is \$50.00. Location; Bethel Mennonite Church in Winnipeg.

- **The annual Manitoba MDS Awareness & Fundraising Events** are approaching. See the poster for details. Reserve your complimentary attendance by calling **MDS at 1-866-261-1274.**

- If you, or someone you know, is a university student looking for accommodation in Winnipeg for the summer or for the 2017/18 academic year, take a look at **Emmaus House!** Find more info at emmaushousewinnipeg.ca

- 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.

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

- Newsletters / updates
- xPlore – Keep Thinking – enrichment courses for 55+
- THE ALZHEIMER JOURNEY – Gardens on 10th, Sessions begin March 21 @ 2 pm
- April 2 at 3:30 pm faspas, fellowship and song – Salem fundraiser
- April 9 – "In Harmony for Hope" Concert for Eden Foundation