

## **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**

- Jeanette Hanson is a Witness worker for China ministry based in Rosthern, Sask., and is Associate Director of Mennonite Partners in China (MPC). Pray for her while she travels to China in March to coordinate ministry programs and connect with Chinese church leaders in the flourishing Anabaptist community there.

- *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 = We hunger; Purple = We wonder; Blue = We thirst; Green = We see.

### **From the Pastor**

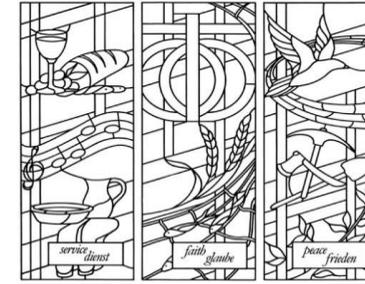
I found this prayer by Ted Loder the other day. It is a good prayer for the remaining days of Lent as we continue to engage the theme "Restore us, O God!"

O God, gather me now  
to be with you  
as you are with me.  
Soothe my tiredness;  
quiet my fretfulness;  
relieve my compulsiveness;  
let me be easy for a moment.

O Lord, release me  
from the fears and guilts  
which grip me so tightly;  
from the expectations and opinions  
which I so tightly grip,  
that I may be open  
to receiving what you give,  
to risking something genuinely new,  
to learning something refreshingly different.

O God, gather me  
to be with you  
as you are with me.

Amen.



# Altona Mennonite Church

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

VOLUME LVI No. 13

March 26, 2017

*Restore us O God! We see.*

Prelude

### Call to Worship

Leader: Here in this place we gather to worship.

**All: Open our eyes and our hearts.**

Leader: Here in this place we gather to see you.

**All: Open our eyes and our hearts.**

Leader: Here in this place we gather to perceive you in all your glory and beauty.

**All: Open our eyes and our hearts.**

Leader: Remove our blindness so that we might see ourselves honestly, and humbly worship you.

Hymn HWB #13 Blessed Jesus, at your word

Scripture reading: Readers theatre of John 9:1-41

Message To see with eyes not our own Dan Kehler

Hymn HWB #440 I believe in you, Lord Jesus

Scripture reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Lent ritual – Anointing

Hymn STS #62

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: O God, you open our eyes to see what is true. We confess that sometimes it is easier for us to stay blind than to embrace the fullness of your truth.

Pastor: Dan Kehler

Secretary: Lori Hiebert

Office Hours:

T: 204-324-6773 (church office)

Wed. & Thur. 9:30 am to noon

T: 204-324-5952 (home)

Tel: 204-324-6773 (Church office) email: [altonamennonite@gmail.com](mailto:altonamennonite@gmail.com)

Tel: 204-324-5178 (home) [www.altonamennonitechurch.ca](http://www.altonamennonitechurch.ca)

email: [amcpastordan@gmail.com](mailto:amcpastordan@gmail.com)

**People: We admit that it is scary and unsettling to fully accept what you want us to see.**

Leader: Your truth exposes our hidden secrets, upsets our expectations, and establishes a new order where we are no longer leading the way. Forgive us, O Lord, when we would rather stay in the darkness of our current reality instead of receiving your miracle of light and new life.

**People: Remove the cataracts from our eyes, that we may see and celebrate your goodness around us. Quicken our minds, and soften our hearts, that we may recognize that you are at work.**

(Pause for silent confession)

Leader: God who brings all things into the light,

**All: restore us.**

Leader: The Lord is our shepherd, we shall not want. Though we cannot see through the valley of the shadow of death, God is with us. We will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

Offering

Prayers of the People

Hymn STJ #73 The Lord lift you up

Benediction (adaptation of Psalm 23)

Hymn repeat #73

Worship Leader: Lorraine Heinrichs

Song Leader: Loren Braul

Accompanist(s): Marilyn Houser Hamm

#### **WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS at AMC**

March 28 2:00 pm Book Study, ready Chapters 24 & 25

April 2 9:30 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

Food Bank, Coin Collection

*Scripture:* Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11: John

11:1-45 *Lenten Theme:* Restore us, O God! We breathe.

*Worship Leader:* June Schwartz *Song Leader:* Marilyn

Houser Hamm *Accompanist(s):* Marilyn Houser Hamm

*Sound:* Perry Batchelor *Coffee:* Tracy & Wayne

Bergen

April 4 2:00 pm Book Study

#### **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 24 & 25 for Tuesday.

- The **Rejoice! devotional guides will now be available by subscription for \$40 per year.** If you regularly use the Rejoice! devotional guide and want to be included in the order, please let Andrea Hildebrand know by March 30. Her email is andkar@explornet.ca Books will be delivered to church and put directly in the mailboxes of those who paid for them.

**Birthdays:** March 30 – Susan Klassen

**Anniversaries:** March 28 – Loren Braul & Lori Dueck

#### **COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Camps with Meaning** registration is now open for all three locations! For details visit [www.campswithmeaning.org](http://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](http://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](http://cmu.ca/openhouse) or call [204-594-0537](tel:204-594-0537).

- **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](http://cmu.ca/springatcmu) for more information.

- **Spring at CMU** – You’re warmly invited to the 2017 annual fundraising evening in support of CMU. Wednesday April 5, 7:00 PM, 500 Shaftesbury Blvd. RSVP by March 29<sup>th</sup> to Joyce Friesen, [jfriesen@cmu.ca](mailto:jfriesen@cmu.ca) or [204-594-0517](tel:204-594-0517).

- **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.

- The First Mennonite Church choir with orchestra, under the direction of Yuri Klaz present **Mozart’s Requiem on Good Friday** at 7 pm at the church, 922 Notre Dame Ave. Soloists are, Karis Wiebe, Anne Marie Dueck, James Magnus-Johnston and Howard Rempel.

- **The annual Manitoba MDS Awareness & Fundraising Event** Come hear MDS stories from 2016 projects and plans for 2017 - especially, Fort McMurray. The Altona area supper will be at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre on APRIL 22nd. See the posters for details. Reserve your complimentary attendance by calling **MDS at 1-866-261-1274.**

- **Women Encountering Jesus** Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup> 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. See the poster. Resource Person is Spiritual Director Laura Funk. Register online at: [www.mennochurch.mb.ca](http://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.

- 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](http://emmaushousewinnipeg.ca)

- The General Board of Mennonite Church Canada will meet 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.

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

- Newsletters / updates

- THE ALZHEIMER JOURNEY – Gardens on 10<sup>th</sup>, Sessions begin March 21 @ 2 pm

- April 2 at 3:30 pm fasp, fellowship and song – Salem fundraiser

- April 9 – “In Harmony for Hope” Concert for Eden Foundation

- MDS Family Project information re Camp Wildwood, NB