

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

- Newsletters / updates
- April 9 – “In Harmony for Hope” Concert for Eden
- THE ALZHEIMER JOURNEY – Gardens on 10th, next session on April 12 @ 2pm
- Fundraiser for Pembina Counselling Center – April 27
- April 29/30 – Faith & Life Choir Concerts
- May 7 – Eastman Male Choir for MCC
- MDS Family Project information re Camp Wildwood, NB

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Our Church family

- Many of our church family are dealing with health concerns. Keep each other in your prayers.
- Ken & Marianne Braun are adjusting to life in separate communities. Keep them in your prayers.

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

- For Mennonites, the conviction of non-violent peace building runs deep. It unites us as a family beyond borders. Please pray for all who grieve the insensible death of Mennonite peace worker, Michael Sharp, whose body was found in a shallow grave in Congo in late March. Michael was on a United Nations mission to investigate a new violent uprising in a remote area when he was kidnapped and killed.
- *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. Gold = We breathe. Orange = We hope.

From the Pastor

I have been blessed by our worship theme through Lent: Restore us, O God. I have been reminded that we need to be open and honest about the way we engage with our living so that we might experience the healing restoration of God's loving ways. I was most moved by the theme of seeing. How we see and perceive the world changes everything. As people came forward for anointing, affirming their desire to become one with God's will for restoration of all of creation, I became aware of our need to be attentive to the space that such a decoration opens. This space is often referred to as liminal time. Richard Rohr refers liminality as sacred space.

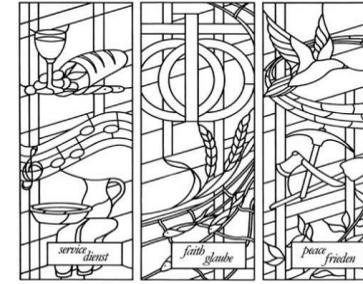
[W]e often remain trapped in what we call normalcy, "the way things are." Life becomes problem-solving, fixing, explaining, and taking sides with winners and losers. It can be a pretty circular and even nonsensical existence.

Instead, we have to allow ourselves to be drawn into sacred space, into liminality. All transformation takes place there. We have to move out of "business as usual" and remain on the "threshold" (limen, in Latin) where we are betwixt and between. There, the old world is left behind, but we're not sure of the new one yet. That's a good space. Get there often and stay as long as you can be whatever means possible. It's the realm where God can best get at us because we are out of the way. In sacred space the old world is able to fall apart, and the new World is able to be revealed. If we don't find liminal space in our lives, we start idolizing normalcy. We end up believing it's the only reality, and our lives shrivel.

(Richard Rohr, Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer, p.155)

Passion week is a time of liminality. It is a time when we move out of "business as usual" and enter the uncertainty of the cross. It is a time when we leave behind "the way things are" and trust that God is bringing about a new thing.

You are invited into this space as a community of faith on Thursday evening with a Maundy service of Communion and sharing (Maundy means new command) and Good Friday morning when we gather at the foot of the cross. Don't miss out on this opportunity to enter liminal time. For as Richard Rohr says, it is a good space that we should enter often and try to stay in as long as we can if we want God to get at us to restore us to New Life!



Altona Mennonite Church

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

VOLUME LVI No. 15

April 9, 2017

Restore us O God! We hope.

Prelude: Preparing to Worship

Processional: STS #73 Jesus is coming

Call to Worship

Leader: Who is this who comes, humble and riding on a donkey?

All: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Leader: Who is this who comes, free from pride and hubris?

All: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Leader: Who is this who comes, celebrated by powerless children?

All: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Leader: Hosanna! Come join in the celebration of hope!

Hymn HWB #238 Hosanna, loud hosanna

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer

Hymn HWB #285 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11

Meditation An Unexpected Kingdom Dan Kehler

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

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Confession and words of assurance

Leader: Jesus, our Lord, you came to us humbly – riding on a donkey. In peace, you showed us the way of your kingdom. We confess that our vision of the kingdom is not pure. It is stained with our own selfish desires.

People: We shout hosannas to praise you, -- only out of our need to survive. We lay down our cloaks and palms to adore you – only to strip your garment away and humiliate you.

Leader: Forgive us, O Lord, when our mouths that seek to praise you often deny and defy you.

People: Renew in us an obedient spirit, that we may fully accept and follow your will.

(silent confession)

Leader: God, our true hope,

All: restore us.

Leader: Our times are in your hands, O God. Let your face shine upon your servants who pursue your will, and save us in your unfailing love.

Hymn STJ #29 You are all we have
Sharing & Prayer
Offering

Hymn HWB #69 The Lord is King
Benediction

Worship Leader: Dave Regehr
Song Leader: Dave Regehr
Accompanist(s): Hildie Regehr

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS at AMC

April 13 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Communion
April 14 10:30 am Good Friday Service
April 16 9:30 am EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST
11:00 am Worship Service

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10 *Theme:* Restore us, O God! We live. *Worship Leader:* Marilyn Houser Hamm *Song Leader:* Marilyn Houser Hamm *Accompanist(s):* Nancy Ratzlaff *Sound:* Nathan Loewen *Coffee:* will resume next week

April 18 7:00 pm Church Council meeting
April 23 9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
with guest speaker Randy Hildebrand
April 24-26 Red River Valley Festival of the Arts - Piano

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We will meet for Easter Breakfast at 9:30 am on April 16. Bring hard cooked eggs, paska and fruit (enough for you and a little extra) Set up is Group 2, clean up is Group 4.

- **AND bring fresh or silk flowers** (in lieu of fresh lilies due to allergy concerns) to decorate the sanctuary with lots of colour for Easter Sunday.

- **Baptism** with water is an indication of one's desire to identify with the life giving way of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the symbol of our covenant with God and other followers of Jesus made in community signifying desired participation in the Body of Christ. If you would like to explore Baptism as an expression of your faith contact Pastor Dan.

Birthdays: April 10 – Hilda Elias; April 16 – Kareena Loewen

COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Grow Hope with us!

Spring is on the way—will you sign up today to help end hunger by sponsoring an acre on the Grow Hope field? Last year, Grow Hope sponsors raised over \$450,000 for MCC's account at Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Government matching makes every gift turn into even more food. Find out more at <http://mccmb.ca/growhope> or by calling (204)261-6381.

- **Community Blood Donor Clinic** will be held at Altona - Rhineland Pioneer Center on Thursday, April 13th, 2017 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm

- 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.**

- **Palliative Care Soup & Pie** – April 25, 4:30 – 6:30 pm at Altona Bergthaler. Some help is needed, see sign up sheet.

- **Faith & Life Choirs Spring Concerts** – Saturday, April 29, 7 pm @ Sargent Mennonite Church, Wpg. and Sunday, April 30, 3 pm @ Morden Mennonite Church, Morden

- **Mennonite Family History Workshop** – Saturday, May 6, 2 pm at Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies, 1310 Taylor Ave. Wpg. with Dr. Glenn Penner and Archivist Conrad Stoesz. Book your spot online at office@tourmagination.com or call 204-669-6575

- **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. See the poster. 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.

- 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

- **Camps with Meaning** is seeking volunteers as health officer, kitchen help, or maintenance help for a week this summer. Please email camps@mennochurch.mb.ca or call [\(204\) 895-2267](tel:204-895-2267) if you are interested.

- **Camp Assiniboia** is looking for people to join our Volunteer Maintenance Crew. If you would like to help us with woodworking projects, carpentry projects, repairs, grounds keeping, or gardening (vegetable and flower) then please contact David Hogue [204 864 2159 ext 100](tel:204-864-2159). Join us in building our vision for Camp.

- Mennonite Church Manitoba is accepting applications for the position of **Resident Manager at Camp Moose Lake**. This is a 4 month term position (1.0 fte) from May 1 – Aug 31. The Manager is directly responsible for the management of Camp Moose Lake, overseeing all aspects of its operation including facilities and the guest group rental program. Please send inquiries to Dorothy Fontaine [204-896-1616 ext 256](tel:204-896-1616) or dfontaine@mennochurch.mb.ca. A detailed job description can be found at www.campswithmeaning.org, News.