

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Our Church family

- Pray for those for whom mental health makes daily life a struggle.

Our Community

- Pray for MC Manitoba Executive Director – Ken Warkentin as he goes on sabbatical; and MC Canada Executive Director – Willard Metzger who will be leaving his position in October.
- We invite all congregations and members of Mennonite Church Canada to join with us in prayer as we seek an EXECUTIVE MINISTER. We invite applications and nominations for an individual who will work cooperatively with the Executive Staff Group to nurture, represent and inspire a unified vision of MC Canada.

Our World

- **The Nicolson family** arrived safely in Canada on Thursday, May 31st in Grande Prairie, Alberta. Lillian said it has been “wonderful” reconnecting with family so far. Please continue to pray for Lillian, Norm, Nadine and Kenneth, as they make this significant transition from life in Burkina Faso to Canada.
- **Bock Ki Kim** returned to Korea Tuesday, June 12th. Bock Ki also gives praise and thanks to God for a good Canadian Ministry time this year; he sensed greater congregational ownership of the Witness ministry.

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

From the Pastor:

A paradox is a seeming contradiction that reveals a truth. Poet G. K. Chesterton said paradox is “truth standing on its head to gain attention.” It is commonly a literary device or a play on words that prompts some amusement. “Deep down, he’s really shallow.” “To make money, spend it.”

The Christian faith is often expressed with these seeming contradictions. At the very heart of our faith lies paradox: Death leads to life. In fact, our sacred story is more of a triple paradox: a God who is three in one, who embodies his divinity in humanity, and who dies to bring life.

The paradoxes within our faith unfurl even more from there. In the kingdom of God, the first are last, and the last are first. The meek inherit the earth. Divine wisdom is foolishness to the world. The apostle Paul says, “When I am

weak, then I am strong” to emphasize the sufficiency of God’s grace. Jesus taught that in order to grow up we must become like children, challenging our self-serious pride. He described enemies as neighbors to demonstrate the radicalness of his kind of love. The list of biblical paradoxes is long. By leaning deeper into paradox, we come closer to the heart of both our faith and our God.

Why explore such mindbenders? They have the potential to draw us deeper into the mysteries—and the playfulness—of Christ’s kingdom. Paradoxes require a double-take and mess with our ironclad sense of logic in order to loosen us from our rigid thinking and move us into a place where our sense of clarity, certainty, and control are shaken. The goal is to move us into the surprise, scandal, and surrender of worshipping an awesome God.

- Condensed from Peter Schuurman’s writing

The Thumb

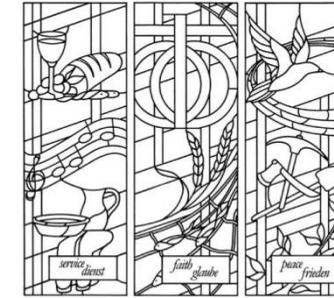
Hail to the thumb, the useful thumb,
The grasper, the holder, the doer of deeds,
Where fingers are futile and tools succumb,
Stolid, ungainly, the thumb succeeds.

Hail to the thumb the homely thumb;
Rings and jewels are not for it,
Compliments, dainty and frolicsome,
For fingers are suited, for thumbs unfit

Hail to the thumb, the modest thumb;
Gently und calmly it hides away,
Never for it a banner and drum,
Or praise at the end of a strenuous day.

And hail to the men who are like the thumb;
Men who are never sung by a bard,
Men who are laboring, modestly dumb,
Faithfully doing the work that is hard

Some day, men of the toiling thumb,
Men of the modest, invincible worth,
Some day your high reward will come
From the Hand of the Lord of heaven and earth!
Anonymous



Altona Mennonite Church

Christian Formation & Education - all ages: 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 am

VOLUME LVII No. 22

June 17, 2018

when NMOD EDISdU is RIGHT-SIDE UP

Paradox of Greatness:

The first are last and the last are first

Prelude

Hymn HWB #110 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 1, Mark 9:33-37)

**Our world offers many wide avenues
and beautiful boulevards to walk;**

Our God invites us to walk the road of service and sacrifice.

**Our society suggests we put down our roots
in the shallow soil of pleasure and greed.**

Our God seeks to plant us on the banks of hope,
watered by the rivers of joy and grace.

**Our culture promotes achievement, success,
climbing to the top, ringing the bell.**

Our God tells us if we want to be first
we need to go to the end of the line.

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn STS #18 Be joyful

Prayer of Confession (based on Matthew 23: 1-12)

Jesus, teacher and Lord, when we hear your criticism of the behaviour of the scribes and the Pharisees in the gospel today,

Pastor: Dan Kehler

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Wed. & Thur. 9:30 am to noon

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Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

we wonder what has changed. People still place unwarranted burdens on others, still demand preferential treatment, still abuse positions of leadership. We are ashamed to confess that this does not only happen in society at large, it happens also within the church.

Forgive our participation in practices which inflate our egos at the expense of others.

Pause for silent reflection

Jesus, forgive us when we parade our piety and expect favoured treatment, forgetting that you emptied yourself of power so that you could be the servant and Saviour of all. **Forgive us when we care more for impressive outward appearances rather than inner dispositions shaped by tolerance and love.**

Pause for silent reflection

Jesus, forgive us for any behaviour which is experienced or perceived as hypocritical - any actions which lack integrity and justice.

Renew and refresh us with your gentle and selfless Spirit, Lord, so that we know what it is to be your followers not only in name, but in reality. Amen

Assurance of Forgiveness (based on Colossians 2: 13-14)

Hear the good news: God has forgiven us all our sins, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. This God set aside, nailing it to the cross.

In Jesus Christ, therefore, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Children's Time
Offering

Scripture Reading: Mark 9:33-37; Matthew 23:1-12

Sermon The humble way to greatness Dan Kehler

Hymn HWB #307 Will you let me be your servant

Prayers of the People

Benediction

Hymn HWB #369 Lord, whose love in humble service

Postlude

Worship Leader: Elaine Loewen

Song Leader: Dave Regehr

Accompanist(s): Hildie Regehr

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- When you see a tent in a church, or something else out of the ordinary, remember to make your donation to the Food Bank.

- Need some help around the house? Yard work, house work... Steve Wiebe is looking for odd jobs to do this spring. Email Steve at wiebesteven6@gmail.com

Birthdays: June 19 – Crystal Kehler, Brendan Enns; June 21 – Shaun Dyck

Anniversaries: June 18 – Ron & Karen Martens, Kevin & Nancy Neufeld, Mike & Jean Tarnick

- Ray Hamm is interested in creating an afternoon or evening, or a series of meetings, on a weekend in fall for AMC, and maybe for the community, about Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID). Eden Health Care Services has been developing policies on MAID and people from Eden could be involved here. Please call 204 324 4115 or send an email (rmhamm@icloud.com) if you have ideas about this or if you could help in shaping the event.

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS at AMC

June 20 7:30 pm Worship Committee

June 24 11:00 am Worship Service

Scripture: Matthew 5:38-48, Luke 6:27-36; Romans 12:9-21

Theme: Paradox of Compassion: Even Adversaries are

Loveable *Worship Leader:* Marilyn Houser Hamm *Song*

Leader: Kevin Neufeld *Accompanist(s):* Sylvia Klassen

Sound: Greg Heinrichs *Coffee:* Loren Brault/Lori Dueck

June 26 8:00 pm Leadership Council

July 1 Worship Service

July 4 10:00 am Men's Coffee

July 8 Worship Service

COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- CMU invites inquiries and applications for the half-time (.5 FTE) salaried position of **Communications and Marketing Coordinator at CommonWord Bookstore and Resource Centre**, anticipated start date August 2018.

Inquiries should be directed to Dianna Robson, Director of Human Resources at drobson@cmu.ca or 204-594-0532.

- **Canadian Mennonite** connects more than 10,000 households with the voices, ideas, stories and news of Mennonites across the country. Subscriptions are available in print and digital formats to anyone who attends AMC. To subscribe, or to add email delivery to an existing subscription, please contact Lori Hiebert at altonamennonite@gmail.com. Subscriptions are paid for collectively through the church.

- **The Eden Health Care Services Executive** is very pleased to announce that Ken Kroeker, of Morden, a former employee of Eden and of Southern Health-Sante Sud, has been appointed Interim CEO of Eden until such time as we are able to hire permanently into this position. Please welcome Ken as we continue to serve our constituency and our region. We are grateful for your continued support and covet your prayers in this important work of recovery for those with mental health issues and concerns.

- **June 21, 2 – 7 pm Canadian Blood Services** - will hold a Community **Blood Donor Clinic** at the Rhineland Pioneer Center in Altona.

- **June 21, 7:30 pm** - Artist Talk featuring Reymond Pagé, Danielle Fontaine Koslowsky and Jeff Chester, MHC Gallery, [600 Shaftesbury Blvd.](http://600ShaftesburyBlvd.com)

- **June 23, 9 am registration for 147 Pathways to Treaty Relations** event at Lower Fort Garry. See poster on Bulletin Board.

- **June 28, 7:30 pm** Two MHC Gallery Openings. My Will Remains: Reflections on Chronic Illness and Disability by Diane Driedger and UBUNTU by Manny Martins-Karman, [600 Shaftesbury Blvd.](http://600ShaftesburyBlvd.com)

If you play golf or like long bike rides or tractor treks, read on and check the bulletin board!

- **June 18** – Eden Foundation IronMan Golf Tournament

Fundraiser at Winkler Centennial Golf Course – see

ehcs@edenhealthcare.ca for information

- **July 7** – MCC's Cycle Clear Lake – mccmb.ca/cycleclearlake

- **July 11** – MCC Manitoba Golf Tournament at Bridges Golf

Course – mccmb.ca/golf

- **July 14** – **Visit the Villages Tractor Trek** –register at

www.edenhealthcare.ca