

## **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

-Pray for the staff and campers at Camps With Meaning this summer.

### **Our World**

- A special picnic worship and fellowship time with members of the Lao Mennonite Fellowship of Canada was planned while **Tom** and **Christine Poovong** were in Ontario finishing up their Canadian itineration. Tom and Christine shared passionately of their call to serve God in Thailand and their vision for all to become Jesus-followers throughout south East Asia. After worship and sharing there was a wonderful barbecue and fellowship together followed by games of soccer and bocce ball. We are thankful to the Lao Mennonite Fellowship of Canada for initiating and hosting this gathering and their support of ministry in Thailand and Laos.

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

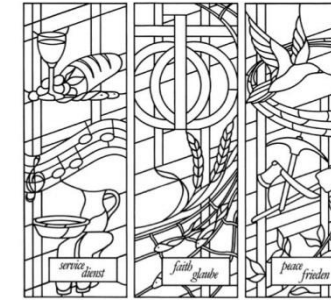
### **From the Pastor:**

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 worshiping an awesome God. - Condensed from Peter Schuurman’s writing



# Altona Mennonite Church

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

VOLUME LVII No. 24

July 1, 2018

when NMDOW EDISdU is RIGHT-SIDE UP

*Paradox of Piety:*

*When doing good breaks the rules*

### **Gathering:**

Welcome & greeting one another

Announcements

Call to Worship - Psalm 146 (NRSV)

L. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**P. I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will  
Sing praises to my God all my life long.**

L. Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom  
There is no help.

**P. When their breath departs, they return to the  
Earth; on that very day their plans perish.**

L. Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
Whose hope is in the Lord their God,

**P. Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all  
That is in them; who keeps faith for ever;**

L. who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives  
Food to the hungry

**P. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens  
The eyes of the blind.**

L. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,  
The Lord loves the righteous.

Pastor: Dan Kehler

Office Hours:

Wed. & Thur. 9:30 am to noon

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*Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.*

**P. The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the Orphan and the widow; but the way of the Wicked he brings to ruin.**

L. The Lord will reign forever; your God o Zion, for All generations.

**P. Praise the Lord.**

Hymn HWB #37 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty  
Prayer of Invocation

**Hearing the Word**

Hymn HWB #13 Blessed Jesus, at your word

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 58: 6 – 14

Matthew 12: 1- - 14

**Message:** Building Wholeness and Well-being Ray Hamm

**Responding**

Hymn SS #117 How can I say

Reading - Prayer for Social Justice

L: Creator of us all

Your human children are one family in you,  
each one in this family longs for life, laughter and security.  
So that means that what concerns any must concern all.

**P1: We confess our dulled awareness.**

**We are busy and want to care for our own families.**

**Our time is filled and we need to relax.**

**So we often don't see how others suffer.**

*P2: We have been guilty of selfishness and strife.*

*We are tired and overwhelmed.*

*It's hard to find energy and ideas for others.*

*We should be working for unity and fellowship.*

**ALL: We have been content that we should prosper;**

**our pleasures and comforts soothe us,**

**and make it hard to notice others.**

**Though many are poor, that a few should feast  
while multitudes are famished in body and soul.**

L: Creator of us all,

You have taught us

to do for others in their needs

what we wish would be done for us in those needs.

**ALL: Help us to repent.**

**Call us to your redemptive purposes.**

**Work through us to build**

**a new and better order on this earth**

**Creator of us all,  
may your name be glorified  
and all your children be blessed. AMEN**

Offering

Hymn SS #115 Beauty for brokenness

Prayers of our community

*Lord in your mercy ..... hear our prayers*

*Lord for your goodness --- we give thanks*

**Sending:**

Benediction

Hymn HWB #418 Move in our midst

Worship Leader: Marge Friesen

Song Leader: Lori Hiebert

Accompanist(s): Loren Hiebert

**AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**- Come for a "Taco in bag" supper on Wednesday July 4th at 6:00 at Friendship Manor.** We will be having a meal together in the backyard and dining room at the Manor. (Perhaps a game or two of Bingo) Bring a lawn chair. Meal is by donation to cover the cost.

**- From the Treasurer:** We enter the summer months already in our line of credit, with 2nd Quarter donations due to Conferences. Please remember to give regularly. Thank you.

- When you see a tent in a church, or something else out of the ordinary, remember to make your donation to the Food Bank. Breakfast programs in the schools are closed for the summer. It's another meal that is needed!

- 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](mailto:wiebesteven6@gmail.com)

**Birthdays:** July 1 - Mark Ratzlaff; July 2 – Steve Penner, Mary Costen; July 3 – Cheryll Giesbrecht

**Anniversaries:** July 1 – Paul & Margruite Krahn; July 7 – David & Janet Penner, Harry & Susan Klassen

**WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS at AMC**

July 4 10:00 am Men's Coffee

July 8 10:30 am Worship Service

*Scripture: Theme: Worship Leader: Dave Regehr Song*

*Leader: Dave Regehr Accompanist(s): Hildie Regehr Sound:*

*Perry Batchelor*

July 15 10:30 am Worship Service

July 22 10:30 am Worship Service

July 29 Sunflower Festival, Worship Service at the park

**COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**- July 10, 6:30 pm** - Dave & Hildie Regehr will be presenting "Ukraine: Resilience and Challenges", stories and pictures from our 2018 term at the Mennonite Centre in the Multi-purpose room at The Gardens on Tenth. All are welcome!

**- August 26, 3:00 pm – Hymn Sing Reunion Concert –** For 30 years, the CBC TV program, HYMN SING was heard and watched in living rooms across Canada. A reunion is being organized for August, and as part of that, a concert by the Hymn Sing Alumni Chorus will be presented at Bethel Mennonite Church, 465 Stafford St. Tickets available at McNally Robinson Booksellers.

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

**- July 7** – MCC's Cycle Clear Lake – [mccmb.ca/cycleclearlake](http://mccmb.ca/cycleclearlake)

**- July 11** – MCC Manitoba Golf Tournament at Bridges Golf Course – [mccmb.ca/golf](http://mccmb.ca/golf)

**- July 14 – Visit the Villages Tractor Trek** –register at [www.edenhealthcare.ca](http://www.edenhealthcare.ca)