

Our World

- **Tom and Christine Poovong** report recently on a new church plant in Pratai Korat, which is about two hour's drive from Khon Kaen where they live. The Poovongs give thanks to God for the "thirteen people [who] became new believers" this past Sunday. The first worship gathering took place July 8th. Please pray for these new disciples that they would grow in wisdom and courage to share their new-found faith with others in the community.

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

From the Pastor:

The following description of paradox is written by Parker J. Palmer. It is from the introduction to the 2008 edition of "The Promise of Paradox: A Celebration of Contradictions in the Christian Life."

The promise of paradox is the promise that apparent opposites can cohere in our lives, the promise that if we replace either-or with both-and, our lives will become larger and more filled with light. It is a promise at the heart of every wisdom tradition I know, not least the Christian faith. How else can I make sense of the statement "If you seek your life, you will lose it, but if you lose your life, you will find it"? Or "The first shall be last and the last shall be first"? Or the affirmation that Jesus Christ was fully human and fully divine? Or the notion that we know there is a God but we cannot claim to know the God that is?

The capacity to embrace true paradoxes is more than an intellectual skill for holding complex thoughts. It is a life skill for holding complex experiences. Take, for example, our encounter with "the other," with the person who sees a different reality from ours because he or she stands in a different place. To some extent, the other contradicts not only our thoughts but also our lives, and that can be threatening. If we lack the capacity to allow this contradiction to segue into a paradox—a both-and that has the potential to open our minds and hearts to something new—we will most likely fall back on our hard-wired "fight or flight" response. But if we understand the promise of paradox, our encounters with "the other" have the potential to make our world larger, more generous, more hopeful.

Optical Illusion by Alvin G. Ens

If light is darkness,
if loyalty to one is loyalty to an opposite,
confusion reigns;
how great is that darkness.

If my eye, being bad,
looks in the wrong places
and lets in darkness,
my whole body is filled with darkness.

Great gain may be great loss
if serving the material realm

I fail to serve my God.

When in my self-determined enlightenment

I separate the realms
as coexistent but untouching,

I trick myself,
being the more in darkness.

And if doubleminded

I go in two directions,

I fail, trying the impossible
to serve both God and Money.

And so I need to choose:

let riches be my god,

or let God be my riches.

And great loss may be great gain
when kingdoms become tangential,

then congruent
and lordship remains with God.

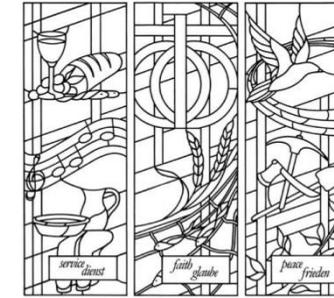
Proverbs 30:7-9

"Two things I ask of you, Lord;
do not refuse me before I die:

⁸ Keep falsehood and lies far from me;
give me neither poverty nor riches,
but give me only my daily bread.

⁹ Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you
and say, 'Who is the Lord?'

Or I may become poor and steal,
and so dishonor the name of my God.



Altona Mennonite Church

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

VOLUME LVII No. 27

July 22, 2018

when NM0D EDISdN is RIGHT-SIDE UP

Paradox of Wealth: The Luxury of Poverty

GATHERING

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Hymn HWB #71 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

Hymn HWB #154 This is my Father's world

Responsive Prayer

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings: Luke 6:20-26; Matthew 6:19-24;
Proverbs 13:7

Hymn SJ #94 Blest are they

Message The Blessings of Poverty Pastor Dan Kehler

RESPONDING

Offering

Hymn HWB #369 Lord, whose love in humble service

Prayers of our community

Hymn HWB #545 Be thou my vision, vs. 1,2,5

Benediction

Pastor: Dan Kehler

Office Hours:

Wed. & Thur. 9:30 am to noon

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Tel: 204-324-5178 (home)

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Secretary: Lori Hiebert

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Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Worship Leader: Mary Costen
Song Leader: Lori Hiebert
Accompanist(s): Loren Hiebert

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **From the Treasurer:** At the end of June, ½ way through the year, our Expenses are at 47% of Budget, and our Revenue is at 38% of Budget. This picture is not unusual, but it does tell us that we need to keep giving in order to fulfill our commitments. At the end of June, if all cheques had been cashed, we would have been over \$13,000 into our line of credit. Thank you for your faithful giving

- When you see a tent in a church, or something else out of the ordinary, remember to make your donation to the Food Bank. Manitoba continues to have the highest child poverty rate of any province, and more than 10% above the national rate.

- 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: July 22 – June Schwartz; July 23 – Kim Batchelor; July 28 – Sandra Klassen; August 1 – Matthew Molnar, Simon Braul; August 3 – Lorrie Wiebe; August 4 – Judge Wood

Anniversaries: July 22 – Perry & Kim Batchelor; July 25 – Mick & Marne Mierau-Friesen; July 28 – John & Lil Gerbrandt; July 31 – Greg & Mary Costen; August 1 – Mark & Nancy Ratzlaff, Dave & Hildie Regehr

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS at AMC

July 29 10:00 am Sunflower Festival, Worship

Service at the park, Marlene Wiebe will be speaking on "The Gifts of the Elderly". Scripture is Psalm 92:12-14.

Music - The Jamboree Singers and EMMC Worship Band.

August 5 10:30 am Worship Service

Food Bank Collection Sunday

Scripture: Theme: Music Morning *Worship Leader: Marne Mierau-Friesen, Marilyn Houser Hamm* *Song Leader:*

Accompanist(s): Sound: Nathan Loewen

August 12 Outdoor Service Braul/Dueck yard

August 19 10:30 am Worship Service

August 26 10:30 am Worship Service

August 28 8:00 pm Leadership Council Meeting

September 2 10:30 am Worship Service

COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Are your kids bored already with their summer break?** Send them to camp! There are still some spots available for many of our camp weeks. Please contact the camp office for more information! 895-CAMP (2267) or camps@mennochurch.mb.ca.

- **We still need you!** Our kitchens look pretty good, but we are still in need of some camp pastors and some maintenance help later this summer. The garden at Assiniboia is abundant but so are the weeds – if you love getting your hands dirty and enjoy spending time in the sun, our farm coordinator could use some help keeping up with the weeding and the picking. Contact the camps office at 895-CAMP to volunteer.

- **The Garden on Tenth is looking for volunteers** Someone to set, serve and clear lunch once a month for 1.5 hrs at the Apartments. If there are any other ways you would like to help please contact Sara or Grace 204-324-8945 or email admin@gardensontenth.ca

- **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.

- **September 8, 2018** - Come ride Eden Foundations's Head for the Hills cycling fundraiser on Saturday, September 8th starting at Morden's Colert Beach. Two routes to choose from. Full details at edenhealthcare.ca.

- **September 15, 2018** - 2nd annual Bike For Kids event The ride will take place from W.C. Miller to Gretna and back down the Trans Canada trail. All proceeds for this event goes towards Big Brothers Big Sisters and the programming done here in Altona.

Make it a ride for yourself, your kids, family, or put a team together from work!!! See the link below for all the info and registration. Lots of prizes, food, & free T-shirt for early registration.

<https://peminavalley.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/event/bike-for-kids/>

- **September 27 – 7 pm – MCC Manitoba Annual Meeting** at North Kildonan Mennonite Church (1131 Roch St.) Refreshments at 6 pm. Schedule is on the bulletin board in the general office. We are allowed one voting delegate per 50 members.

- **Save the date! Saturday, September 29th** is the 2018 **Ride for Refuge event**. Mennonite Church Canada is once again inviting its congregational family to participate in this fun, nationwide bike-a-thon/walk in support of our international Witness ministry. As the Ride for Refuge website indicates: "The Ride for Refuge is a family-friendly cycling and walking fundraiser that supports charities who provide refuge and hope for displaced, vulnerable and exploited people everywhere." Please visit the Ride website: <https://rideforrefuge.org/charity/mennonitechurchca>

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Our Church family

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

Our Community

- Summer is a time to slow down, relax and enjoy the gifts of creation. But for some in our community summer can be a time of stress and hardship. Many families rely on support from programs and services offered by the school division which shut down for the summer. Things like lunch and breakfast programs are no longer available adding extra financial burden to already tight budgets. Schedules are difficult to manage as daycare spots are not available. Missed days at work and possible layoff add stress to families struggling to make ends meet. Food banks report reduced giving and increased use in the summer months. Let us remember to pray for our community and the many needs that people have. Let us also be mindful of the needs around praying for "eyes to see" the needs and wisdom to know how to respond

- 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

- Please pray for our Camps with Meaning staff, that they may continue to live out their faith and grow together throughout the business of summer camp.