

Prayer for Our World

- Pray for Ruthie and Myrrl Byler sent jointly by International Witness and Mennonite Mission Network to support Anabaptist training in Asia. Pray their visas for Thailand will be available soon so they can start working with various partners in the region.

- Praise God for four recently completed teacher training events for the Congo Literacy Project, held in Mutena, Kamiji, Kamayala and Bita. Pray that 80 newly trained teachers would have the courage and determination to begin literacy classes in their respective congregations. The literacy project is supported by International Witness and Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission.

- Pray for groups meeting in both Colombia and Canada to work on ideas for bringing our churches into closer relationship. May we support each other in the issues that face us. Pray that the violence threatening rural Colombian congregations decreases.

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

Altona Mennonite Church Vision

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

Purpose

We seek to know God through Jesus, the center of our faith.

We seek to follow God in community, through worship, fellowship, and interpreting the Scripture from a Christ-centered point of view, in the Anabaptist tradition.

We seek to obey God by working toward peace and reconciliation, in the spirit of Jesus, reconciling all people to God, to each other, and to the world around them.

Deep calls to Deep Lent 2021

The world of isolation and virtual connection has become our reality. Suddenly the wilderness of Lent is all too real, as we are stripped of our usual surroundings, activities, and circles of relationship. In these months we along with the world experience both deep grief and invitations to a new spaciousness of time, as we needed to release so much of what usually fills our lives. The Scriptures for this season of Lent are filled with stories, songs, and promises that calls us to identify what is essential, what really matters, who we are at our core, and what God asks (and doesn't ask) of us. In the Scriptures and the traditions of Lent, we find a scrubbing away of the excess to get to the core of our Christian journeys and of ourselves. Lent 2021 becomes a season for renewed questioning of what we have discovered to be the deepest and truest parts of our lives and our journeys with God.

The call to go deeper can be frightening or overwhelming when we feel we are not ready and do not know what we will find. We keep much of our pain in our depths. The theme "Deep calls to deep" (Psalm 42:7) arouses in us God's calling out from a deeper place than the areas that we might think we can plan and control. God's call echoes in a deep place within us; a place where the words of love spoken to Jesus at his baptism dwell: "You are my Beloved; with you I am well pleased." might be lived deeply throughout Lent.

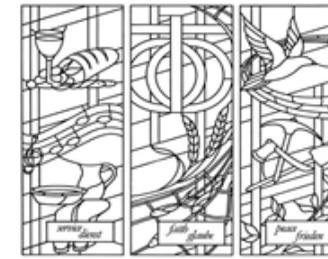
~ Adapted from "Deep calls to deep" *Leader* Winter 2020-21

Vol. 18 No. 2 p. 36

The Lenten theme for 2021 is DEEP CALLS TO DEEP. The worship committee has chosen to use paintings as part of the visual enrichment for this theme. The two abstract paintings are by a Chilean woman, Lucy Regueme. She has entitled the green painting, "Land is our livelihood" and the orange one, "When sharing the bread with the hungry, your light will shine in the darkness".

Margrute Krahn's paintings are titled: Experimental Lakes, Ontario - 2006, Red Pine Stand, Dryberry Lake, Ontario - 2000, I travel along a path that is unknown to me, I travel between fear and hope... - 2018

Thanks to Harry Wiens for contributing four of his paintings and to Margrute Krahn for contributing the one.



Altona Mennonite Church

Sunday School – Adults & Children: 10:00 am
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 am

VOLUME LX No.8

February 21, 2021

Lent 1 - Deep in the sea: Called to deep relationship

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn STJ #3 Jesus calls us here to meet him

Call to Worship

One: God, we are here at the water's edge, casting off from shore

Many: into unknown waters.

One: With fear and trembling, we drop our oars,

Many: letting them go, trusting the sea.

One: God, we trust the signs of your covenant: the ark through the water, the waters of baptism,

Many: the bow in the clouds and the dove from the heavens.

All: We call to you as you called us deeper into steadfast love.

Opening Prayer

Hymn HWB #136 From the Depths of Sin

Scripture Reading Genesis 9:8-17 Mark 1:9-15

Sermon Beloved Children

Hymn HWB #299 New earth, heavens new

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Many: Deep calls to deep. We call to you from the depths of our hearts.

AMC Contact information:

Pastor: Dan Kehler amcpastordan@gmail.com 204-324-6773

Office Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 9:30 am to Noon

Secretary: Lori Hiebert: C: 204-324-5952

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Custodians: Dale/Sandra Klassen: H:204-324-1475 C: 204-324-7458

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

One: We confess when we have stayed too close
to the surface,
avoiding you,
avoiding our neighbours.
We confess when we have felt in over our heads.
Needing you,
needing our neighbours.
(Silence)
Deep calls to deep.
You call to us from the depth of your love.

Many: Calling us to deep relationship. We come to you, God.

Hymn STJ #29 You are all we have
Sending Blessing
Postlude

Worship Leader: Mick Friesen

Music: Gina Enns

Recording: Dale Klassen

Worship & Meeting Events at AMC

Feb. 24	10:30 am Zoom Coffee
Feb. 28	Worship Service - Second Sunday of Lent <i>Theme:</i> Deep in the Woods: Called to deep Commitment <i>Scripture:</i> Mark 8:31-38; Romans 4:13-25; Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31 <i>Speaker(s):</i> Michael Pahl <i>Worship Leader:</i> Marge Friesen <i>Musicians:</i> Loren & Lori Hiebert <i>Sound:</i> Loren Braul
March 2	7:30 pm Zoom Coffee
March 3	7:15 pm Worship Committee
March 7	Worship Service
March 10	7:30 pm Leadership Council

Birthdays: Feb. 22 – Elaine Loewen, Bev Barton

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- From Dale & Sandra Klassen: On February 12 Brittany got engaged to Kris Winkler! We are planning an August 2021 wedding.

AND we became grandparents on Saturday February 13 to a beautiful boy! Nathan & Erika have a son named Riley John, he was born at 5:17pm weighing in at 8lbs 6oz. He is absolutely perfect!!!

What a wonderful weekend we had!!!

- **Voices Together**, our new hymnal is being used more for our services. If you would like to borrow a church copy for home use until we can meet again, please let the church office know. Indicate if you will pick it up from church (and sign out your copy) or if you would like to have it delivered.

- **From the treasurer:**

Thank you again for supporting the work of the Church.

You may contribute online if you bank at Access (using your 7-digit phone number as your account number) make an etransfer to amchurchdonations@gmail.com, or send or bring a cheque to AMC (Box 1237, Altona, R0G 0B0)

WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **CMU | Virtual Open House** Be part of a virtual CMU campus tour, hear from faculty and present students, and take the opportunity to ask all the questions you have about university studies at CMU. Students, parents, guidance counsellors and teachers welcome! A recording of this open house will be made available to those who sign up, but who are unable to make it at the scheduled time. **Wednesday, February 24, 4:00 PM (CST). Register at www.cmu.ca/virtual-open-house.**

- **Considering MCI for the 2021-22 school year?**

New students who submit an application by March 15th will share in \$25,000 of available tuition support. One lucky applicant will also receive their first year of tuition FREE! For more information visit www.mciblues.net/admissions/new-student-incentive/ or email sophiegerbrandt@mciblues.net our Student Recruitment Associate,

- Camps with Meaning Summer Staff applications are on the CwM website. Visit www.campswithmeaning.org and follow the Summer links.

- **MCM Annual Gathering 2021 - March 6 online - Come learn about your regional and nationwide ministries at the 2021 Mennonite Church Manitoba Annual Gathering.** March 6, 9:00am - 12:00pm online. Delegates should register through their church office. Non-delegates are most welcome, but we're asking you to register on the MCM website or by calling the MCM Office. 204-896-1616. mennochurch.mb.ca Summary agenda is available on the [MCM website Gathering event page](#).

- **Face2Face | Who Cares? The elderly among us...** A global pandemic is shining a light on our assumptions about the elderly among us. COVID-19 has exposed cracks in our systems of care, and shed light on our understandings of aging, revealing how we value older adults in our communities. How might we listen anew to the voice and

resilience of older adults, and how could such listening reshape our imagination and understanding? Join us on Zoom for a panel conversation with a Personal Care Home Executive, along with a number of seniors, including an Indigenous Elder. **Wednesday, February 24, 7:00 – 8:30 PM (CST)**

- CMU's **Xplore 55+ Enrichment program** offers courses exploring dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it – all without assignments or exams! **Eight online courses are offered on Wednesday mornings from March 3 – April 7** and include a rich array of options in Christian worship, biblical spirituality, Christian faith and Indigenous spirituality, the Book of Revelation, Old Testament Prophets, the power of music (from Bach to the Beatles), Abrahamic faiths in dialogue, and the witness of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Go to www.cmu.ca/xplore for information and to register.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Pray for Jim & Marlene Dyck as they wait for their house to be repaired after the house fire. They are at Katherina Courts.
- Pray for Pastor Dan as he resumes full time pastoral duties.
- Pray for Ken & Marianne Braun and Mike Tarnick who are at Eastview.

- Ken Hamm is back in the Altona Memorial Health Centre. Pray for a return of appetite and energy as recovery is challenged by mental and physical health issues.

- Pray for all those for whom mental health makes daily life a struggle. The current situation increases anxiety for many.

- Pray for those who experience physical pain, and for friends and family who help with their care.

- Many of our church family have other family they are concerned about. Pray for healing, strength and calm for all.

Prayer for Our Community

- Pray for ALL the teachers, students and staff as they navigate all the regulations and requirements.

- Pray also for the Health Care Providers.

- Pray for Doug Klassen (MCCanada's Executive Minister) and for church leaders at all levels of our conference.

- Michael Pahl is the new MCM Manitoba's Executive Minister.