

- Praise God for four recently completed teacher training events for the Congo Literacy Project, held in Mutena, Kamiji, Kamayala and Bitu. 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.*

**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".

Margruiete 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 Margruiete Krahn for contributing the one.

**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

**From A Timbered Choir, poetry by Wendall Berry**

Lift up the dead leaves  
and see, waiting  
in the dark, in cold March  
the purplish stems, leaves  
and buds of twinleaf,  
infinitely tender, infinitely  
expectant. They straighten  
slowly into the light after  
the nights of frost. At last  
the venture is made: the brief  
blossoms open, the petals fall,  
the hinged capsules of seed  
grow big. The possibility  
of this return returns  
again to the seed, the dark,  
the long wait, and the light again.



**Altona  
Mennonite  
Church**

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

VOLUME LX No.9

February 28, 2021

***Deep in the woods: Called to deep commitment***

Prelude  
Welcome and Announcements  
Hymn VT #575 Faith of the Martyrs

Call to Worship  
One: God, you ask us to set our minds on you, to walk before you and be blameless. You teach us what matters, and you do not hide your face from us.

**Many: With each step along the path, we are transformed into who you made and called us to be.**

One: God, you teach us that when we lose our life, we save it.

**Many: With each step along the path, we hope against hope in your promises.**

One: God, you say you will make us exceedingly fruitful, that you will bless us.

**Many: With each step along the path, we take up our cross and follow you.**

**All: We believe your everlasting covenant is to be God to us, and that we will live forever. We call out to you, as you call us deeper into this covenant.**

Opening Prayer  
Scripture Psalm 22:23-31  
Children's Lesson  
Scripture Romans 4:13-25; Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Hymn VT #732 Open My Eyes  
Scripture Mark 8: 27 – 37

**AMC Contact information:**

Pastor: Dan Kehler [amcpastordan@gmail.com](mailto:amcpastordan@gmail.com) 204-324-6773  
Office Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 9:30 am to Noon  
Secretary: Lori Hiebert: C: 204-324-5952  
[altonamennonite@gmail.com](mailto:altonamennonite@gmail.com)  
Custodians: Dale/Sandra Klassen: H:204-324-1475 C: 204-324-7458  
*Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.*

*We welcome Pastor Michael Pahl, Executive Minister for the Conference of Mennonites in Manitoba. He is joining us from his home in Winnipeg. Please pause this recording, and click on the link in our website to listen to his sermon.*

Sermon Called to Deep Commitment  
Hymn VT #580 To Leave the Stones Unthrown  
Time of Reflection Musical Interlude

- How is God calling you to deep commitment?
- What do you sense God calling you to commit to more deeply?

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

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

One: We confess when we have stayed on the edges.

Not listening to each other. Not taking the path you show.

We confess when we have strayed from the way.

Silencing suffering. Forfeiting life.

*(Silence. Or name the forces that keep us from deep commitment.)*

Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love.

**Many: Calling us to deep commitment.**

Hymn VT #601 Lead Me, Guide Me  
Sending blessing  
Postlude

**Worship Leader:** Marge Friesen

**Scripture Reader:** Dan Kehler

**Music:** Loren & Lori Hiebert

**Recording:** Loren Braul

### **Worship & Meeting Events at AMC**

March 2 7:30 pm Zoom Coffee

March 3 7:15 pm Worship Committee

March 7 Worship Service - Third Sunday of Lent

*Theme:* Deep in the Changing Sky: Called to deep wisdom

*Scripture:* John 2:13-22; Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1

Corinthians 1:18-25 *Speaker(s):* Dan Kehler *Worship Leader:*

Dave Regehr *Musicians:* Dave & Hildie Regehr *Sound:* Nathan Loewen

March 10 7:30 pm Leadership Council

March 14 Worship Service – Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 21 Worship Service – Fifth Sunday of Lent

**Birthdays:** March 1 – Greg Heinrichs; March 6 – Madelyn Mierau Friesen

### **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](mailto:amchurchdonations@gmail.com), or send or bring a cheque to AMC (Box 1237, Altona, R0G 0B0)

### **WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

New students who submit an application by March 15<sup>th</sup> 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/](http://www.mciblues.net/admissions/new-student-incentive/) or email [sophiegerbrandt@mciblues.net](mailto:sophiegerbrandt@mciblues.net) our Student Recruitment Associate,

- Camps with Meaning Summer Staff applications are on the CwM website. Visit [www.campswithmeaning.org](http://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](http://mennochurch.mb.ca) Summary agenda is available on the [MCM website Gathering event page](#).

- 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](http://www.cmu.ca/xplore) for information and to register.

### **PRAYER AND PRAISE**

- Greg Costen is recovering at home after a fall. He has a cracked vertebrae and is in a neck brace. Pray for healing and patience.

- 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.