

Prayer for the World continued

Witness worker Lakambini Mapayapa (Joji Pantoja) gives leadership to this social enterprise that supports the work of PeaceBuilders Community, Inc., in several areas of the Philippines.

- **Rising virus cases in Ethiopia** - Rising COVID-19 cases in the midst of complicated ethnic division in Ethiopia are affecting the ministry of Meserete Kristos Church. We pray for God's peace to reign and unity within the church to be strengthened.

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

We have been given permissions to use the logo from the MCManitoba AGM on our bulletin for the next weeks.

From the Pastor

This week 7 churches got their time in court to challenge Manitoba's Public Health Orders. After a protest in front of the Law Courts Building where claims of Church persecution by the state were voiced, Winnipeg Free Press columnist John Longhurst extensively quoted tweets made by Michael Pahl, our executive minister for Mennonite Church Manitoba, denouncing the claim of persecution. Here is an excerpt from that article. The full article can be found here: <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/life/faith/churches-in-court-challenge-not-being-persecuted-mennonite-executive-574360852.html>

In a series of tweets sent out Monday, Michael Pahl, executive minister for Mennonite Church Manitoba, called on Christians in his southern Manitoba community to continue to follow public health orders, as a way to show love for their neighbours.

Unlike what some churches are claiming in a Winnipeg courtroom this week, about how their freedoms are being restricted through limits on in-person gatherings, "I can freely proclaim and live out the good news of Jesus, of God's reign of love and justice and peace come near," Pahl posted on Twitter.

"I can freely love God and love my neighbours in the way of Jesus and I can freely gather with like-minded Jesus-followers for worship and building up in love, which also means not gathering together in person when love of neighbour demands it."

As for those churches which are part of the court challenge, including the Christian Church of Morden, "No, I am not being persecuted," Pahl said. "And my Christian siblings in Manitoba, neither are you."

Easter Season Theme

During the Easter Season (Easter to Pentecost) the theme for AMC's worship is "Rooted in Christ...Reaching out in Love." This was also the theme for the 2021 Mennonite Church Manitoba (MCM) Gathering earlier this winter. As a congregation of congregations MC Manitoba has always been "Rooted in Christ." "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:11) While MCM has always been "Reaching out in Love," the changing times call us to continually reevaluate the collective mission. This is where the ellipsis is important. The full theme is "Rooted in Christ — in order to envision where we might be – Reaching out in Love." The theme points to the future where new possibilities and emerging opportunities are present in the changing times. Many churches, including AMC's leadership have wondered about the future. While congregations have adapted to life during a pandemic as best they could, there is the lingering question what will life be like after the pandemic? It is acknowledged that a return to the way things were before the pandemic is no longer viable. The world has forever changed. Can the church adapt while remaining faithful to its call? "Rooted in Christ... Reaching out in Love," is a call to faithful wonder and trusting curiosity in the God of Love knowing that the Body of Christ will always find new ways of manifesting in the changing world. This is our call; this is our hope in this Easter Season.

As part of our Easter Season Theme links to videos that highlight the ministries of Mennonite Church Manitoba will be available on AMC's website. There will be a new one each week beside the link to the worship service. It is a wonderful encouragement to see how our community of congregations are engaged in a shared ministry.



VOLUME LX No.19

May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn VT #80 We Sing to you, O God

Call to Worship

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn VT #112 Womb of Life and Source of Being

Scripture: John 3: 1-15

Hymn VT #418 From the Parent's Heart, the Firstborn

Message In search of a less manly God Greg Costen

Hymn of Response VT #368 Spirit of Life

Prayer for Mother's Day

Hymn VT #514 I saw a Tree by the Riverside

Benediction

Postlude

Worship leader: June Schwartz

Musicians: Loren Brault, Gina Enns

Recording Technician: Nathan Loewen

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 Klassen 204-324-7458 Sandra Klassen 204-324-1475

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Worship & Meeting Events at AMC

May 16 Worship Service – Seventh Sunday of Easter
Theme: Scripture: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-9 *Speaker(s):* Dan Kehler *Worship Leader:* Andrea Hildebrand *Musicians:* Marilyn Houser Hamm, Marlene Wiebe *Sound:* Kevin Neufeld
May 16 – 23 Passing Kindness to each Other
May 23 Worship Service – Pentecost
May 30 Worship Service
June 2 7:30 pm Leadership Meeting

Birthdays: May 9 – Ruth Klippenstein; May 10 – Paul Krahn; May 11 – Rachel Geirnaert, Emily Wiebe; May 12 – Dan Kehler, Ken Penner; May 13 – Finnick Wood

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Wayne and Tracy Bergen are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Rachel to Ryan Wiebe. A September wedding is being planned.

- John & Lil Gerbrandt have moved into their new home. You will find them at 225-5th Ave. SW, Altona, ROG 0B2

- 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, ROG 0B0)

Check the latest minutes and financial statements for more information.

- **Work on the front stairs and wheelchair ramp** will begin soon. Because we are adding the ramp right away, costs are higher.. Donations are being asked for to cover the extra monies needed. Contact Robert Martens or Bill Loewen for more information

WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The MCC Warehouse in Plum Coulee will remain open after all. Gord Letkeman has agreed to stay on in the role of Activities Coordinator and lead volunteer engagement with MCC's material resources activities.

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

- **Campers are registering for summer camps and this means we also need staff and volunteers!** Kitchen and maintenance help, camp pastors and health officers are needed for one-day pop-up camps in various locations and week-long day camps at both camps. Head to www.campswithmeaning.org

- Due to the new public health orders, **the spring MCC Golf Yard Sale at 7 Mercury Bay, Winnipeg, is postponed** until further notice. Stay tuned for updates. To donate golf items, please contact the Sargent MCC Thrift Shop and Selkirk Ave MCC Thrift Shop for donation hours or visit thrif.mcc.org

- Your church can join a community of compassionate Manitobans working to end global hunger. **Sponsor an acre of Manitoba farmland with Grow Hope** and help provide food and agriculture training for people in places like Cambodia and DR Congo. Plus, every \$1 you give can grow up to \$5! Visit mccmb.ca/GrowHope or call Simone at 204-261-6381 to find out how to get started.

- **Mennonite Disaster Service** is running small project in the Wolseley area of Winnipeg and we are looking for day volunteers starting immediately. This project is in partnership with Home Street Mennonite Church, assisting them in helping a woman in their community do much needed renovations on her house. We are looking for 3-4 volunteers per day, primarily Monday-Friday, but with some Saturday's as well. COVID protocols will be in place to ensure volunteer safety. For more information or to sign up please call project coordinators, Dave & Anna Wiebe at 204-745-8128.

- **20th annual CMU Golf Classic:** Join us at CMU's annual golf fundraiser in support of student athletes and student financial aid on **June 15** at Kingswood Golf & Country Club. Visit www.cmu.ca/golf to register or become a sponsor.

- It is with considerable regret that Eden has accepted the resignation of our Chief Executive Officer, Kym Kaufmann. Kym will now become the Deputy Minister in Manitoba's new ministry, "Mental Health, Wellness and Recovery." Kym leaves Eden with an excellent staff, strong systems, and expanding services. Eden has initiated a search, and we seek your support, particularly in prayer, as we search for Eden's next leader. Further details and application processes are on Eden's website <https://edenhealthcare.ca/chief-executive-officer/>.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Harry Klassen has completed radiation treatments for prostate cancer. He and Susan are grateful for the prayers and other support given by their AMC family.

- Pray for Ken & Marianne Braun and Mike Tarnick who are at Eastview.

- Ken Hamm has returned home. He is doing well.

- 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 people 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 MCManitoba's Executive Minister.

- **Let us remember in prayer our MCM sibling church, Living Word Church in Cross Lake.** Cross Lake First Nation has been hit hard by COVID over the past year, with several hundred cases and seven deaths. As the community has been under a stay-at-home order, the church has not met since October and they have not been able to gather virtually. Pray for vaccinations to happen quickly, for the ongoing health and safety of community and church members, and for the future of the church post-COVID.

Prayers for the World

- **Maliwan welcomes new believers** - The Maliwan Church in Khon Kaen, Thailand, welcomed four baptisms on Easter Sunday. Thank God for this growing group of Jesus followers who share life together in worship, income-generation work, discipleship training and community service. Pray for Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong as they provide leadership and mentoring to this group.

- **Donors raise funds** for dehydrator for Coffee for Peace - Praise God for the generosity of Canadian donors which enables Coffee for Peace in Mindanao, Philippines, to purchase a dehydrator to dry surplus vegetables grown by their coffee producers, and to make cascara tea out of coffee pulp waste.