

"remember the children", a sculpture by Ken Loewen, was created to acknowledge the findings of Indigenous children's graves and the trauma experienced at residential schools.

**"Loose the Chains of Injustice"
a space for reflection – a call to peacebuilding**

The words of Jesus in Luke 4:18-19 speak the heart of his ministry and the heart of the ministry of the Church that carries the presence of Jesus in the world:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor;
to proclaim release to the captives,
recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord."*

For the coming weeks a space has been created in the church foyer for reflection and prayer as we continue to seek the path forward to live in Truth & Reconciliation.

The art installation, "Loose the Chains of Injustice," by Ken Loewen, both guide, and open a path to deeper reflection and prayer. You are invited to come prior to the Sunday morning worship service, or at other times during the week. Let this space, as it echoes Jesus' reference to Isaiah 58, prepare us for the coming season of Advent. God is with us, and God calls us to be a people of shalom in our world.

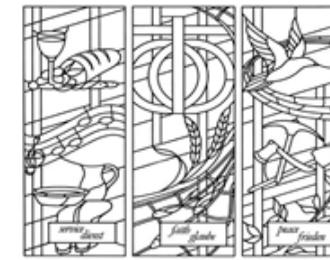
From The Pastor: A Season of Learning

In June of 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) released its final report detailing the history and ongoing legacy of the Indian Residential School system in Canada that operated until 1996. The TRC's final report shares over 6,000 Survivor and witness accounts of the system; it outlines the history of the system, its ongoing impacts on Indigenous Peoples today, and it calls attention to the challenge of Reconciliation in Canada moving forward. One major aspect of the TRC's final report is the *94 Calls to Action* that offer a roadmap to Reconciliation for Canada to follow. The Honorable Murray Sinclair (Senator ret.) Chief Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada said of the 94 Calls to action.

"My challenge to you is to read the 94 Calls To Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report and pick one that you can work on, that you understand, and that you support - and make it happen. This is not a spectator sport. We need you to be able to bring reconciliation to a reality in this country... we need everyone's participation and everyone's willingness to grow."

As people of faith, reconciliation is at the heart of who we are. "We seek to obey God by working towards peace and reconciliation in the Spirit of Jesus" is one of the guiding principles at AMC. Reconciliation is not a just Canadian issue. Reconciliation is not just an aboriginal matter. Reconciliation is the method by which the God of the universe creates and recreates from an abundance of love, mercy, and justice. Reconciliation is the means by which faith driven hope turns our words into action. Reconciliation is a plan that is big enough not only for Canada but a plan that is big enough to fit the entire universe. When Sinclair says "Reconciliation is not a spectator sport." he is in lock and step with all who profess to be Christian. Sinclair's call is for all Canadians to adopt a willingness to grow. A willingness to grow is also part of what it means to be a people of faith. The Psalmist asks of God, "Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."

This fall our theme is *A Season of Learning*. The revelation of the many children who died scared and alone at residential schools, who were buried in unmarked graves and forgotten, has stirred our nation. Our collective reaction has opened space for all to seek truth in a spirit of reconciliation. We as God's people at AMC also desire to enter this space. To focus our attention in *A Season of Learning* that we might growing in wisdom and understanding is just a small part of the overall work of God in this world. Our prayer in this season of learning comes from the Psalmist, "Show us your ways, O Lord, teach us your paths. Guide us in your truth and teach us, for you are God our Savior, and our hope is in you all day long."



Altona Mennonite Church

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

VOLUME LX No.45

November 7, 2021

A Season of Learning
Grasslands, God and others – TRC Call to Action #64

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn VT #180 This Is God's Wondrous World

Call to Worship VT #855

Prayer of Invocation

Listening

Hymn VT #175 Planets Humming as They Wander

Scripture: Psalm 19:1-6; Matthew 6:26-30;
Mark 6:42-47; Luke 5: 15-16

Hymn VT #181 Creation Is a Song

Sermon Dan Kehler

Responding

Hymn VT #514 I Saw a Tree by the Riverside

Congregational Prayer

Hymn VT #838 The Peace of the Earth Be with You

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Leader: Norma Thiessen

Musicians: Dave & Hildie Regehr

Recording Technician: Kevin Neufeld

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

Email address: altonamennonite@gmail.com

Website: altonamennonitechurch.ca

Custodians: Dale Klassen 204-324-7458 Sandra Klassen 204-324-1475

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Call to Action #64

We call upon all levels of government that provide public funds to denominational schools to require such schools to provide an education on comparative religious studies, which must include a segment on Aboriginal spiritual beliefs and practises developed in collaboration with Aboriginal Elders.

*"Follow wisdom wherever it is to be found.
The world is so beautiful and varied – let it show itself."
- Theologian Edward Farley*

From Noble Red Man, Lakota Wisdomekeeper Mathew King:
"White Man came to this country and forgot his original Instructions. We Indians have never forgotten our Instructions.

God gives His Instructions to every creature, according to his plan for the world. He gave His Instructions to all the things of Nature. The pine tree and the birch tree, they still follow their Instructions and do their duty in God's world. The flowers, even the littlest flower, they bloom and they pass away according to His Instructions. The birds, even the smallest bird, they live and they fly and they sing according to His Instructions.

Should human beings be any different?"

Worship & Meeting Events at AMC

Nov. 10	7:30 pm	Leadership Council Meeting
Nov. 14	9:30 am	Breakfast with Friendship Manor
	10:00 am	Coffee and Discussion Group
	11:00 am	Worship Service
<i>Theme:</i> A Season of Learning <i>Speaker:</i> Kerry Saner-Harvey, MCCMB Program Coordinator Indigenous Neighbours		
<i>Scripture:</i> <i>Worship Leader:</i> Margruite Krahn <i>Musicians:</i> Marilyn Houser Hamm, Sylvia Klassen <i>Recording:</i> Dale Klassen		
Nov. 21	10:00 am	Coffee and Discussion Group
	11:00 am	Worship Service.
Nov. 22	Decorating for Advent – time TBA	
Nov. 28	First Advent Sunday	

Birthdays: November 7 – John Gerbrandt; November 9 – Mason Wood

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Sunday, November 14, 9:30 – 10:30 am** – The Spiritual Advisory Committee is inviting AMC and our neighbours in Friendship Manor to come for toast and coffee/juice. Covid protocols will be practised.

WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- MCI's AGM will be held online because of COVID-19 restrictions this year on November 9 at 7 pm. Contact them to register. The annual report, including financial statements, will be sent to you via email before the AGM on November 9th. If you would like technical help, please ask. We will walk you through the necessary steps. We value your support and input. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to be part of this year's AGM.

-Inter-Mennonite Chaplaincy Association AGM.

Interested in learning how the Menno Office is supporting university students during the pandemic? Join us online for our annual general meeting **Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at noon**. Contact Scott Kroeker (imca.chair@gmail.com) for the link. For more information about IMCA, visit mennooffice.ca.

- **Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery** invites you to its annual **Fundraising Gala** with live music, verdant artworks, and a tribute to Ray Dirks on **Friday, November 12 at 7:30 PM**. Visit cmu.ca/gallery to register to attend in person or view the live stream.

- **The Mennonite Community Orchestra** presents "Prairie Sunrise" on **November 14 at 3:00 PM** at the Lutheran Church of the Cross (560 Arlington St., Winnipeg). Enjoy a variety of CMU and community musicians under the direction of Andrea Bell. For ticket, vaccination, and livestreaming info visit mennonitecommunityorchestra.wordpress.com. The concert includes a piece written by Anna Schwartz.

- **Break the Bank-uet 2. Camps with Meaning Online Fundraising Event.** November 14, 2021. 7:00pm. Join camp staff for music, updates, a celebration of Summer 2021 ministry, and of course, breaking the bank. www.campswithmeaning.org/banquet

- **Find the perfect locally-made gift at the Christmas Craft and Quilt Sale for MCC!** Shop and support MCC's sewing kits and material resources. **Saturday, November 27, 9:00am – 4:00pm** at Bethel Mennonite Church, 465

Stafford St, Winnipeg. All COVID-19 protocols apply, masks and proof of vaccination required.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Steven Wiebe is requesting prayer for him and his family. He is very concerned about Emily and how she lives with her disability. Also the family is still going through emotional struggles at the loss of Tim.
- Pray for Ken & Marianne Braun who are at Eastview.
- 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 teachers and students during this school year.
- Pray for all the Health Care Providers.
- Pray for Doug Klassen (MCCanada's Executive Minister) and for church leaders at all levels of our conference.
- Pray for Michael Pahl, our MCManitoba's Executive Minister.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

- **Pray for Witness worker's health** - Witness worker Sook Kyoung Park has been experiencing some health issues lately. Pray for her and Bock Ki as they work with doctors in Chuncheon, South Korea, to find causes and treatments.
- **Faithful witness in China** - Please pray for the small groups of Anabaptist believers in China as they develop leadership training and reach out to their neighbours. Praise God for these believers' quiet witness of faithful living.
- **AIMM meetings, new leadership in Congo church**
We thank God for the safe travels of Mennonite Church Canada Witness staff, Tany Warkentin, and other partners, to the Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission (AIMM) meetings in Burkina Faso and the Democratic Republic of Congo in late October. Please pray for the three national Mennonite churches in the DR Congo, one of which has just replaced their whole leadership team. May God guide these leaders to good collaboration in areas where all three churches share similar needs and concerns.

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