

PRAYER FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- Pray for all teachers and students during this school year. The changing restrictions make it difficult to create a learning environment.
- 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.
- MCI has 4 International students waiting for VISAS to come to Canada to study. They request prayers for this.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

- **Please be in prayer for the people of BC-** Intensive rainfall over the weekend has closed all major highways leading into and out of Vancouver and Fraser Valley, flooding in lower areas has meant evacuations for many people, other people have been stranded away from home because of impassable roads. MCBC has one church (Yarrow) in an evacuated area. Some other churches are dealing with flooding in basements and leaking roofs.

- **Thailand church leaders meet in person** - Praise God for the early November gathering of more than 30 church leaders in northeastern Thailand for a retreat and training organized by Friends of Grace Church Association, including Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong. This was the first in-person gathering since the beginning of COVID-19. It was an important time of sharing and providing resources for these leaders, most of whom are lay leaders with limited biblical and theological training.

- **Stronger bonds with Colombian Mennonite Church** - The Colombian Mennonite Church and Mennonite Church Canada are beginning to partner congregations from each Church together for mutual support and learning. Please prayerfully consider if your congregation is willing to enter a relationship with a Colombian congregation. Contact [Jeanette Hanson](#), director of International Witness, for information.

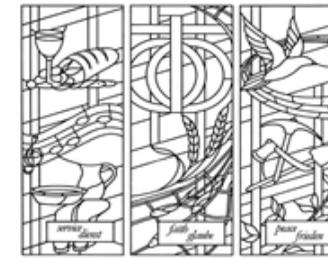
If you would like to add or remove any prayer requests, please contact the church office.

From The Pastor:

Advent to Epiphany Theme - Dare to Imagine.

While 2021 started with hope and positive resolve, the year has been another shaped by pandemic realities that caused conflict, struggle, remorse and grief. While there are signs of recovery, so much has been put on hold or turned upside down. While the situation has caused a kind of forced limbo, might we be able to see it as liminal time. Liminal time is the time in-between what we know and what is uncertain. It is emerging from darkness into the light. It is moving from uncertainty to hope. It is a time when we need to listen and respond to God's presence with new ears and renewed hearts and minds.

As Advent marks a new church year, can we *Dare to Imagine* a path forward with God toward God's good dream for our world. Rooted in our lives of faith and our trust in the Spirit, and arising from our engagement with the Scripture texts, the theme *Dare to Imagine* allows us to speak aloud our laments of things lost, share confessions of wavering faith, and express new hopes for coming days. It is an invitation to look for a new language to express our faithfulness. Renewed energy to engage and honor the imagination of our children. Find fresh courage to move beyond our comfort zones. And to raise our voices as we sing our praise to God. Each week's scripture readings will help us *Dare to Imagine* God's song, God's embrace, God's goodness, God's face, God's robe, and God's dance. Advent is upon us. Together let us *Dare to Imagine* a future shaped by God's desires for God's good creation.



Altona Mennonite Church

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

VOLUME LX No.48

November 28, 2021

First Advent - Dare to imagine God's song! **AMC Hymnal Dedication Sunday VOICES TOGETHER**

Prelude
Welcome & Announcements

GATHERING TO PRAISE

VT#78 (HWB#81) O For A Thousand Tongues

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 96:1-3.9-11 (HWB#820)
VT#208 With Mary Sing Magnificat

Responsive Call to worship
Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say: Rejoice!
People: Shout for joy, rejoice with all your heart!
Leader: God sings over you. Fear not, for God is in your midst.
People: Shout for joy, rejoice with all your heart!
Leader: Sing praises to God—shout aloud and sing for joy.
People: God is in our midst.
Leader: We listen.
People: We strain to grasp the sound of God's song.

VT#209 We Dream of a Turning
Prayer of Invocation

GOD'S IMAGINATION – Advent Theme
"Our Living Song" Children's Time

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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Responses: *We join our voices, We give thanks to God*

VT#42 Could It Be That God Is Singing
VT#61 You Are holy, You Are Whole

IMAGINING GOD'S SONG – Voice's Together Hymnal

VT#237 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper
Scripture Isaiah 11:1-4 (VT#232)

Response: *Thanks be to God*

VT#216 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, st.1,2
Prayer

THE UNSTOPPABLE SONG

Candle Litany

Leader: We light a candle of joy.
And we imagine:

People: Jubilation! Rejoicing! Do not fear!

Leader: We light the candle and join in God's song,
singing loudly, singing fiercely, singing
together.

**People: Imagine that . . . we are God's wonders,
blessed wonders.**

VT#276 Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets (Advent theme song)
VT#413 As Long as We Follow

BENEDICTION

VT# 70 (MH"606") Praise God (Dedication Anthem)

Musicians: Gina Enns, Loren & Lori Hiebert, Bretlyn Loewen,
Elaine Loewen, Kevin Neufeld, Nancy Ratzlaff, Dave & Hildie
Regehr, Anna Schwartz

Worship Leader: Marilyn Houser Hamm, Andrea Hildebrand

Recording: Loren Braul

Birthdays: November 29 – Andrea Hildebrand; November 30
– Peggy Martens, Cayden Wood; December 2 – Greg Costen

- Thank you to Shaun and Sidney Hildebrand, Elliot and Mary-Grace Rempel, Leo and Frederick Dyck, Simon and Rosie Braul, Cayden, Mason, and Finn Wood for their creativity in decorating the Advent wreath. Thanks also to Margruite Krahn and Karen Martens for their leadership.

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

Dec. 5 9:30 am Coffee and Discussion Group
11:00 am Worship Service – 2nd Advent

Theme: Dare to imagine God's embrace! *Speaker:* Pastor Dan Kehler *Scripture:* Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6 *Worship Leader:* Ray Hamm *Musicians:* Loren Braul, Gina Enns *Recording:* Kevin Neufeld

Dec. 12 9:30 am Coffee and Discussion Group
10:00 am Breakfast – toast and coffee
11:00 am Worship Service – 3rd Advent

Dec. 19 9:30 am Coffee and Discussion Group
11:00 am Worship Service – 4th Advent

Dec. 24 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service
(Will need to show vaccination card to attend)

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Vaccination Cards are required for attendance. They will need to be seen anew for the Christmas Eve service.

- **From the treasurer:** We are nearing the end of the second year in which Covid has touched our lives. The Pandemic has touched many areas of our lives, including our church life and its finances. Yet you have continued to give generously, and so AMC has continued to function, and to contribute to the wider work of the church. Now, we come to the usual crunch; with about 6 weeks left in the year, we need almost \$30,000 to meet all our expenses and commitments. We ask you to consider giving an extra gift in the next weeks. Thank you.

WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mobile Blood Donor Centre scheduled on: **Thursday, December 2 at the Altona Rhineland Pioneer Centre Main Floor Hall – 227 – 10 Ave NW, 1:00 – 7:00 pm** - Please call 1-888-236-6238/or go online to book your appointment - **NO WALK INS.**

- **Nov. 29th is United Nations Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.** Please join the Mennonite Church Manitoba Palestine-Israel Network along with others including folks from the Palestinian and Jewish communities at Vimy Ridge Park, 821 Preston Ave. Winnipeg, Nov. 28th Sunday, 12:00-12:30 until 1:30 pm. Canada Stand Up for Palestinian Children's Rights. We are asking the Canadian Government to appoint a Special Envoy to monitor and report on the situation of Palestinian children living in occupied Palestine pertaining to the standards of international law and UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, signed by both Israel and Canada.

- Levi Froese, the new chaplain at Eastview/Gardens is asking for more musical components as part of the spiritual care programs. If you are interested in sharing your gifts of music, or know someone who might be, please email him at levijohnfroese@gmail.com to let him know.

- **Break the Bank-uet 2.** Camps with Meaning Online Fundraising Event. Join camp staff for music, updates, a celebration of Summer 2021 ministry, and of course, breaking the bank. Go to www.campswithmeaning.org/banquet to watch the video.

- **Prepare the Way! Advent Afternoon @ Assiniboia**

You are invited to bring your friends and family to Camp Assiniboia for an afternoon of harp music, singing, drama, and more. Saturday, Dec. 4th, 1 pm - 4 pm. More info to follow soon.

- **MCI is hiring a part-time Prep Cook** to start immediately. For more information on the job duties and requirements, please visit or contact Ryan Potter, Director of Finance, at ryanpotter@mciblues.net

- **November 30 is Giving Tuesday.** MCI invites you to contribute to their Dormitory Lounge ReFresh. It was built in 1993 and needs some renovation after 3 decades of students have made the space their home.

- **Visit MCI's Facebook page** to see a "day in the life" at MCI.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Please pray for Mark Sawatzky as he is in a Calgary hospital. He has been able to take a couple steps. His doctors are still not certain of his diagnosis. Pray also for Sarah and Murray.

- 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.