

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 requests 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.

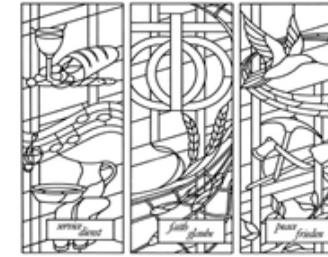
If you would like to add or remove any prayer requests, please contact the church office.

From The Pastor:

Advent to Epiphany Theme - Dare to Imagine.

While 2021 started with hope and positive resolve, the year has been again been 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 Imagining* 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.49

December 5, 2021

Second Advent - Dare to imagine God's embrace!

GATHERING

Prelude

Call to Worship

Hymn VT #248 It Came upon a Midnight Clear

Welcome and information sharing

Scripture Psalm 4:8; Ephesians 4:32

Invocation

HEARING THE WORD

Hymn VT #223 Bless'd Be the God of Israel

A warm hug – Children's time

Advent candle- a candle for peace

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

People: God's tender mercy, God's compassion.

Leader: We light the candle of peace to feel God's embrace, God's nearness, God's breath.

We light this candle

People: to invite the peace of God deep into our hearts and lives

Leader: We light this candle

People: to share this peace with those around us

Leader: We light this candle

People: to make peace with the land and the water of Earth

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.

Hymn VT #37 Be Still and Know
Silence and confession

Scripture Luke 1:68-79
Message A New Kind of Hug Pastor Dan Kehler
Hymn VT #527 Bless the Arms That Comfort

RESPONDING

Covenant Renewal and Welcoming New Members
It is with joy that we welcome Ray & Doreen Mierau
from Petitcodiac Mennonite Church, NB
VT # 960
Sharing by Doreen
VT # 961
Prayer
Hymn VT #831 Blest Be the Tie That Binds
Benediction
Postlude

Worship Leader: Ray Hamm
Musicians: Loren Braul, Gina Enns
Recording: Kevin Neufeld

Birthdays: December 9 – Loren Hiebert; December 10 – Perry Batchelor; December 11 – Tracy Bergen

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

Dec. 7 7:15 pm Worship Committee meeting
Dec. 12 9:30 am Coffee and Discussion Group
10:00 am Breakfast – toast and coffee
11:00 am Worship Service – 3rd Advent

Theme: Dare to imagine God's goodness! *Speaker:* Pastor Dan Kehler *Scripture:* Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thess. 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36 *Worship Leader:* Marilyn Houser Hamm *Musicians:* Loren & Lori Hiebert *Recording:* Dale Klassen

Dec. 19 9:30 am Coffee and Discussion Group
11:00 am Worship Service – 4th Advent
Dec. 21 7:00 pm Longest Night service
Dec. 24 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

(Will need to show vaccination card to attend)

Dec. 25 No Christmas Morning Service this year

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 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.

- 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.

- All who attend AMC may receive a subscription to Canadian Mennonite. The biweekly magazine is delivered by mail and email. Subscriptions are paid for collectively through Mennonite Church Manitoba. To start a new subscription or to change your delivery preferences (to receive print, digital or both), please contact Lori Hiebert at altonamennonite@gmail.com by December 30.

WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- In response to the Nov 18 and 19 arrests of Wet'suwet'en land defenders and elders attempting to stop construction of a natural gas pipeline across their unceded territory, MCM's Climate Action Working Group invites us to donate to the legal defense fund of those arrested.

Donations can be made at:

<https://go.rallyup.com/wetsuwetenstrong/Campaign/Details>

- **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.

- **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

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

- **Christmas at CMU.** Join us on Saturday, December 11 at 7:00 PM (CST) from the comfort of your home for this year's Christmas at CMU program. With Christmas favourites performed by a variety of CMU's music ensembles, this is our gift of glad tidings and joy to you! Watch the video premiere, or anytime later at cmu.ca/christmas.

- **Mennonite Church Manitoba** invites applications for two full-time positions: "Director of Mission Engagement" and "Director of Leadership Ministries". Visit the MCM website for the job description. www.mennochurch.mb.ca/get-involved

- Camp Assiniboia is hiring kitchen helpers. For more info contact Lauren Gervais cakitchen@campswithmeaning.org 204-799-5005. For other job opportunities, visit www.campswithmeaning.org/news

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Vic Penner had a bad fall on Saturday and broke his hip. There are complications and the family asks for AMC's prayers. They are ever thankful to have him close by making frequent visits possible. David and Steve are his designated visitors.

- 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.