

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.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

- **Prayer for Burkina Faso** - Calixte Bananzaro, president of the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso, has shared that terrorists have chased habitants in the northwest regions of the country from their villages, stolen their livestock and burned their stores of grain. Pray for an end to the violence in Burkina Faso.
- **Mennonite World Conference Indonesia** - Please keep the leaders and staff of Mennonite World Conference in your prayers as they plan for the July 2022 gathering in Indonesia amidst uncertainty of worldwide travel. They will decide in February 2022 how those meetings will take place, on site or online. Pray for strength, grace and wisdom as they find ways for us to be church together in this way.

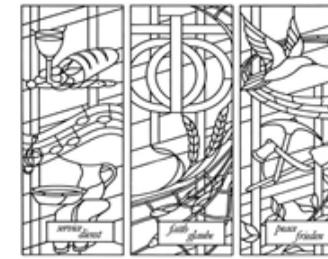
If you would like to add or remove any prayer requests, please contact the church office.

From The Pastor:

Advent to Epiphany Theme - Dare to Imagine.

While 2021 started with hope and positive resolve, the year has been again 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 Imaging* 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.51

December 19, 2021

Fourth Advent - Dare to imagine God's face!

Prelude

Call to Worship

Hymn VT #241 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Welcome/Announcements

Hymn VT #224 Mary Journeyed

Scriptures: Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7

Candle Litany

Leader: We light a candle of love, and imagine

People: the lowly lifted, fear met with love.

Leader: We light the candle and pray for God's face to shine on us, to save us, restore us.

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

Advent Hymn VT #276 Solemn Stillness

Children's time

Scriptures: Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55

Sermon The people of Havealot Pastor Dan Kehler

Hymns VT #267 What Child Is This

VT #268 Helpless and Hungry

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 Confession

Leader: We notice, O God, that when you feed people, everyone has enough.

People: We notice that in our world, when we feed people, some have more than enough, and many are still hungry.

Leader: Teach us to love.

People: We notice, O God, that in your social, economic, racial, and gender orders, no one is greater, and no one is left behind.

Leader: We notice that in our world there are many ladders, and many are climbing.

People: Reorientate us to your vision of equality.

Leader: God of mercy, lower us, raise us, empty us, and fill us. Like an empty manger, we want to be ready to receive Emmanuel.

Prayers of the Congregation

Hymn VT #412 My Soul Cries Out
Benediction

Worship Leader: Ang Enns
Musicians: Dave & Hildie Regehr
Recording: Nathan Loewen

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

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

Dec. 26 11:00 am Worship Service

Theme: Dare to imagine God's robe! *Speaker:* Pastor Dan Kehler *Scripture:* 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52 *Worship & Music Leaders:* Marilyn Houser Hamm, guest Paul Dueck *Recording:* Kevin Neufeld

January 2, 2022 11:00 am Worship Service – see announcement

Birthdays: Dec. 19 – Lori Dueck; Dec. 20 – Eric Geirnaert; Dec. 22 – Robert Martens, Karly Wiebe; Dec. 25 – Don Enns, Taylor Wiebe

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thank you to Sean and Sydney Hildebrand, Elliot and Mary-Grace Rempel, Leo and Frederick Dyck, Simon and Rosie Brault, 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 at AMC. 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 3 weeks left in the year, we need almost \$10,000 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.

- **The January 2, 2022 service** will be a sharing Sunday on the theme "Dare to imagine God's dance!" to start our year. Consider these questions for our time together.

1. Share a song and why it is special.
2. Share about how God dances in your life – what is the narrative or song that plays in your head?
3. What does it look like for everyone to be a part of God's dance?

WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Faith and Life Choir online Christmas Concert.** Join the Male Choir, Women's Chorus and MCM Staff in a 23 min Christmas Concert online. www.mennochurch.mb.ca/flchoirs

- **The Longest Night service, December 21, 7 pm** is being held at AMC this year. If you grieving the death of a family member or friend or any other loss, you are welcome to attend. Proof of double vaccination will be required.

- 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>

- **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

- Jean Tarnick is in BTHC after surgery for a broken hip. She will be there a while for rehab. Pray for patience and healing.

- Vic Penner has been moved from HSC to Misericordia and remains in hospital. Pain is still being managed. His age and cancer have curtailed any hip surgery. The family is grateful for your prayers.

- Mark Sawatzky was discharged from the hospital at the beginning of the week. Things were looking up. He has since had a bad fall and is back in the hospital. Please continue to pray for him as his battle continues

- 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.