

PRAYER FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- Pray for all teachers and students during this winter break from the 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.

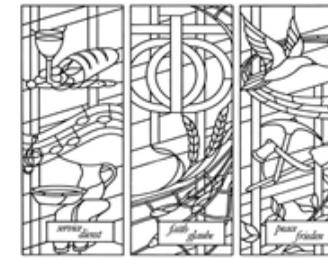
PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

- **Remember Bethlehem** - As you celebrate Christmas, pray for peace on Earth in Bethlehem. Visit <https://bethbc.edu/10549-2/> for Christmas messages from faculty and staff of the Bethlehem Bible College. Use these Bible Live videos to follow the magi, the shepherds and the Holy Family (<https://bethbc.edu/bible-live-videos/>).
- **Super typhoon hits Philippines** - Pray for PeaceBuilders Community and Lakan and Lakambini (Witness workers in the Philippines) as they deal with the aftermath of the Super typhoon Rai (Odette). Communities in northern Mindanao were hardest hit. In initial reports we know that Pantojas are fine and that the partners who they are working with are also safe.
- **Peace in Ethiopia** - This week Mennonites in North America sent a letter of solidarity to our family in faith in Ethiopia, Meserete Kristos Church. You can hear the letter read at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tihhIGaOtjg>. Join with us to pray for peace in Ethiopia.

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

From The Pastor:

2021 did not have the ending that we longed for. Many people said it felt like a gut punch just as our world was almost standing. It knocked us down once again. The Christmas Eve service began with these visionary words at the beginning of John's Gospel: 'Light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.' How often haven't we heard this word when the light shines brightly at Christmas? To hear them when the darkness seems to be overcoming the world once again causes them to become a word of hope rather than a quaint theme for a Christmas Eve Candle Light service. While it is difficult to be back in the space of uncertainty and doubt, it is a good reminder that we are not as in control as we might like to believe. Our resilience is challenged. Our fears are kindled. Our hope is put to the test. This is not such a bad thing as it is in this crucible of life's reality that our trust in God is strengthened, our faith in God's goodness is fortified, and understanding of our place in this world is reaffirmed. So let us read these ancient words of light and darkness even in these bleak times as a sign of God's presence among us that our hope may be made complete.



Altona Mennonite Church

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

VOLUME LXI No.1

January 2, 2022

Dare to imagine God's dance!

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Jeremiah 31:4-14

Hymn VT #275 O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

Call to Worship

Leader: Come and join in a holy dance – a dance God has been imagining since the beginning.

People: We come, weeping.

Leader: Join in God's comforting dance.

People: We come with nothing.

Leader: Join in God's dance of abundance.

People: We come, feeling disconnected.

Leader: Join in God's intimate dance.

People: We come, although we do not know how to dance.

Leader: Will we dare to learn the moves? Do we dare to step onto the dance floor?

People: We will join in God's daring dance.

Candle Litany

Leader: We light the Christ candle to honor Jesus and listen as all creation joins in praise.

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

Hymn VT #211 Hope Is a Candle

AMC Contact information:

Pastor: Dan Kehler amcpastordan@gmail.com 204-324-6773

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

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Ephesians 1:3-14

Questions for Reflection

1. What is a favourite hymn and why?
2. How does God dance in your life? What is the narrative or song that plays in your head?
3. What does it look like for everyone to be part of God's dance?

Music for Reflection

New Year's Prayer

John 1:1-18

Hymn VT #270 In the Beginning

Benediction

Worship Leader: Lori Hiebert

Musician: Loren Hiebert

Recording: Dale Klassen

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

SERVICES WILL BE PRE-RECORDED FOR NOW

January 9 Worship Service on-line

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 Leader:* Andrea Hildebrand *Musician(s):* Marilyn Houser Hamm

January 11 7:30 pm Leadership Council Meeting

January 12 7:15 pm Worship Committee Meeting

January 14 Deadline for AGM Reports

January 16 Worship Service

Birthdays: January 2 – Nancy Ratzlaff; January 4 – Kevin Neufeld; January 6 – Ken Braun

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.

- From the treasurer:

Good news from the treasurer! Thanks to all your generous donations, we think we will have sufficient funds to meet all our expenses and obligations. For the first time in 3 years we will be able to submit the full budgeted amounts to the Conference and our other commitments. This is exciting, and we are most grateful for your faithful giving in this difficult year. Thank you!

WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Join MCC Manitoba! We are looking for a [Constituency Relations Coordinator](#) who thrives on connecting with people and building meaningful relationships. In this role, you will deepen engagement and broaden awareness of MCC's relief, development and peace work with church communities and other groups. The position is halftime with a flexible home office base. Apply online at mccmb.ca/openings.

- **Mennonite Disaster Service Canada** is looking for an Accountant to join our Winnipeg staff team. We are hoping to fill this half time position in the new year. First review of applications will take place on Jan 3rd. For information on how to apply and for a job description please visit our website (MDS.org – 'About' – 'Employment').

- **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 at 204-799-5005 or cakitchen@campswithmeaning.org. 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. She would welcome a phone call, ask the AMC office for her number.

- 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 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.