

## From The Pastor: Sensing the Gospel

"We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life ..." (1 John 1:1)

In Jesus Christ, the salvation God provides cannot be reduced to an idea or abstraction. Salvation happens, instead, in human flesh. Indeed, God arrives as human flesh. Moreover, people encountered Jesus in their own bodies. These were real people in real contact with a real man from Galilee. Even today, we encounter God and God's salvation in embodied ways — in our bodies' abilities to perceive familiar realities and to interpret new ones.

~Matthew L. Skinner is Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary

The words of John and the commentary by Matt Skinner provide the starting point in AMC's winter theme of *Sensing the Gospel*. One of the things that the pandemic has reminded us of, is that we experience life through our bodies. We talk of COVID weight gain, COVID hair, and COVID fatigue. One of the symptoms is loss of taste and smell. Loneliness is caused when we cannot be physically present with our friends and family. The stories of family not allowed to be present as a loved one dies are heart breaking. While a screen may provide a level of connection it fails as a way of being present in the room to provide support for the dying and the grieving.

*Sensing the Gospel* invites us to think about Jesus' ability to make God known in tangible, sensory ways. It allows us to reflect on who we are as ones who experience all of life in bodily interactions. It challenges us as we seek to understand how we bear witness to the gospel. It gives us space to learn to encounter God among us and to know Christ through our bodies.

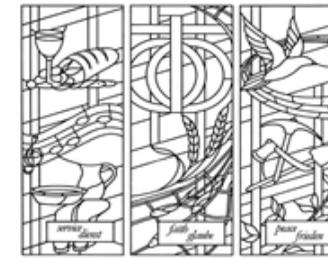
This preaching series was planned when omicron wasn't known to exist. It was hoped that it might help us reconnect with the community of God's people as we gathered in body once again. It doesn't feel right that we are meeting virtually. May we be ever mindful of the gift it is to worship in one space with every body who is there.

### Altona Mennonite Church Vision

*God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.*

### Purpose

*We seek to know God through Jesus, the center of our faith.  
We seek to follow God in community, through worship, fellowship, and interpreting the Scripture from a Christ-centered point of view, in the Anabaptist tradition.  
We seek to obey God by working toward peace and reconciliation, in the spirit of Jesus, reconciling all people to God, to each other, and to the world around them.*



# Altona Mennonite Church

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

VOLUME LXI No.3

January 16, 2022

## *Sensing the Gospel: Touch*

### GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn VT#30 Jesus calls us

Opening Prayer

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Psalm 118:15-17

Hymn VT#84 To God be the Glory

Scripture Reading: Luke 7:11-15; Revelation 21:1-5 (VT #339)

Hymn VT #36 Let us build a house

Message God Who Wipes Tears Pastor Dan Kehler

### RESPONDING

Hymn VT #518 Like a mother who has borne us

Offering

Prayers for the People

Hymn VT #810 Go, My Friends, in Grace

Closing Words

Postlude

Worship Leader: Elaine Loewen

Musician: Sylvia Klassen, Gina Enns

Recording: Loren Braul

### AMC Contact information:

Pastor: Dan Kehler [amcpastordan@gmail.com](mailto:amcpastordan@gmail.com) 204-324-6773

Office Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 9:30 am to Noon

Secretary: Lori Hiebert: C: 204-324-5952

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Website: [altonamennonitechurch.ca](http://altonamennonitechurch.ca)

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

*Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.*

### **WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC**

*SERVICES WILL BE PRE-RECORDED FOR NOW*

January 23      Worship Service – pre-recorded  
*Theme:* Sensing the Gospel: Sight *Speaker:* Pastor Dan Kehler *Scripture:* Mark 8:22-25; 1 Corinthians 13:12; Psalm 36:1-2, 7-9 *Worship Leader:* June Schwartz *Musician(s):* Dave & Hildie Regehr *Recording:* Kevin Neufeld  
January 30      Worship Service – guest Sheridan Sawatzky from the Station  
February 6      Worship Service  
February 15      7:30 pm Leadership Council Meeting

**Birthdays:** January 19 – Dave Regehr, Ken Hamm

### **AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **AGM moved to March 13**, in the hope we will be meeting in person by then.

- As we move into the new year, please remember that a new budget is being discussed. You may contribute online if you bank at Access Credit Union (using your 7-digit phone number as your account number), make an e-transfer to [amchurchdonations@gmail.com](mailto:amchurchdonations@gmail.com), or send a cheque to AMC (Box 1237, Altona, MB, R0G 0B0). Thank you for your continued generosity.

### **WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **ReNew 2022: An Online Conference for Pastors and Church Leaders on February 8** | *"Water from a Living Stream: Rejuvenation for Pastoring in a Complex World."* Dr. Scot McKnight will offer pastors and church leaders three scripture-rich presentations to help pastors clarify or re-focus their calling. For schedule and registration, visit [cmu.ca/renew](http://cmu.ca/renew).

- 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](http://mccmb.ca/openings).

- Collecting stories of people's experiences with Spiritual Direction. If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Laura Funk, Spiritual Director in Residence at Mennonite Church Manitoba. [LFunk@mennochurch.mb.ca](mailto:LFunk@mennochurch.mb.ca)

- **Mennonite Church Manitoba** invites applications for the position of "Director of Leadership Ministries". Visit the MCM website for job description. [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/get-involved](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/get-involved)

### **PRAYER AND PRAISE**

- Jean Tarnick is in BTHC after surgery for a broken hip and more recently, a perforated stomach. 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.

- Please keep Mark Sawatzky in your prayers. He was discharged from the hospital and is back home. We hope and pray things will go well. Pray also for Sarah and Murray who are here.

- 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 Dorothy Fontaine and family** - Please hold Dorothy Fontaine (Director of Camps with Meaning) and her family in your prayers as they cope with the sudden passing of Dorothy's husband Vince from a heart attack. Vince will be remembered as a devoted husband and father and a significant contributor to Indigenous and Canadian music.

- Pray for all teachers and students as they return to in-person classes on Monday. 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**

- **New Witness workers on their way to Ethiopia this January** - Join in praise and prayer with Witness workers Werner and Joanne De Jong as they make their way to Ethiopia to serve with the Meserete Kristos Seminary on January 16, 2022. After waiting the fall semester for visas, they are finally able to travel.

- **Vaccines finally available in northeast Thailand** - After months of waiting, vaccines are now readily available in the Issan northeast area of Thailand where Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong live and serve. Praise God that people can get this help as the Omicron variant catches hold in the area.

- **Pray for training of church leaders in Angola** - As part of Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission, leaders of the Mennonite Church of Angola have asked for prayer for the church's leadership training school which prepares pastors and other church workers for ministry. Pray for encouragement for participants and that they will be blessings to the church and to their communities.

- **Conflict at Wet'suwet'en continues** - Please pray for Wet'suwet'en water protectors who are currently asserting their sovereignty in the face of yet another large-scale mobilization of militarized police. On Jan. 4, Wet'suwet'en water protectors executed a nonviolent, strategic retreat to avoid arrest and violence at the hands of dozens of militarized RCMP. Take action by following [Gidimt'en Checkpoint](#) on social media and watching a recent [Mennonite Church Canada webinar](#) about solidarity with Wet'suwet'en.

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