

- **Struggle for online services** - Churches in China that have been closed due to COVID restrictions in some places struggle to find the proper channels for approval to put their services online. Pray for courage and persistence as they navigate new challenges in communication.

- **Witness workers delay trips home** - Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers face another year of visa restrictions and border closures that limit their travel back to Canada (and return journeys) to visit family and friends and connect with their support networks. Pray that we will find ways to encourage and uplift them as they remain in their countries of service. Thank God that their work has seen relatively little disruption during these years.

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

### 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.*

### 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)

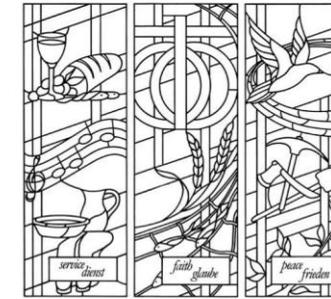
In Jesus Christ, the salvation God provides cannot be reduced to an idea or abstraction. Salvation happens, instead, in human flesh. Indeed, God arrives as human flesh. Moreover, people encountered Jesus in their own bodies. These were real people in real contact with a real man from Galilee. Even today, 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

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXI No.6

February 6, 2022

## *Sensing the Gospel: Taste*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn VT #28 Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Prayer

Readings: 1 Peter 2:1-3

John 2:1-10

Hymn VT #467 Taste and See (refrain only)

A Taste of Savory

Reading: Ps 34:4-8

Hymn VT #467 Taste and See (refrain only)

A Taste of Sweet

Reading: Is 55: 1-2

Hymn VT #467 Taste and See (refrain only)

Message The Flavours of Creation Pastor Dan Kehler

Hymn SS #1 Praise the One who Breaks the darkness  
VT #474

A Taste of the Ukraine

Prayers of the People

Sending Song: VT #849 We, Your People, Sing Your Praises

Postlude

### 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

Email address: [altonamennonite@gmail.com](mailto:altonamennonite@gmail.com)

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 Leader: Margruite Krahn  
Musicians: Dave & Hildie Regehr  
Recording: Loren Braul

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

February 9 7:15 pm Worship Committee

February 13 11:00 am Worship Service

*Theme:* Sensing the Gospel: Hearing *Scripture:* John 5:25-29; Romans 10:14, 17; Psalm 62 *Speaker:* Pastor Dan Kehler  
*Worship Leader:* Susie Fisher *Musician(s):* Marilyn Houser Hamm  
*Recording:* Nathan Loewen

February 15 7:30 pm Leadership Council Meeting

February 20 11:00 am Worship Service

March 13 AGM – 1 pm

**Anniversaries:** February 9 – Bill & Anne Loewen

### **AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Jean Tarnick is delighted to announce the birth of a great-granddaughter Charlotte Wren Penner, born on January 29. Parents are Amy (Tarnick) & Tyler Penner. Grandparents are Shawn & Carole Tarnick. Congratulations to all!

- Perry and Kim Batchelor are thrilled to announce the arrival of twin granddaughters, Blakely James and Bostyn Rennee Batchelor born January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. Proud parents are Mac and Brianne, and delighted great-grandparents are Bill and Anne Loewen. Babies weighed in at around 5 lbs. each and are at home, doing very well.

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

- **If you would like a 2022 MCC Calendar**, we have some available in the lobby. Each month features an MCC program from somewhere in the world.

- 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**

- Considering MCI for the 2022-23 school year? New students who apply before March 15th for the upcoming Fall Semester will receive a FREE lunch package for the school year. In addition, one full-ride tuition will be awarded at random to a student who applies before this date. Learn more by emailing [info@mciblues.net](mailto:info@mciblues.net) or calling (204)327-5891.

- **The journey of a comforter:** Live from Kansas and Jordan. Whether you make comforters for MCC or are interested in learning more, join us for this exclusive webinar on February 17 at 11am (CST). Follow the journey of how MCC comforters are sewn, shipped and shared with displaced people in Jordan. For more information and to register, visit [mcccanada.ca/mcc-webinar-series](http://mcccanada.ca/mcc-webinar-series).

- **Xplore: At the Intersection of Faith and Life.** A 55-Plus enrichment program, Xplore offers courses that investigate dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it. All without any assignments or examinations! Xplore happens in a six-week block, with online courses offered Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, beginning March 1. Visit [cmu.ca/xplore](http://cmu.ca/xplore).

- **Camps with Meaning Summer Camp registration** is open. Visit [www.campswithmeaning.org](http://www.campswithmeaning.org) to learn more and register. There are application forms in the lobby as well.

### **PRAYER AND PRAISE**

- Jean Tarnick was transferred to the Altona Hospital after a decision to not continue with rehab. Pray for her and her children as they take the next steps for Jean's care.

- Vic Penner is still at Misericordia and his fractures have healed well so physio can begin. Due to Covid on his ward no visitations have been allowed since before Christmas. FaceTime and regular drop-offs of cards, letters, and family pictures are the family's current form of communication. They are grateful for the continued 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 all teachers and students as they return to in-person classes. The changing restrictions make it difficult to create a learning environment

- MCI asks for prayers for their health and safety. As we work through the Omicron wave of the pandemic, we recognize high transmission rates are occurring. This will result in higher levels of absenteeism in students and staff. We pray that any cases that occur will be mild will not greatly impact the learning that needs to take place before the semester ends.

- 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**

- **Please pray for the people in Ukraine.** They continue to deal with rampant COVID-19 cases as well as rising inflation making access to basic goods and services more difficult and more expensive. Last year prices increased by 10%, food prices increased 13% and fears are that this year those rates may go up to 20%. Now they are also facing increasing threats of hostilities from Russia, an escalation of unrest in Eastern Ukraine since 2014. At the Mennonite Centre we are still able to help the poor with food assistance, medical aid and funds for education, especially for those with disabilities. Despite not being able to have our usual fund-raising events in the past two years, we are grateful that donations have to come in allowing the work to continue.

- **Happy Lunar New Year!** - As families have gathered this week in many parts of Asia and the world to celebrate the Lunar New Year, pray for your family of faith gathered in various groups and places across Asia, in most places part of a tiny minority of the population that speaks boldly to the difference following Jesus makes in their lives. May we find more ways to learn from and with them.