

- **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)

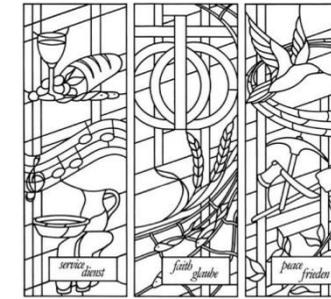
In Jesus Christ, the salvation God provides cannot be reduced to an idea or abstraction. Salvation happens, instead, in human flesh. Indeed, God arrives as human flesh. Moreover, people encountered Jesus in their own bodies. These were real people in real contact with a real man from Galilee. Even today, 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.7

February 13, 2022

Sensing the Gospel: Hearing

GATHERING

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship (Entering into Silence)

Prayer of Invocation

Song (instrumental): VT 127 *Bless the Lord, My Soul*

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture Readings: *John 5:25-29, Romans 10:14, 17*

Leader: "...This is the word of the Lord."

People: "Thanks be to God."

Song (a capella) VT 118 *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

Psalm *Psalm 62*

Song VT 537 *Lord, You Sometimes Speak*

Sermon The soul finds what it needs in silence Dan Kehler

RESPONDING

Song VT 548 *Open, Lord, My Inward Ear* (st. 1 & 2)

Offering

Prayers of the People

Song VT 680 *Calm Me, Lord*

SENDING

Announcements

Song VT 42 *Could It Be That God Is Singing*

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

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Website: altonamennonitechurch.ca

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

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Benediction

Song VT 43 *God Be the Love*

Verse 1 solo voice Verse 2 women

Verse 3 men Verse 4 south side of congregation

Verse 5 north side of congregation Repeat Verse 5 ALL

Worship Leader(s): Susie Fisher, Marilyn Houser Hamm

Musicians: Loren Hiebert, Kevin Neufeld, Marilyn Houser Hamm

Hamm

Recording: Nathan Loewen

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

February 15 7:30 pm Leadership Council Meeting

February 20 11:00 am Worship Service

Theme: Scripture: Speaker: Video message from Will

Loewen, Trinity Mennonite in Alberta *Worship Leader:* Andrea

Hildebrand *Musician(s):* Loren Bral, Elaine Loewen

Recording: Kevin Neufeld

February 27 11:00 am Worship Service

March 6 11:00 am Worship Service

March 13 11:00 am Worship Service

1:00 pm AGM

Birthdays: February 13 – Rosie Bral

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ray and Marilyn Houser Hamm are delighted to welcome another grandson, Carter Ian Epp, born to Kirsten & Ian Epp on February 8 at 11:48pm, weighing 7lb.9 oz and 19.5 inches long. Carter is the new little brother for 2yr. old Peter.

- 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!

- AGM Report books (one per household) are available on the lobby table.

- A few changes to the directory:

Marne Mierau Friesen's new email is marnejill@gmail.com

Mick Friesen's is mickfriesen29@gmail.com

Ray and Doreen Mierau have added a land line 204-542-0796

- **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 will be presented at our AGM. 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, or send a cheque to AMC (Box 1237, Altona, MB, R0G 0B0). Thank you for your continued generosity.

WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENT

- YFC – The Station is currently seeking to add a new staff member to lead our outreach/ and young women's ministry programs. We are hoping to hire the right candidate by July 1, 2022. See the poster on the bulletin board for information.

- The Gardens on Tenth is hiring an accounting and payroll clerk. This is a full-time position, with a competitive salary and comprehensive Benefit Package. For full job description and requirements, see www.gardensontenth.ca

- **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.

- **Registration is open for all of our camps** – day, overnight, farm, outtrip, ADV – we are so looking forward to being together this summer! Staff and volunteer applications are also available – we need you too.

www.campswithmeaning.org

- **Camp Assiniboia** invites applications for the "Facilities Manager" position. Visit www.campswithmeaning.org/news for more info.

- **MCM Annual Gathering 2022** - March 5. Delegates register through your church office. If you're not a delegate, you're still a welcome guest. Guests register on the webpage. www.mennochurch.mb.ca/events

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 has been released from Misericordia hospital. He has been moved into The Arbours at BrightWater Linden Pointe, where he will be able to receive the extra care he needs. Along with the many challenges we have experienced many blessings. Thank you 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 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 fundraising events in the past two years, we are grateful that donations have to come in allowing the work to continue.