

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.

- **Training in Thailand** - Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong work with lay church leaders, many of whom have little or no training. Pray that they will be able to respond to the requests for training in ways that will answer the needs of Thai leaders. Praise God for these leaders and their families as they take on this responsibility. To donate to ministry in Thailand, visit mennonitechurch.ca/thailand.

- **Mentoring young leaders in Philippines** - Lakan and Lakambini (Dann and Joji Pantoja), Witness workers in the Philippines, mentor young leaders who have the vision to carry their ministry of peacebuilding and reconciliation on the island of Mindanao into the future. Pray that these new leaders would be granted wisdom, strength and joy as they follow Jesus in difficult circumstances. To donate to ministry in the Philippines, see mennonitechurch.ca/peacebuildingphilippines.

- **De Jongs must leave Ethiopia** - Werner and Joanne De Jong, Witness workers serving in Ethiopia at Meserete Kristos Seminary, have left Ethiopia due to visa complications. They plan to stay in Macedonia for a week, while they re-apply to enter the country and stay for the rest of the semester. Please pray for peace for them in this discouraging situation. To donate to ministry in Ethiopia, visit mennonitechurch.ca/ethiopia.

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)

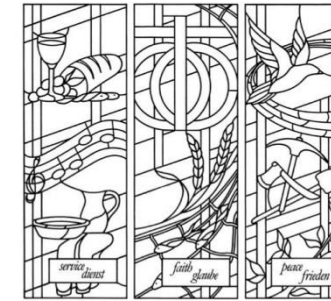
In Jesus Christ, the salvation God provides cannot be reduced to an idea or abstraction. Salvation happens, instead, in human flesh. Indeed, God arrives as human flesh. Moreover, people encountered Jesus in their own bodies. These were real people in real contact with a real man from Galilee. Even today, 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.8

February 20, 2022

Sensing the Gospel: Hearing

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Song VT 180 This is God's Wondrous World

Call to Worship

Song SJ 4 You've got a place

HEARING THE WORD

Scripture: Psalm 121 (VT #109 Responsive reading)
Matthew 17:1-9

Reading: In Our Midst

Song VT 550 God who touches Earth with Beauty

Sermon: God's Voice Transfigured

Pastor William Loewen of Trinity Mennonite Church
DeWinton, AB

RESPONDING

Song VT 537 Lord You Sometimes Speak

Call to Reconciliation ~ written by Thom Shuman 2006

Sometimes we wait for God to astound us with whirlwinds of wonders, while God silently offers us grace. God waits to forgive us, so let us hold nothing back, but trust in the One who listens to our prayers and answers us with mercy.

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

Assurance of Pardon

On mountaintops and in valleys, in our homes and in our hearts, God knows us better than we know ourselves, and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves.

By God's mercy, we are forgiven;

by God's mercy, we are made whole;

by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SENDING

Benediction

Song VT 847 You Shall Go Out with Joy

Worship Leader(s): Andrea Hildebrand

Musicians: Loren Braul, Elaine Loewen

Recording: Kevin Neufeld

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

February 27 11:00 am Worship Service

followed by a soup lunch in the basement

Theme: Sensing the Gospel: Smell *Scripture:* John 12:1-3; 2 Corinthians 2:14-16a; Psalm 141:1-2 *Speaker:* Pastor Dan Kehler *Worship Leader:* Lori Hiebert *Musician(s):* Lori & Loren Hiebert *Recording:* Dale Klassen

March 6 11:00 am Worship Service

March 13 11:00 am Worship Service

1:00 pm AGM

Birthdays: February 22 – Elaine Loewen, Bev Barton

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 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

Ken & Elaine Loewen's new email keloew69@gmail.com

- **AGM moved to March 13** and will be held in the sanctuary to allow for a bit more spacing. Report books are on the lobby table, one per household

- 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** – Xplore offers life-long learning investigating 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.

- Join the Day of Action for a Just Transition: March 12 We need a Just Transition to a sustainable future which prioritizes Indigenous people and workers in the energy sector. Here's an opportunity for churches to advocate for one. Gather a group, write a letter to your MP, deliver it to their office on March 12. Here's a helpful toolkit: <https://350.org/just-transition-day-of-action/> Contact Josiah Neufeld (jpaulneufeld@gmail.com) of the MCM Climate Action Working Group.

- Join the Nationwide Virtual Choir for Mennonite Church Canada Gathering 2022. Instructions and files at www.mennonitechurch.ca/gathering2022 Submissions held open until March 1.

- Earl Reimer is retiring from his position as Director of Development for the Eden Foundation as of March 31, 2022.

Anyone interested in applying will find the Director of Development position posted on our website at www.edenhealthcare.ca/category/careers.

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 in our community.

- 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