

## **PRAYER AND PRAISE**

- Condolences to Steve and Anna Penner on the passing of Steve's father Vic Penner. A memorial service is planned for spring.
- Pray for Harv Heinrichs as he continues on his long road of recovery. Pray for family, especially for Kathy. Visitors may come for a short time.
- We pray for our pulpit supply minister Harold Peters Fransen, and for Erika Enns Rodine, our future pastor.
- We pray for the seniors in our congregation: Ken & Marianne Braun who are at Eastview; Jean Tarnick who is in her suite at Gardens on Tenth Manor, Sarah Sawatzky at Golden West.
- We pray for those who are grieving.
- We pray for those whose mental health and physical health make employment and daily life a struggle.
- We pray for the family care-givers.
- Prayers for Vic Penner as he returned to palliative care.
- We pray for Anna Penner as she begins her treatment for cancer.

## **Prayer for Our Community**

- Pray for all the Health Care Providers.
- Pray for church leaders at all levels of our conference.

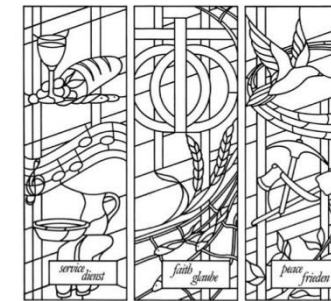
## **Prayers for the World**

- **Support now accessible to churches in Myanmar** - Pray for Bible Missionary Church and Anabaptist Church Myanmar. Praise God that MC Canada Witness has been able to send support for these ministries after months of delay and that these congregations continue to minister despite economic hardship and risk of violence. Pray for the churches in Chin State as violence increases. For more info, visit <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/myanmar>.
- **Tokyo churches make plans for Mennonite Centre** - Pray for the Tokyo Area Fellowship of Mennonite Churches as it makes decisions on what to do with the building that housed the Tokyo Mennonite Centre. Pray that they will be of one heart as they move forward with plans. Pray for MC Canada relationship catalysts, Rie and Gerald Neufeld, as they support TAFMC in this process. For more info, visit <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/japan>.

## **- Remember Witness workers during the holidays**

As Christmas season approaches, pray for children, grandchildren and families of Witness workers who will not spend Christmas with their family members. Consider reaching out to our Witness workers and their families to thank them and encourage them in their work.

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



# Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXI No.40

November 27, 2022

## ***Watch! The Day is Almost Here***

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Hymn VT#274 See Whose Glory Fills the Skies

## **Call to Worship**

Leader: Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel;  
You who sit on the mercy seat between the cherubim,  
We stand in your presence, seeking your face.

**People: Shine forth, O Lord, in the sight of your people, That we may see you clearly.**

**Stir up your strength in us; com, rescue us.**

Leader: The time is near, we are watching; restore us again, O God.

**People: Cause your face to shine and we shall be saved, Made whole by your gracious love and kindness.**

**All: We are watching and waiting for you, O Lord.**

Prayer of Invocation

Advent Candle-lighting – Loren, Lori, Simon & Rosie Braul

Hymn VT #211 Hope Is a Candle

Scriptures: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14;  
Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon: Proceeding in Hope

Jeff Friesen, Mennonite Church Manitoba

### **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.*

### **AMC Contact information:**

Secretary: Lori Hiebert: C: 204-324-5952 Church: 204-324-6773

Office Hours: Thursday 9:30 am to Noon

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

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

Moderator: Loren Braul: C: 204-995-5347

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

*Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.*

Hymn VT#210 O Come, O Come Immanuel

Communion

Sharing concerns of the congregation / prayer

*In your goodness, we give thanks*

*In your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Advent Prayer

Hymn VT#218 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, st.1,3

Benediction

Worship Leader: Ang Enns

Musicians: Marilyn Houser Hamm, Nancy Ratzlaff

Sound: Nathan Loewen

Jeff Friesen works with Karen Schellenberg as Co-Director of Leadership Ministries for MCM. Prior to taking on this role in August 2022, Jeff served at Charleswood Mennonite Church for 18 years as an Associate Pastor and Co-Pastor. He is married to Jess Klassen who works at Canadian Mennonite University as Director of Research Grants. They have two children, Felix (11) and Miles (4). Jeff is an avid cyclist and a music lover.

**Birthdays:** November 29 – Andrea Hildebrand; November 30 – Peggy Martens, Cayden Wood; December 2 – Greg Costen

**AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- During this Advent season, our services are built on the theme of "restoration." As we watch and wait for the birth of Christ, the Christmas tree will become the primary visual focus. AMC Kids have already worked hard to "prepare room" by clearing the stage for the tree. Each consecutive Sunday of Advent, AMC kids will create and hang new ornaments for the tree using earth elements. We invite you to watch closely and delight in the unexpected as the Christmas tree is slowly restored to fullness, just as Earth is restored to fullness with the birth of Christ.

- **From the treasurer:** Thank you for your continuing contributions to AMC's budget. 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).

**WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- There will be a Community Christmas Day Dinner again this year on December 25 from 11:30 am till 2 pm at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre. Volunteers are needed: Shift One: Prep; Shift Two: Serving; Shift Three: Cleanup, please call Angelika at 204 324-8139 if you can help. There will be a donation box in the church office. The money will be given to the Christmas Day Dinner committee, or you may call 204 324-8139 to make the donation.

- **Feeding the world?** As inflation and a rising cost of living takes hold around the world, we are told again of a "perfect storm" for those dependent on a globalized food system. What does the emerging global food price crisis mean for ordinary life and efforts to feed one's family? Join Germinating Conversations on November 29, 7 pm, at Canadian Mennonite University (Great Hall, North Campus) for a roundtable dialogue with growers, harvesters and eaters

- **Blood Donor Clinic** - December 1, 2 pm – 7 pm at the Altona Rhineland Pioneer Centre - Main Floor Hall – 227 – 10 Ave NW Please call 1-888-236-6283, or go on-line to book your appointment. **NO WALK INS PLEASE.**

- **CMU Festival Chorus** – J.S. Bach's magnificent Christmas Oratorio, Weihnachtsoratorium BWV 248, is an awe-inspiring masterpiece for choir, soloists, and orchestra. Enjoy the choir's stunning musical rendering of the nativity story in all its rejoicing, gladness, and celebration on December 9, 2022 (in Winnipeg, MB) and **December 10, 2022 (in Gretna, MB).** Details and tickets available at [cmu.ca/festivalchorus](http://cmu.ca/festivalchorus).

- **O Come, Emmanuel. A Christmas Carol Sing with the Faith and Life Choirs. December 18, 2022. 3:30pm.** Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg. A freewill offering will be taken for this Mennonite Church Manitoba ministry.

- This Christmas season, choose gifts of comfort and joy! Your gift of school supplies, an eco-stove, chickens or fruit trees will change lives. **Browse MCC's Christmas Giving Guide** at [mccmb.ca/Christmas](http://mccmb.ca/Christmas).

- **The Mennonite Church Manitoba Nominating Committee invites our prayers** as they discern nominees for upcoming vacancies. We are especially encouraged to pray for the upcoming open position of MCM Moderator. We are grateful to Gerald Gerbrandt for his exemplary service in this role in recent years, and we trust that God will provide another excellent Moderator for our regional church. If you have suggestions for the committee, please email Trevor Stoesz, Nominating Committee Chair, at [tstoesz3@hotmail.com](mailto:tstoesz3@hotmail.com).

- MC Canada invites applications for two positions. Check out our full job descriptions here: [www.mennonitechurch.ca/get-involved#careers](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/get-involved#careers).

**Communications Coordinator (adjusted)** This .5 FTE position communicates nationwide programs, events and resources to the regional churches and shares MC Canada programs and developments with partner organizations and the public.

**Associate Executive Minister** This .5 FTE position gives leadership to nationwide priorities by providing support to regional churches in their formation of healthy pastoral leadership and healthy congregations.

**WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC**

November 30 7:15 pm Worship Committee meeting

December 4 10:00 am AMC Kids

11:00 am Worship Service

*Speaker:* Harold Peters-Fransen *Theme:* Prepare the way of the Lord *Scripture:* Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19;

Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12 *Worship Leader:* Lori Hiebert

*Musicians:* Loren & Lori Hiebert *Technician:* Loren Braul

December 6 7:00 pm Leadership Council meeting

December 11 10:00 am AMC Kids

11:00 am Worship Service – 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent

December 18 10:00 am AMC Kids

11:00 am Worship Service – 4<sup>th</sup> Advent

December 24 time TBA Christmas Eve Service