

Prayer for Our Community

- Pray for all the Health Care Providers.
- Pray for the 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.

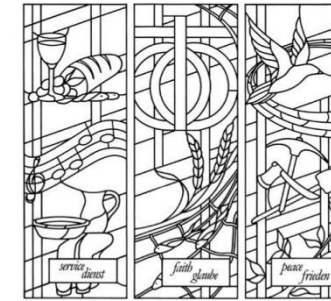
If you would like to add or remove any prayer requests, please contact the church office.

Altona Mennonite Church 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

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXI No.41

December 4, 2022

Prepare the way of the Lord

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn VT220 Prepare the Way, the Prophet Called

Call to Worship

Leader: A branch shall come forth from the stump of Jesse; its roots shall bear fruit.

People: May we be ready, O Lord, ready to be fruit bearers of your harvest, bringing forth the fruit of dwelling, longing, unity, and peace.

Leader: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

People: Renew our spirit, stand as a banner before us, bright as morning glory.

Leader: Prepare the way for new life that emerges in and through you,
life that ripples out to your people, into all nations.

All: In you there is glorious rest.

Prayer of Invocation

Advent Candle lighting – Julia Thiessen, Fredric & Leo Dyck

Hymn VT211 Hope is a Candle, vs. 1,2,5

Scripture Isaiah 11:1-10

Hymn VT216 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

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

Website: altonamennonitechurch.ca

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

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

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Scripture Matthew 3:1-12

Hymn VT 212 Comfort, Comfort, O My People

Sermon Harold Peters-Fransen

Hymn VT237 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

Sharing Concerns and Joys

Lord, in your goodness, we give thanks.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Prayer

Benediction

Hymn VT787 O Day of Peace

Postlude

Worship Leader: Lori Hiebert

Musicians: Loren & Lori Hiebert

Sound: Loren Braul

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

December 6 7:00 pm Leadership Council meeting

December 11 10:00 am AMC Kids

11:00 am Worship Service - 3rd Advent

Theme: The 3rd Sunday of Advent will be a service of readings and carols, led by AMC Kids together with the

Formation Committee *Worship Leader:* Sandra Klassen

Musicians: Paul & Margruite Krahn, Leo Dyck, Elliot Rempel, Edna Zacharias

Technician: Dale Klassen

December 18 10:00 am AMC Kids

11:00 am Worship Service – 4th Advent

December 24 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

December 25 time TBA Christmas Morning Service

January 1 No service at AMC

Birthdays: December 9 – Loren Hiebert; December 10 – Perry Batchelor; December 11 – Tracy Bergen

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **NOTE:** Albert and Sylvia Klassen have cancelled their home phone which was 204-327-5422. Now people will need to call Sylvia at 204-216-1048 or Albert's is 204-324-3610.

- 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, 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 is 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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.

- MC Canada invites applications for two positions. Check out our full job descriptions here: 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.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Condolences to Marianne Braun and family on the passing of Ken Braun.

- 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:

Marianne Braun who is 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.

- We pray for Anna Penner as she begins her treatment for cancer.