

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

- **Pray for the leadership of the Meserete Kristos Church in Ethiopia** - Pray for the leadership of the Meserete Kristos Church in Ethiopia as they work with communities affected by ethnic conflicts and drought. Pray for Werner and Joanne De Jong, Witness workers at the Meserete Kristos Seminary, as they work to grow spiritual leaders from diverse regions in Ethiopia.

- **Korean Anabaptist journal cleared to apply for grant** Rejoice with Witness workers Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park and pray for Peace Journal Plan P, the 10th issue in their 2-year history (key word: "Poverty"). Give thanks they have met the criteria to apply for a grant from the Korean Magazine Association, and for placement in most public libraries. See www.commonword.ca for past issues.

- **Thailand's Friends of Grace network engage their neighbourhoods** - As you celebrate Emmanuel, God with us, this Christmas season, pray for the many small congregations and house churches in Thailand's Friends of Grace network as they open their doors and throw parties for their neighbourhoods. Pray that these gifts to their communities will result in transformative relationships.

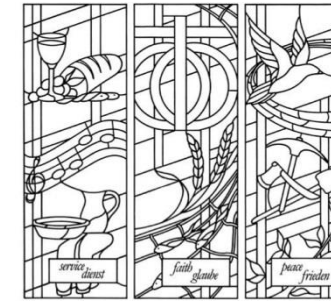
If you would like to add or remove any prayer requests, please contact the church office.

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.42

December 11, 2022

Tell what you see and hear

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn VT211 Hope Is a Candle

Call to Worship - Mary Grace Rempel

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn VT252 Go Tell it on the Mountain

Advent Candle Lighting

– Bethany, Mary Grace and Elliot Rempel

New Testament Reading – Mathew 11: 2-11

Song – Children Go Where I Send You (handout)

The Story of the Christmas Tree

Bells – Angels we have Heard on High – AMC Kids

Song – O Christmas Tree (handout)

Litany of Praise & Prayer - Psalm 146

Leader – Happy are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

South Side – He is the one who made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them

Leader – He is the one who keeps every promise forever, who gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry.

North Side – The Lord frees the prisoners.

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 Brul: C: 204-995-5347

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

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Leader – The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

South Side – The Lord lifts the burdens of those bent beneath their loads.

Leader – The Lord loves the righteous.

North Side – The Lord protects the foreigners among us.

Leader – He cares for the orphans and widows, but he frustrates the plans of the wicked.

All – Happy are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

Bells – Jingle Bells – AMC Kids

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Leader: Sandra Klassen

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

Sound: Dale Klassen

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

December 18 10:00 am AMC Kids

11:00 am Worship Service – 4th Advent

Speaker: Harold Peters-Fransen *Theme:* Do Not Be Afraid

Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25 *Worship Leader:* Andrea Hildebrand

Musicians: Loren Braul, Marilyn Houser Hamm *Technician:* Kevin Neufeld

December 24 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

Led by Mick & Marne Mierau Friesen, Gina Enns

December 25 time TBA Christmas Morning Service

Led by Marilyn Houser Hamm & Mary Costen

January 1 No service at AMC

January 8 11:00 am – Harold Peters-Fransen

January 15 11:00 am - Sharing

Birthdays: December 16 – Elizabeth Falk

Anniversaries: December 17 – Dan & Crystal Kehler

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **AMC Carolling Evening** - Jim and Marlene Dyck have graciously agreed to host a carolling evening, **Friday, December 16, 2022** at their home at 229 Willow Bay in Altona. We plan to carol around Willow Bay between 7pm and 8pm, weather dependent, and then retire to their home for refreshments and snacks until 9pm. Please feel free to bring a festive appetizer or beverage to share. Please dress to be outside and bring a headlamp or a flashlight or a good memory.

- **MCI Board Vacancy** - Lloyd Wiebe has resigned from the MCI board after serving several years as AMC's representative. MCI is inviting AMC to nominate another representative to the board. Interested persons can contact Lloyd at 204-324-7999 for information about the responsibilities and duties associated with the position.

- 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:** As you plan your Christmas and year-end giving, please consider giving an extra gift to AMC. At our November meeting, we voted to hire a full time pastor. As we look forward to having a pastor again, we look forward to consistent, generous giving in order to fulfill that commitment. 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

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

- Altona Palliative Care Volunteer Team is hosting a Longest Night Memorial Service, to be held on **Dec. 21st at 7pm** at the Altona United Church. All are welcome to share in a service to remember loved ones.

- 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.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Harv Heinrichs has enjoyed being home this past month after a lengthy stay at BTHC. His condition has improved considerably! He still tires easily, but enjoys short visits. Your prayer support has been and continues to be greatly appreciated!

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

- We pray for Anna Penner as she receives treatment for cancer.

- We pray for our 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.