

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.

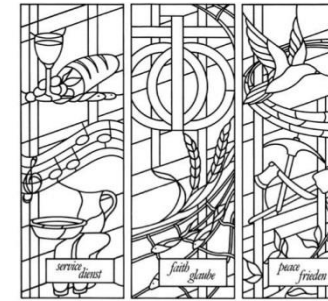
If you would like to add or remove any prayer requests, please contact the church office.

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.43

December 18, 2022

Do not be afraid

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

VT 210 O Come, O Come, Immanuel

Call to worship

Leader: Behold! Do not be afraid; God is with us.
God is our strength and our salvation!

People: Lord, we stand in your presence in faith, not fear.

Leader: God will send angels to keep watch over you,
to comfort you, to keep you.

People: Lord, our strong hope is built on your unfailing love. Our hearts yield to you and trust in your transforming power.

All: Praise ye the Lord!

Prayer of Invocation

Scripture Reading Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Candle-lighting Andrea, Sean & Sydney

VT 211 Hope is a candle

Scripture Reading Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25

VT 241 O Come, All Ye Faithful

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.

Message What's in a name? Harold Peters-Fransen
VT 653 Nothing is Lost on the Breath of God
Sharing & Congregational prayer

VT 840 God Be with You Till We Meet Again
Benediction
Postlude

Worship Leader: Andrea Hildebrand
Musicians: Loren Braul, Marilyn Houser Hamm
Sound: Kevin Neufeld

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

December 24 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service
Led by Mick & Marne Mierau Friesen, Gina Enns
December 25 **11:00 am** Christmas Morning Service
Led by Ray Hamm, Marilyn Houser Hamm, Edna Zacharias
January 1 No service at AMC
January 8 11:00 am – Harold Peters-Fransen
Speaker: Harold Peters-Fransen *Theme:* The Manifold
Wisdom of God be made known *Scripture:* Isaiah 60:1-6;
Psalm 72:1-7,10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
Worship Leader: June Schwartz *Musicians:* Gina Enns, Edna
Zacharias *Technician:* Nathan Loewen
January 15 11:00 am - Sharing

Birthdays: December 19 – Lori Dueck; December 22 –
Robert Martens, Karly Wiebe

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Need a 2023 calendar? The MCC calendars on the lobby
table are free for the taking.

- **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.

- **Come to Bethlehem: an MCI Christmas** - Mennonite
Collegiate Institute invites you to join us in Buhler Hall for our
Christmas concert on December 21st at 7:30 pm (doors open
at 7:00). It will be an evening of music from our choirs &
bands as we celebrate the Christmas season. The evening will
also be livestreamed on our YouTube channel. We look
forward to celebrating the Saviour's birth with you!

- **Merry Christmas from YFC Altona!** - We are looking for
food donations for our Christmas party, and when we are open
during the Christmas break. We are looking for food
donations (food items or gift cards) baking, appetizers, meal
items are all appreciated. Our Christmas party will be Dec. 22.
Please contact us with how you'd like to get involved. Call 204
304 6521 or email stationyfc@gmail.com Thank you and God
bless!

- 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

- Condolences to Hilda Elias and family on the passing of
Cornie on December 3.

- 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.