Prayers for the World

- Pray for Witness workers Werner and Joanne De Jong as they teach and mentor students in the Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia. See Joanne's Lent reflections on fear: https://mcab.ca/article/11301-what-are-you-afraid-of
- Pray for God's guidance for Colombian Mennonite Church (IMCOL) and presenter Henk Stenvers, MWC president, as they gather on March 16-18 for planning and decision making at their annual assembly.
- Pray for peace in Mindanao, Philippines, as Witness workers Dann and Joji Pantoja, continue to bring people together. Praise God for that the local military is listening to their perspective on justice-based peacebuilding, as reported in their latest newsletter. https://www.waves.ca/reports/2023/02.2023.DannJojiNewsletter.pdf
- Pray for MC Sask and MCC Sask who are partnering with the New Leaf Network to present 'Bridging Us' on April 1 in Saskatoon. Pray that attendees will be inspired by how local residents are working to achieve greater connection in their communities and churches on their reconciliation journey. https://www.newleafnetwork.ca/events/bridgingus

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

The theme for this season of Lent-Easter is 'Created in the Image of God, Shaped by Jesus'. The visuals that are at the front of the sanctuary will emphasize elements of our theme through the coming weeks.

The Christ candle on one side of the communion table is a reminder of the focus of the life, teachings, and passion of Christ.

On the other side of the table sits a pottery urn symbolizing being formed and shaped by Jesus. Like the clay that is shaped and fired to create something new, so are we.

Each Sunday, there will be a new and coloured ribbon flowing out of the pottery urn. The colours will reflect the theme for each Sunday:

Red: Testing and Temptation
Orange: Sunrise/New Birth
Blue: Water
Yellow: Light
Green: Life

From the Pastor:

In my first month of youth ministry, back in 2010, I remember meeting with Kathy Giesbrecht of Mennonite Church Manitoba. She's been a wonderful mentor and friend since the beginning, and I had so many questions and fears (I don't have fewer now, just different ones)! I was worried that I was going to get the whole ministry thing wrong and mess it up big time, that I wasn't 'holy' enough. Kathy was great. She listened to me, and then she got out a piece of scrap paper and scribbled a bunch of words down, circling some of them and then connecting them to form a rough diamond. It was her outline of 'the bases' for youth ministry.

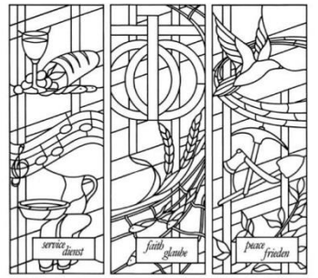
Worship/Study – Service – Fellowship – Play

I kept that scrap paper up on the bulletin board in my office for many years. And I think those bases are still relevant, and to the entire church, not just the young people! Reflecting back on my first month here at AMC, I think we've actually been around the bases a few times already!

We've worshipped together: singing, praying, sharing, song leading, and studying scripture. Some of us attended the MCM Delegate Sessions, which was a combination of worship, study, service and fellowship! I've witnessed weekly acts of service here at church (ushers, sound technicians, piano players, committee members, coffee makers, youth leaders, etc), *and* within the greater community - many of these quietly gone about in the spirit of fostering relationships of mutual support. We've enjoyed two fantastic meals together already, and those are definitely highlights for me! I've been to some of your homes for visits, been welcomed with warmth and friendship – whether over cups of coffee with longtime members or enjoying a milkshake lunch with a mother and young son. And I've both observed and participated in play: the youth playfully creating a snow sculpture and running around the church chasing after one another; a mid afternoon candy scavenger hunt with a six year old, games of hide and seek, and just this week I got to host a night game with some of our AMC teenagers at the Bergthaler Church!

I look forward to continued 'trips around the bases' with you. Happy Spring Break!

- Erika



Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXII No.12 March 26, 2023

Shaped by Thirst – Called to Life

WE GATHER

Prelude
Welcome and Announcements
Hymn VT #42 *Could It Be That God Is Singing?*
Scripture Reading – Psalm 95

Call to worship

Leader: Come, let us bow down in worship.
People: Let us kneel before the Lord our maker;
Leader: for the Lord is our God,
People: we are the people of God's pasture,
All: we are the flock under God's care.
Hymn VT #559 *O Lamb of God*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture reading – Exodus 17:1-7
Hymn HWB #474 *I Hunger and I Thirst*
Offertory
Message - Erika Enns Rodine
Hymn VT #642 *Healing River of the Spirit*

AMC Contact information:
Pastor: Erika Enns Rodine C: 204-963-5764
Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 9 am – 4 pm
Email address: erika.altonamennonite@gmail.com
Secretary: Lori Hiebert: C: 204-324-5952 Church: 204-324-6773
Office Hours: Thursday 9:00 am to Noon
Email address: altonamennonite@gmail.com
Website: 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.

WE RESPOND
Congregational Sharing
Prayers of the People

Sending Hymn & Benediction
VT #740 *Spirit of the Living God*

Leader: Like water poured out on a thirsty land,
People: may the Lord pour out the Holy Spirit on us.
Leader: May we blossom with new life.
All: May we bring refreshment and joy to others.
Postlude

Worship Leader: Susie Fisher
Musicians: Loren Braul, Sylvia Klassen
Technician: Dale Klassen

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC
March 26 - 11:00 am Worship Service, 5th Sunday of Lent
Speaker: Erika Enns Rodine *Theme:* Called to Life
Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45 *Worship Leader:* Susie Fisher *Musicians:* Loren Braul, Sylvia Klassen *Technician:* Dale Klassen
April 2 - 10:00 am AMC Kids
- 11:00 am Worship Service – Palm Sunday
April 6 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service
April 7 11:00 am Good Friday Service with the United Church
April 8 - 10:00 am AMC Kids
April 9 Brunch
11:00 am Easter Service

Birthdays: March 30 – Susan Klassen
Anniversaries: March 28 – Lori Dueck & Loren Braul

AMC ANNOUNCENTS
- Erika Enns Rodine will not be in the office on Tuesday.
- Visitation at AMC - Would you appreciate occasional visits? Or would you enjoy being an occasional visitor? If this is something you are interested in, please be in touch with Erika ER or Susie F.

- Coffee before the service has been a lovely way to connect. Please volunteer. Sign- up sheet will be in the lobby!

- Communion services will give more people than just the "official" deacons to participate in the preparation and serving of the elements. If you are interested and willing to be one of them, please let Lori Hiebert or Erika Enns Rodine know. Thank you.

- **From the treasurer**: At our last Leadership Council it was decided to resume passing the offering plates during the worship service. This has traditionally been an important part of our worship, a time to physically offer our gifts to God and the church. Many of us will prefer to continue to do our giving online, but this ceremony of giving can still serve to remind us of this privilege and responsibility, and at the same time, provide a meditative (or exhilarating!) musical interlude.

WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- Southern Manitoba Choral Society presents "Give Us Peace", Sunday, March 26, 3 pm at the Altona Bergthaler Church. A Freewill Offering will be taken.
- MCM Mondays - March 27, 8:00pm online. **Indigenous Solidarity**. Our Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity (MCIS) is wanting to collaborate across the province to support each other on important actions. As we introduce our group, we also want to hear what your congregations are working on! Join the conversation as we build a movement of reconciliation in Manitoba. Find the Zoom link and future topics at www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays
- **Eden Foundation presents a "Songs of Renewal" concert, Sunday April 2, 2:30 pm –** Winkler Mennonite Church. See the poster on the bulletin board.
- Living Hope: Centering Connection. An MCM gathering for folks 16-25 at Camp Assiniboia April 21-25. This retreat will include space for: worship, table conversations, learning circles, shared meals, outside play and creative endeavors. In all these spaces, living as communities of faith/love/hope in these days of climate changes and challenges will be explored. Registration and information at www.mennochurch.mb.ca/livinghope
- Navigating Care Options Expo– Saturday April 15th. Hosted by WSC Services for Seniors, Buhler Active Living Centre and Alzheimer's Society. Learn about the Care Options available in the Pembina Valley as care needs increase for you or your family member. Presentations by Home Care, Salem Home and Silver Lining Care 9am – 12pm Registration required by Thursday April 6th (cost $10 includes lunch). Information Booths are free to attend from 12 to 2pm. For more information or to register, call Winkler Senior Centre at 204-325-8964.
- MCC is accepting donations to support people affected by the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria. MCC is working with long-term partners in Aleppo and surrounding areas to provide emergency food, shelter, hygiene, sanitation supplies and trauma counselling. You can share a gift online at mcccmb.ca/earthquake, or 204-261-6381.
- Spring is around the corner – will you help us Grow Hope? Global hunger is an ongoing crisis, and we need you to join with MCC and Manitoba farmers to help provide food where it's most needed. Through sponsoring acres on a local farm a $1 donation can grow, and then through government matching, could become as much as $5! Visit **mccmb.ca/GrowHope** for more information and to donate!
- MHC Gallery presents two new exhibitions: *"Ukraine: Close to Home"* and *"Leaving Canada: The Mennonite Migration to Mexico"*. Exhibitions run until April 29, visit cmu.ca/gallery for more information.
- Thinking ahead to warmer days? Join us at the 20th MCC Golf Tournament on July 6 at Bridges Golf Course! Gather your foursome to enjoy a Texas Scramble tournament, with food and prizes, in support of MCC's disaster responses and work with displaced people around the world. For tournament information and registration, visit **mccmb.ca/golf**

PRAYER AND PRAISE
- Pray for Erika Enns Rodine, our new pastor and her family.
- 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 and Harry & Susan Klassen at Golden West and others who are not named.
- 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.

Prayer for Our Community
- Pray for all the Health Care Providers.
- Pray for the church leaders at all levels of our conference.
- Pray for Jennifer Klippenstein as she takes on the role of MCI's Interim principal and Head of School.