

- **November 17 - Music for Mental Health is a free fundraising concert at 7 pm**, at Canadian Mennonite University, in the Laudamus Auditorium, with musical performances by Kim Thiessen, Darryl Neustaedter Barg, & Jon Gunther; Paul Bergman; & The Janzen Boys". Funds raised will support the Sliding Fee Scale program, which keeps counselling accessible for low-income individuals, couples, and families.

November 25 - Christmas at CMU returns to start the Advent season. Enjoy various CMU music ensembles perform Christmas selections on November 25 at 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM on the CMU campus. Visit cmu.ca/christmas.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Pray for Erika Enns Rodine, Josh, Freya and Sigga.
- 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, Bill Loewen at The Gardens, Harry & Susan Klassen at Golden West, Marlene Plett at Katherina Courts 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.
- We pray for those in transition/who have moved to a new home.

Prayers for Our Community

- Pray for all teachers and students as they learn and teach.
- Pray for all the Health Care Providers.
- Pray for the church leaders at all levels of our conference.
- Pray for MCI.

Prayers for the World

- **As we lament the ongoing hostility between Israelis and Palestinians**, let us continue to pray for those working for a future that ends the deep and longstanding injustices that lie at the root of the crisis. The Palestine-Israel Network has provided prayers of lament and intercession: <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/article/16090>
- Pray for Ukraine.

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

From the Pastor - Greetings from a living snow globe!

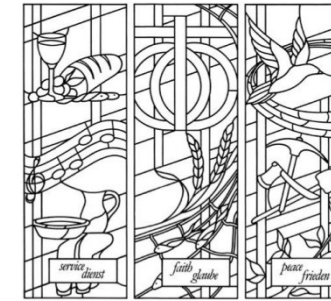
The Formation Committee, along with Crystal Kehler (our outgoing church librarian – anyone interested?!), spent some time this week culling part of the library. If anyone wants to have a look, you're welcome to check out the table of discarded books in the library downstairs and see if anything interests you before we donate them. We were fairly ruthless.

I've done the church library purge thing before. And it's always interesting to see what was 'new and notable', or relevant to church goers in previous eras or generations. The story of God's people is an ever changing one, as we're learning in our worship series this fall. Over time, as society and the world evolve, as global issues and events arise and flux, the ways we view God and ourselves as related to God changes. The way we view others changes. And it seems to me that for as long as church libraries have existed, there has been an appetite for engaging our minds with these things. Hearing the stories of God's people.

I was surprised, for example, at how very many books there were on 'survival stories'. For example, child abduction was a whole theme, apparently, some decades ago. There were also a good stack of books that dealt with the topic of surviving/living with severe illness, disability, or children with disabilities. War time survival stories. Missionary tales of surviving cannibalistic tribal life in exotic lands and saving the souls of 'savages'. Not only has that language become inappropriate (we found a few books on 'Indians', too), but we consider that whole missional approach culturally insensitive today – at least in Mennonite Church Canada.

Over the past half century and beyond, there have been shifts away from stories of salvation and survival, to stories of (in)justice and restoration. They're all stories of struggle, in a way. The old stories and the recent ones. And this is our life and story, as Christians. It's an ever ongoing struggle – I believe a good one – in which we daily try to discern how our faithfulness to God is lived out in the world around us.

This week we pray for Nordheim Mennonite Church up north in Winnipegosis. [My grandma Hilda was born and raised in that community and church. I think I've been there for a wedding and a funeral.] We pray for Andrew Wiens, the minister of the congregation, and his family. We pray for the work of community engagement Andrew and Nordheim MC do together. May their lives be nourished and strengthened by Christ Jesus.



Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXII No.39

October 29, 2023

Prelude
Welcome & Announcements
Call to Worship
Open our ears
to hear your word.
Open our eyes
to see your presence.
Open our arms
to the embrace of community.
Open our minds
to the beauty of truth.
Open our hearts
to the joy of new life.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.
The Lord of hosts is with us.
Let us lift up our hearts!
We lift them up to the Lord!
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!
It is a good and joyful thing to give God thanks and praise!

Hymn VT 111 10,000 Reasons/Bless the Lord

AMC Contact information:

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Custodians: Dale Klassen 204-324-7458 Sandra Klassen 204-324-1475
Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Opening Prayer
Hymn VT 157 Come to Me, O Weary Traveller

Confession and Pronouncement of Forgiveness

Lord, you give us choices each day.
This week we have seen your path,
and turned away from it.
We have seen our brother or sister in need
and we did not turn to help.
Lord, have mercy.

We have said cruel or unkind words,
or refrained from saying helpful words
when they were needed.
Lord, have mercy.

We have used our resources, gifts from you,
to help ourselves first.
Lord, have mercy.

Leader: We give you thanks that in spite of ourselves you show your love to us in many ways each and every day. The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Offering
Scripture Drama as read from Peace Table – AMC youth
Hymn VT 155 Lord I Need You
Sermon Brothers Battle for Blessing Erika Enns Rodine
Hymn VT 144 God Give Me Time
Sharing & Pastoral Prayer
Hymn VT 847 You Shall Go Out With Joy
Benediction
Postlude

Worship Leader: Greg Costen
Musicians: Mary Costen, Kevin Neufeld, Gina Enns
Technician: Loren Braul

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

Nov. 5 - 11:00 am Worship Service *Theme:* Stories That Shape Us – Joseph the Dreamer *Speaker:* Erika Enns Rodine *Worship Leader:* Margruite Krahn *Musicians:* Margruite Krahn, Leo Dyck, Elliot Rempel, Paul Krahn *Technician:* Kevin Neufeld
Nov. 7 – 4:30 pm Leadership meeting
Nov. 12 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Peace Sunday with guest speaker Kenton Lobe
Nov. 19 – Joint service at Altona United Church
Nov. 21 – 4:30 pm Formation meeting

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Your **giving records till the end of September** are in your mailboxes at AMC. Please contact Norma if they don't match your records. 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).
- Are you interested in learning something new or know someone who wants to? **The Sound Booth Technicians** would love to add you to their group! You would be part of a regular rotation. Please contact Kevin Neufeld for information.
- A reminder that the **10:30 am AMC Coffee** sign up sheet is on the wall near the office door. Feel free to volunteer!
- **Canadian Mennonite subscriptions:** All who attend AMC may receive a subscription. The biweekly magazine is delivered by mail and email. Subscriptions are paid for collectively through our conference and by donation. To start a new subscription or to change your delivery preferences, please contact Lori Hiebert by Nov. 8.

WIDER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Volunteers needed, for Eastview Personal Care Home and Apartments at Gardens on Tenth**
> For programs or just for company and presence
> Children/youth groups, music groups, groups or individuals for programs, for games and visiting
> For more details and ideas see list on bulletin board.
- **FREE screening of Rustic Oracle on Tuesday November 7th at 7:00pm** at the Community Exchange in Altona. There will be a sharing circle following the film. We anticipate representatives from STEPS, Genesis House, Pembina Valley Red Dress Project, and Roseau River

Anishinaabe First Nation will be present to help facilitate the discussion. See poster on Bulletin board.

- **November 2 – Ribs & Comedian Matt Falk** – Gardens on Tenth event: supper at 5:30, show at 6:45 \$50 per ticket, Buy them at the Gardens.

- **November 3rd - MCI's Soup & Pie and Fall Concert!** Come for soup, buns and pie from 5:30-7:00 in the gymnasium, and stay for our fall concert, What Wonderful Love is This, at 7:30 in Buhler Hall with performances by MCI's students. Meal is by donation. We look forward to seeing you there!

- **November 6 - CARE Handivan is holding a DRIVE THRU fundraiser** at Altona Senior Centre 4-6 pm. We would like to thank AMC for your generous contributions of food and volunteer time for the past 25 years.

- **November 18 – Friends of the Mennonite Centre in Ukraine** are hosting a Music and Dessert Evening at 7 pm at Douglas Mennonite Church, 1517 Rothesay St. Winnipeg. Donations will be graciously received and receipted. See poster for further details.

- **Cottonwood Community Drama** presents, The Tin Woman. **November 23-25**, 7:30 pm at the Buhler Hall in Gretna. Tickets on sale soon at the MCI website.

CONFERENCE or MCC RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **November 4/5 - Camps with Meaning Celebration Banquets.** Join us November 4th @ Emmanuel Church, Winkler and November 5th @ Douglas Mennonite Church, Winnipeg. Contact the camp office to reserve your free spot. camps@mennochurch.mb.ca, 204-895-2267

- **November 5, 3 pm - The Mennonite Community Orchestra** presents a concert entitled "The Power of Hope" which includes a "Tribute to Ukraine". Works by Skoryk, Lysenko and Silvestrov will be included at the Lutheran Church of the Cross, 560 Arlington St. For tickets and other information, visit mennonitecommunityorchestra.ca

- **November 11 - Returning Wealth: Land Reparations and the Church.** Discerning collective opportunities for relationship healing, land repair, and land return. Keynote: Sarah Augustine; with Elder Rev Stan McKay and local contributors Adele Perry and Shelisa Klassen. 8:45am-4pm Saturday 11 November 2023, Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship. **Register by Nov. 8** - \$10 for students, \$25 for non-students, \$15 for morning online. Contact Melanie Neufeld for more information, mneufeld@mennochurch.mb.ca. For more info and to register: www.mennochurch.mb.ca/returningwealth