

From the Pastor
Happy New Year's Eve!

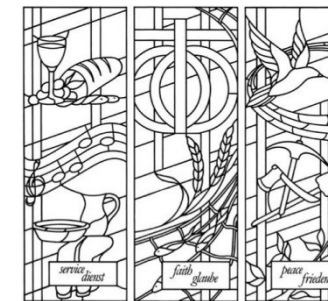
I hope everyone has enjoyed their Christmas week - spending time with family, playing games, watching the World Juniors, napping, eating good food, and perhaps even enjoying the mild weather! One of my highlights of the last week was our church's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. That evening was magical (the sacred kind) and filled with light and love and wonder.

Next week we will celebrate Epiphany in our Sunday morning worship service, and the following weekend Melanie Neufeld from MCManitoba will be our guest speaker. Melanie is the director of Mission & Engagement for our area conference. Then beginning on January 21 we'll resume our 'Stories that Shape Us' series that we started last fall – if you'll recall we left off just before Memorial Sunday with the birth of Moses! We will spend a month or so with Moses in Egypt, and make it into the Wilderness right in time for Lent. (There's your winter worship schedule at a glance.)

This week we pray for Steinbach Mennonite Church. We pray for the leadership at SMC as they process some of the changes that have taken place over the past number of months. May they feel God's guidance and gentle encouragement as they look ahead to the new year and what the future holds for their congregation.

Best wishes to you all as you ring in the new year!!

Erika



Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXII No.47

December 31, 2023

How will we know...who knows?

Prelude

Hymn VT 240 Joy to the World

Advent Candle Lighting

Leader: Together we rejoice!

People: Our waiting is over!

Leader: We've seen the One, the light to all peoples,
who grew in strength and is filled with wisdom.
The favour of God is upon him! Rejoice! God is here!

Welcome & Announcements

Scripture Psalm 148

Hymn(s)

Offering

Scripture Luke 2:22-40

Hymn(s)

Prayers of the People

Lord for your goodness, we give thanks.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Hymn(s)

Benediction

Hymn VT 275 O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

Postlude

AMC Contact information:

Pastor: Rev. 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 Brault: C: 204-995-5347

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

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Worship Leader: Lori Hiebert
Musicians: Lori & Loren Hiebert
Candle Lighters: Erika Enns Rodine
Technician: Dale Klassen

Birthdays: January 2 – Nancy Ratzlaff; January 4 – Kevin Neufeld

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

Jan. 7, 2024 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine
Theme: How will we know...what we know?
Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
Worship Leader: Norma Thiessen
Musicians: Loren Braul, Sylvia Klassen
Technician: Kevin Neufeld
Jan. 14 – 11:00 am Worship Service, guest Melanie Neufeld from MCM Mission & Engagement
Jan. 21 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine
Jan. 28 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine
February 11 – after church/lunch AMC's AGM

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A reminder that the **10:30 am AMC Coffee** sign up sheet is on the wall near the office door. Feel free to volunteer!

WIDER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Youth For Christ is in need of more baking for their breakfast program at Miller.** They bring around 100 - 140 baked items every Wednesday and their stock is running low. If this is something that interests you please let them know or you can simply stop in. Someone is typically in the office between 9:00 - 4:00 during the week, but feel free to call or email to ensure someone is in. Muffins, cookies and loaves such as banana bread go over really well. Thank you!
You can email Kendra at kendra.fehr@yfc.ca.

CONFERENCE or MCC RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Mennonite Collegiate Institute invites applicants for a High School Science Teacher.** This is a term position for the 2nd semester (February – June) of the 2023-2024 school year with the potential of permanent status. Please send a resume and cover letter or any questions you have to principal Jennifer Klippenstein at jenniferklippenstein@mciblues.net.

- **MCM Winter Retreats.** New MCM Winter Retreat for ages 22-30. Camp Assiniboia Feb 2-4., MCM Youth (All Ages) Winter Retreat . CA Feb 23-25. visit MCM website or see poster.

- **The 2024 John and Margaret Friesen Lecture Series** begins Thursday, January 18. Titled "Revisiting the Mennonite Experience in Ukraine," the two presentations will feature Dr. Nataliya Venger, Professor of History and Chair of the World History Department at the Dnipropetrovsk University of Ukraine. Visit cmu.ca/friesenlectures for more information.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- We pray for June Schwartz. She is at home recovering from hip surgery. Check in with her.
- We continue to pray for the Mullet family in Thompson. Jon and Abigail are on the mend.
- We pray for Anne Kehler, Dan's mom as she recovers from a broken hip. She is at Eastview Place.
- 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 Hamas, 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>

- **Praise God for volunteers in South Korea** - Join Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park, Witness workers in South Korea, in praising God for volunteers who spend time in training and volunteer facilitating circle process in Restorative Justice in school and community settings through the Chuncheon Community Peace Centre, South Korea.

- **Mennonite Churches in Burkina Faso are courageous witnesses of Christ's way of peace-** All of the Protestant churches in Burkina Faso were asked to contribute "war effort money" to their government. As a Peace church, the Mennonite churches could not accept this, so they sent two church leaders to explore other options which didn't support military efforts. The Mennonite churches were given permission to contribute their portion of funds to work with the displaced and traumatized people in the country. Thank you for your prayers for the Mennonite Church in Burkina Faso, as they continue to be a courageous witness of Christ's way of peace.

- **Bethlehem Bible College** continues its ministry despite the violence going on around it. Join them in prayer for peace.