

## **Prayers for the World**

- **Mennonites in Burkina Faso (EEMBF) ask us to pray for the coming General Assembly of their national conference** January 12th and 13th. They are thankful for the security level in the capital city of Ouagadougou and southwestern area of Burkina Faso. Other areas are still experiencing violence and prayers for students traveling from their homes after Christmas holidays are an urgent concern.

- **Mennonite congregations in Myanmar ask for prayers for 65 Mennonite families returning to their homes-** Bible Missionary Church – Mennonite congregations in Myanmar started the New Year with foot washing services. They ask for prayers for 65 Mennonite families returning to their homes near the Indian border after spending months in neighbouring areas and further into the mountains. Some peace has been restored to the area but economic hardships are plaguing the region as fighting has meant crops could not be planted or harvested.

- **Can you join the cause to preserve sacred land in 2024?** The Turtle Island Solidarity Network of Community Peacemaker Teams and The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery are calling for a far reaching and international voice of conscience and support to save Oak Flat, an Apache sacred site being threatened by copper mining interests. Please consider signing here <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/i-support-oak-flat>

## **From the Pastor**

Good morning!

Back in September, MCM pastors and staff gathered for a day of retreat, worship, learning, and discussion at Camp Assiniboia. They brought in a presenter, the man who runs Doyle Funeral Home in Carman, and he spoke about his vocation and what it entails - working alongside grieving families, dignity for the deceased, and after-death care. The level of respect and consideration he had for his work and for each bereaved family was evident. He also spoke about the significance of the pastor's role and presence after a loss, and in the funeral process. I was impacted by his presentation, and asked him if there was ever a need for a pastoral connection (for the purpose of a funeral and/or burial) in the situation

that a family didn't have any church or pastoral connections of their own. He said that there were one or two pastors in his community that he knew he could call if that situation arose, and it was very helpful.

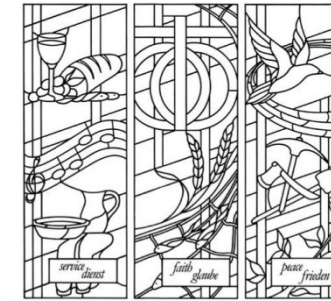
So last fall I made a point of going to see Trevor Groening at Wiebe Funeral Home to talk to him about that very thing. Trevor indicated that in the past he had one pastor he could call in that case, but that pastor was retired and getting older. I told him that I would be happy to have him contact me should the need ever arise for a pastor to be connected with a family for the purpose of planning a funeral. This past week Trevor reached out about a family from Winnipeg planning a funeral in Altona (with a burial in Gretna, where the deceased had grown up). The man and his wife had been married in Altona at the United Church, where they decided funeral would be held. But since there is currently no minister at AUC, Trevor approached me about doing the funeral, and I didn't hesitate.

I never dreamed that as an adult I would end up working even anywhere close to \*death\* because I was terrified of it. I didn't want to think about it, talk about it, be near it, EVER! But life experience, the passage of time, study, and contemplation have led me here, and I'm gratefully surprised. I might blame God, but in a good way. 😊

It's a bit of a peculiar thing to work on a funeral for someone I never met or knew. To enter into the loss of a family of strangers, essentially. But it's also a great privilege to serve a family in that significant time, and honour the end of a life (and the individual) by blessing their earthly departure. I've done it a few times before, and found these to be deeply moving experiences. Surprising, challenging, and incredibly meaningful.

Thank you for the opportunity to minister to strangers and the wider community beyond the walls of AMC - it's an honour!

This week we pray for the Vietnamese Mennonite Church, located in Winnipeg. By pure coincidence this is the congregation being featured by MCM for prayer this week, as well! We pray for their unity and energy as they work to form small groups. You can read more about the Vietnamese Mennonite Church in the bulletin under Mennonite Church Manitoba



# Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXIII No.2

January 14, 2024

Prelude *In Thee is Gladness* Bach  
Welcome & Announcements  
Hymn VT 25 Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

Call to Worship  
Prayer of Invocation  
Children's Feature  
Offering *Pastorale* Uehlein

Scripture reading Mark 1:14-39  
Hymn VT 283 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore  
Sermon Teach us to fish Melanie Neufeld  
Hymn VT 540 Will You Come And Follow Me

Time of Sharing  
Pastoral Prayer  
Hymn VT 831 Blest Be the Tie That Binds  
Benediction

Worship Leader: Erika Enns Rodine  
Musician(s): Nancy Ratzlaff  
Technician: Nathan Loewen

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:altonamennonite@gmail.com)  
Website: [altonamennonitechurch.ca](http://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.*

**Birthdays:** January 14 – Fredric Dyck; January 14 – Sylvia Klassen; January 19 – Ken Hamm

### **WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC**

Jan. 17 – AGM reports due

Jan. 21 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine

*Theme:* Stories That Shape Us – Moses and the Burning Bush

*Worship Leader:* Elaine Loewen *Musicians:* Tamara Franz

Martin, Laurie Enns *Technician:* Loren Braul

Jan. 28 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine

Feb. 4 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine

Feb. 11 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine  
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!

- Our AGM is coming up in February. There are two openings for the Worship Committee and two for the Formation Committee. Speak to Loren Braul if you are willing to be part of the leadership committees at AMC.

**From the Treasurer:** Thank you for your faithful generosity in 2023. Donations were more than \$10,000 higher than the previous year. We were \$5,000 short of meeting our budget, but our expenses were also \$5,000 lower than budgeted, so we ended the year very strong financially. Although the surplus we had from 2022 decreased significantly the first 7-8 months of the year, that trend reversed, and the original surplus remains. Thank you!

Further details will come shortly in the AGM reports.

### **WIDER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **- Halbstadt Church is looking for a Part-Time Pastor**

Mission statement: To Love our neighbor, revealing Christ to them in word and action, together becoming unified servants who worship God through Jesus Christ."

An independent, Evangelical, Bible-based country church with 20 to 30 attendees, is prayerfully seeking a part-time Pastor. We are asking God for a pastor who is strong in pulpit ministry, with emphasis on Bible preaching and encouraging the congregation to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. The successful candidate will have a passion for God's work through the local church, and a desire to fulfill the New Testament requirements for office as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7. Please direct resumes and/or inquiries to Tony Knutt at knutt.ton@gmail.com. Compensation will be determined by experience and education. Website – halbstadtchurch.com

### **CONFERENCE or MCC RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**- MCM Mondays Jan 15, 7:30pm on Zoom.** These sessions are meant for everyone in the congregation who is interested in the topic. "Children's Ministry: experiments that seem to be working" Join a panel discussion exploring what congregations are discovering about children's ministry, with panelists: Angela Hildebrand, Mark Tiessen Dyck and Tobia Veith. Hosted by Kathy Giesbrecht. [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays) for more info and the Zoom link.

**- Happy New Year from Camp Koinonia!** We would love to thank each and every one of you who supported Camp Koinonia over this past year through financial gifts, attendance, or prayer. Please consider this beautiful facility for your next event or family gathering. We are also excited to announce that you can now donate directly to Camp Koinonia through the Mennonite Church Manitoba website.

**- 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](http://cmu.ca/friesenlectures) for more information.

### **PRAYER AND PRAISE**

- We pray for Marilyn Houser Hamm and her family. Marilyn's mother Louise Houser passed away last week. The funeral was Friday.

- 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.