

Prayers for the World

- Praise God for the opening of a Bible school in Roi Et, Thailand - Join Friends of Grace church network and Witness workers in Thailand, Tom and Christine Poovong, in praising God for the opening of a Bible school in Roi Et. Pray for the pastors and teachers that are teaching courses as well as developing and refining curriculum to meet the needs of lay leaders and pastors in the more than one hundred Friends of Grace congregations and house churches.

- 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!

We will soon be at the point in the story of God's people where liberation from oppression leads into a long season of wilderness wandering. On the First Sunday of Lent, we will be having a Sharing Sunday on the theme of Wilderness Journeys. You are invited (encouraged, even!) to consider the seasons of wilderness from your own life, and how you were cared for and carried during those times of trial and darkness.

Do the following scripture passages resonate with you, or hold memories of wilderness wandering that you would be comfortable sharing on Feb 18? Your reflections are welcome.

Isaiah 43:2

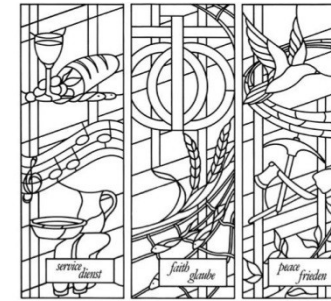
*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.*

Deuteronomy 8:2-4

Remember the long way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments. He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. The clothes on your back did not wear out, and your feet did not swell these forty years.

Psalms 23

*Even when I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid,
for you are close beside me.*



Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXIII No.4

January 28, 2024

Stories That Shape Us – Let My People Go

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

We gather as God's beloved children

However glad we are, however out of sorts we are.

We come together as a people whom Jesus calls into community

so this becomes a place where all are welcome.

We have come to give thanks, to pray and sing, to be with each other,

Let us worship God.

Hymn VT 57 Holy Spirit, Come with Power

Prayer

LISTENING

Children's Feature - Peace Table Bible - Exodus 7:1-12:42

Hymn VT 193 When Israel was in Egypt's Land

Sermon Erika Enns Rodine

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.

RESPONDING

Hymn STJ 102 When from the darkness
Time of sharing & prayer
Offering

Hymn VT 653 Nothing is lost on the breath of God v.1,2
Benediction – v. 3 after the benediction
Postlude

Worship Leader: Sandra Klassen
Musician(s): Gina Enns, Sylvia Klassen
Technician: Dale Klassen

Birthdays: February 1 – Marne Mierau Friesen

Anniversaries: January 31 – Irv & Cheryl Giesbrecht

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

Feb. 4 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine
Theme: Stories That Shape Us – The Red Sea *Worship Leader:* Marilyn Houser Hamm *Musicians:* Marilyn Houser Hamm *Technician:* Kevin Neufeld
Feb. 11 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine
Lunch provided by Friendship Manor
AMC's AGM following lunch
Feb. 18 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Sharing/Wilderness Stories
March 8-10 AMC Retreat at Camp Koinonia
Coffee and visiting at church for those not at retreat

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- June Schwartz sends the following: Thank you for all your prayers and support during the past six weeks after my fall at home and subsequent surgery. Thank you for supporting me with phone calls, messages, visits and delicious food. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

- We welcome Margot Bernadette Fisher, daughter of Susie Fisher and Shaun Dyck to our AMC family. Margot was born Thursday, January 18! Congratulations to all.

- 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 Formation Committee. Speak to Loren Braul if you are willing to be part of the leadership committees at AMC.

- **AMC Winter Retreat, March 8 – 10 at Camp Koinonia.** Cost for accommodation per person is \$80 for the weekend. There will be an additional charge for food. Activities include cross country skiing, nature walks, camp fires, fort building, possibly skating, reading by the fire, playing games, crafts, napping, writing, colouring, bird watching is awesome at Koino, playing music or ping pong, jigsaw puzzles... with a laid back camp style time of worship on Sunday morning. Let Erika Enns Rodine know **ASAP** if you are interested.

- Do you want to be a delegate to the Mennonite Church Manitoba Conference, being held in Winkler on March 1-2? AMC is allowed 1 delegate per 30 members, or fraction of, so we can send 4 people! Please let Loren Braul, Erika Enns Rodine, or Lori Hiebert know if you'd like to serve in this way. (Delegate registration deadline is Feb. 14.)

WIDER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFERENCE or MCC RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Bringing back billeting! As we plan for Gathering 2024 March 1-2 at Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Winkler,** we are compiling a list of hosts for delegates travelling from further away that want to stay Friday night. Please pass this along to prospective or confirmed delegates who can contact Naomi Ewert (office@mennochurch.mb.ca) directly to be connected to a host. More Gathering 2024 info at the MCM website.

- **MCM Mondays Jan 29, 7:30pm on Zoom.** These sessions are meant for everyone in the congregation who is interested in the topic."Are there other ways of doing church?". As church and society shift, many of our churches are exploring different ways of being, doing, and structuring church. We'll explore three alternative models of church together. Hosted by Michael Pahl. www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays for more info and the Zoom link.

- **New MCM Winter Retreat for ages 22-30.** Change of Plans: Camp Assiniboia Feb 3. Finding Your Fit: Rhythm, Relationships and Realities in your 20's. Now one day for \$30. Register by Feb 1. More info at the event page.

- **MCM Youth (All Ages) Winter Retreat.** Camp Assiniboia Feb 23-25. Registration for both retreats now open at www.mennochurch.mb.ca/events

- **Camp Koinonia invites applications for the Camp Manager and Food Services Coordinator positions.** Visit www.campkoino.ca/opportunities for more info.

- **CMU's Xplore** extended education program that investigates dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it—all without assignments or exams! Join one or more in-person or online courses beginning February 20. Register as an individual or host a church watch party. For more information and to register visit cmu.ca/xplore.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- We pray for Bev Barton who was recently diagnosed with cancer.
- We pray for Anne Kehler, Dan's mom as she recovers from a broken hip and broken ribs. She is at Eastview Place.
- We pray for our 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, 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.