

Prayers for the World

- **Thai and Lao participants of the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary** Journey program study online and in small groups for most of the year but will be gathering Feb. 2-5 in Khon Kaen, Thailand to study together with mentors and teachers. Praise God for this opportunity. Pray for Witness workers, Tom and Christine Poovong, as they host this gathering and work with translation in the program.

- **Meserete Kristos Church, Ethiopia, asks us to pray for peace and stability in Ethiopia.** - As many areas of the country become too dangerous for travel, regional church leaders are restricting visits to congregations. Pray for these leaders and Witness workers Joanne and Werner De Jong as they support and encourage pastors and seminary students in their message of hope and peace in the midst of violence.

- **Palestine-Israel Network** - Israel's massive military campaign in Gaza has brought untold destruction and suffering. At least three-quarters of the population of 2.3 million have been internally displaced, and more than 26,000 have been killed (two-thirds women and children). Let us hold in prayer those who are witnessing to God's peace through the four regional working groups of Mennonite Church Canada Palestine-Israel Network and the many local initiatives of Mennonite Action. On February 9, Mennonites will gather publicly in Ottawa and other centres around the country to sing hymns, pray, deliver petitions, and call on our political leaders to support a path forward based on justice, nonviolence, international law, and compassion.

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

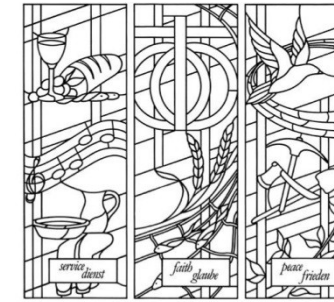
*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.*

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.5

February 4, 2024

Stories That Shape Us – The Red Sea

GATHERING IN PRAISE

Prelude

Hymn VT 606 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Call to Worship

Peoples Response: We give you thanks and praise

Hymn VT 1, st 1-3 Summoned by the God Who Made Us

Prayer of Invocation

Welcome

RECEIVING THE WORD – Stories That Shape Us

Scripture Story – The Red Sea Exodus 13:17-15:21

Hymn VT 441 Crushing Waters at Creation

Message

Litany of Response – VT#931 God of Grace, creator of waters

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Song VT 11 Come, let us go (Mountain of God)

Offering

Praying Together

AMC Contact information:

Pastor: Rev. Erika Enns Rodine C: 204-963-5764

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 9 am – 4 pm

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Secretary: Lori Hiebert: C: 204-324-5952 Church: 204-324-6773

Office Hours: Thursday 9:00 am to Noon

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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.

SENDING

Words of Sending VT 1050

Hymn VT 194 Lead On, O Cloud of Presence

Postlude

Worship Leader: Marilyn Houser Hamm

Musician(s): Marilyn Houser Hamm, Loren Hiebert

Technician: Kevin Neufeld

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

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

Theme: Stories That Shape Us - Into the Wilderness *Worship*

Leader: Andrea Hildebrand *Musicians:* Loren Braul, Sylvia

Klassen *Technician:* Nathan Loewen

Lunch provided by Friendship Manor

AMC's AGM following lunch

Feb. 13 – 5:30 – 6:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Feb. 18 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Sharing/Wilderness
Stories

Feb. 25 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine

March 3 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine

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!

- 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 on February 11. There is one opening for the Formation Committee and one opening for the Worship 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.

Registration for the AMC Winter Retreat at Camp Koinonia is officially open! Cost is \$100 per person for the weekend (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon). We are planning a weekend of true retreat - spending time in the beautiful setting on the lake, cozy firesides, good food, games, puzzles, naps, reading, singing/jamming, skiing, birdwatching, knitting, you name it! **You have until Wednesday, Feb 21 to register** (at which point we need to submit final numbers to the camp). After that deadline, an email will be sent to everyone attending with details about times, food, payment, a suggested packing list, etc. **Please email Erika at erika.altonamennonite@gmail.com to register.** (Those who already contacted her don't need to re-register.)

- 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 Feb 5 - on Zoom.** These sessions are meant for everyone in the congregation who is interested in the topic. "Responding to Clergy Misconduct". Join Jeff Friesen to talk about how MCM understands clergy misconduct and hear about the work being done to update our clergy misconduct policy and protocols.

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

- **A great summer of camp is coming!** All registrations are open: campers, staff, volunteers. www.campswithmeaning.org

- **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, Hilda Elias at Centre 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.