

## 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 are officially entering the wilderness today, a place of encounter, hardship/trials, wandering, and formation. What are your wilderness experiences? Do you have a memory of encountering God 'in the desert'? It would be really great to have another one or two people (or couples) share some brief reflections next Sunday. If you are willing to do this, or even considering it, please talk to Erika!

### Isaiah 43:2

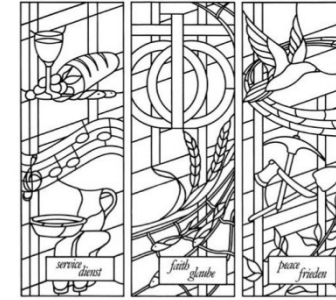
*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.*

### 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.6

February 11, 2024

## ***Stories That Shape Us – Into the Wilderness***

### **GATHERING IN PRAISE**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Hymn VT 38 Life Giver, Maker God of All

### Call to worship/Prayer

Leader: You call your people to prayer and praise in many ways. This day, bring us together just as you called the people of Israel to gather manna in the desert to eat and sustain life.

**All: God of unity, give us this day our daily bread.**

Leader: Offer us the nutrients we need to remain connected to you. As spiritual beings, we desire to receive food that endures— faith, hope, and love.

**All: God of grace, give us this day our daily bread.**

Leader: All life is created and nourished by you!

May we grow into new circles of understanding and being, reflecting the ways in which we have been touched by your holy manna.

**All: Holy Spirit, come! Give us this day our daily bread.**

### **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](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.*

## RECEIVING THE WORD – Stories That Shape Us

Hymn VT 474 All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly  
Peace Table Scripture story: Exodus 15:22-16:36  
Hymn VT 585 Faith Begins By Letting Go  
Message – Erika Enns Rodine

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

VT #1011  
Hymn VT 309 Fill Us With Your Feast  
Offering  
Congregational prayer  
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

## SENDING

Closing prayer  
Hymn VT 71 Praise God (Doxology)

Worship Leader: Andrea Hildebrand  
Musician(s): Loren Braul, Sylvia Klassen  
Scripture Reader: Marlene Rempel  
Technician: Kevin Neufeld

## WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

Today – 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

*Theme:* Christ Among Us, God with us in the Wilderness

*Scripture:* Psalm 25:1-10; Mark 1:9-15; Deuteronomy 28:2-4

*Worship Leader:* Lori Hiebert *Musicians:* Loren & Lori Hiebert

*Technician:* Loren Braul

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

**Birthdays:** February 13 – Rosie Braul

## 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!

### - 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

- **Join us at Camp Assiniboia on Saturday, February 17th** from 1-4 pm for an indoor curling and skate party. Hot chocolate will be provided. Donations gladly received. All proceeds will go to the purchase of camp recreation equipment. Bring your skates, brooms, and helmets! See you then. [www.campswithmeaning.org/events](http://www.campswithmeaning.org/events)

- **MCM Mondays Feb 12, 7:30pm on Zoom.** These sessions are meant for everyone in the congregation who is interested in the topic. "Food security and food production". Host Melanie Neufeld has invited Sandra Dyck (Springstein) to talk about her first-hand experience with the impact of a hunger initiative and global partnerships in Africa. [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays) for more info and the Zoom link.

- **A great summer of camp is coming!** All registrations are open: campers, staff, volunteers. [www.campswithmeaning.org](http://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](http://cmu.ca/xplore).

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

- We rejoice with Susie and Shaun on the birth of Margot.  
- 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.  
- Let's pray for Morden Mennonite Church, that they will have wisdom and discernment as they prepare a budget inline with their current realities as well as undertake a pastoral review process.