

- 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 Hope Mennonite Church as they partner with other community organizations in the West Broadway area of Winnipeg through Crossways in Common. Pray for wisdom as they try to balance financial realities, the varying needs of each organization, limited volunteer energy, in the midst of a community of people who need support and care.

Prayers for the World

- **Mennonite Church South Korea will have their annual meeting February 23-25 in Jeju.** - Cheryl Woelk and Scott Kim, Mennonite Church Canada liaison workers, will be the plenary speakers talking about discipleship. Pray for Scott and Cheryl and all participants in this important annual gathering.

- **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.

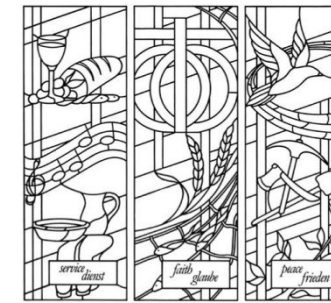
From the Pastor

Lenten Greetings!

While we officially mark the beginning of the wilderness journey of Lent with Ash Wednesday in the liturgical calendar, we at AMC already entered the wilderness last Sunday as we followed the story of the Israelites into the barren desert where they needed to rely fully on God to provide for their needs and to guide them. As we continue in the wilderness together over the next 5 weeks, the Lenten material from Leader Magazine will help us shape services that focus on Christ Among Us... "This year's Lenten texts focus on covenants. They point to God's history of reaching out to continue in relationship with God's people. Covenants begin with God. God forms an agreement with God's people. Time and time again, humanity fails to follow these covenants, yet God's mercy and grace remain. Christ is among us, reminding us of who we are, and even when we fail, reminding us of grace and calling us beloved." (from Leader Magazine, Lent-Easter 2024 Worship Resources: Christ Among Us)

This morning Marlene Plett will be sharing some of her own wilderness story. I just finished reading her memoir last week, and have met with her a couple of times in preparation for today's sharing. Marlene's story reminds us that God is with us, calling us beloved, even when we are in situations that feel impossible to overcome or climb out of.

A note will be provided each week about the visuals for that particular Sunday. The footprints on the burlap cloth represent our journey toward God. There are several sets of footprints of different sizes and colours, which symbolize the beautiful diversity of God's people, and that we do not walk alone. We have one another as companions on this journey. The bowl in the center of the 'path' reminds us of how God wants to fill us, and of God's never-ending love for each unique individual.



Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXIII No.7

February 18, 2024

Christ Among Us - God with us in the wilderness

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn VT 402 Rejoice, Rejoice Forevermore

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 25:1-10)

One: Teach us your pathways, O God -
our eyes and our souls are trained on you.

**Many: For you are the greatest guide,
and your map is always good.**

One: Other paths have left us lost;
other ways have left us confused.

**Many: You guide us along the trail of your mercy,
drawing sinner and saint down this well-worn
way.**

**All: All your paths are love,
made smooth by your faithful walking.
We are led into your truth
by following the tread of your feet.**

Prayer of Invocation

Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:2-4; Mark 1:9-15

Wilderness Reflection

Hymn STS 59 From ashes to the living fount

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.

Wilderness Reflection – Marlene Plett
Hymn STS 58 O God, how we have wandered

Wilderness Reflection - Sharing
Prayers of the People
Hymn VT 300 Far, Far Away / I Will Arise
vs. 1,3,5, refrain after vs1 and 5

Prayer of Confession

Leader: God, on Ash Wednesday, we remember our humanity, our fragility, our limits, our sinfulness, our need for repentance. Today, we come to you with this on our minds as we continue our Lenten journey.

People: Be with us in this wilderness.

Leader: We so often focus on the difficulty of our walk with Christ.

People: Forgive our self-focused minds.

Leader: Forgive us, Lord, when on our journey, we forget your extensive, covenantal love for the world.

People: May we partner with you and your church to remember.

All: (looking at one another) You are beloved.

Benediction
Hymn Insert God Leads Us Along
Postlude

Worship Leader: Lori Hiebert
Musician(s): Loren Hiebert, Lori Hiebert
Technician: Loren Braul

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

Feb. 25 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Ray Hamm
Theme: Christ Among Us, Showing Us Faith *Scripture:* Genesis 17:1-17; Psalm 22:23-31; Mark 8: 31-38; Romans 4:13-25 *Worship Leader:* Norma Thiessen *Musicians:* Mary Costen, Marilyn Houser Hamm *Technician:* Dale Klassen
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
March 17 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine

Birthdays: February 22 – Elaine Loewen, Bev Barton

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- On **Sunday, February 25**, Kenton Lobe (CMU) and Doug Dyck (farmer - Plum Coulee) will be leading a discussion at AMC following the service on the resolution being brought forward by the Climate Action Working Group (CAWG) to become a signatory in the global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. Soup lunch(or chili) to be provided. More information by email this week.

- 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.)**

WIDER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- You are invited to attend the Altona MCC Thrift Shop Annual General Meeting at Altona Southpark MB Church, 2:00pm Monday February 26 2024.

The agenda will include: MCC report on Ukraine and Middle East, Financial Report, Anecdotal Reports, Board Elections, Soup & Pie to follow meeting.

- **YFC Altona's Miss Mondays program** is looking for more female volunteers. Miss Mondays is a girls program that runs bi-weekly. We host fun events with the goal of connecting and building relationships with the youth girls here in Altona, while being an example of Jesus to them and showing them His love.

If this is something that sparks your interest, I encourage you to pray about your potential involvement here. I would love to meet with you for coffee, get to know your heart and discuss what that could look like! You can text or call me (Kendra Fehr) at 204-362-4072, or email me at kendra.fehr@yfc.ca

CONFERENCE or MCC RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **MCM Mondays Feb 19 – 7:00 pm** These sessions are meant for everyone in the congregation who is interested in the topic. "Fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty: what is it, and should we endorse it?". Michael Pahl will host a conversation on this resolution coming to the MCM delegates from our Climate Action Working Group. For more info and the Zoom link go to www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays

- **Peace & Possibility, Part I:** Tune into a live web event with Maoz Inon, an Israeli peace and tourism entrepreneur with strong Mennonite links. Since his parents were killed by Hamas, Inon's message of peace has drawn the attention of international media. Hosted by Canadian Mennonite, Anabaptist World and the Palestine-Israel Network. Feb. 21, 11 a.m. CT. Go to the CMU website for more info.

- **Peace & Possibility, Part II:** Raja Khouri is a Palestinian-Canadian; Jeffrey Wilkinson is an American Jew. Hear them discuss their 2023 book, The Wall Between: What Jews and Palestinians Don't Want to Know About Each Other. Hosted by Canadian Mennonite, Anabaptist World and the Palestine-Israel Network. Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. CT. See the CMU website for more info.

- **MCM Gathering 2024 - All are welcome at worship. Friday, March 1. 7:00pm.** Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Winkler. Theme: "From Every Nation: Living Into an Intercultural Church" Guest speaker Fanosie Legesse. 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 rejoice with Susie and Shaun on the birth of Margot.
- We pray for Bev Barton as she recovers from breast cancer surgery.
- 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