

- 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 the Matheson Island community as they continue to work with other MCM congregations in mutually transformative partnerships. Pray for all in the community who are ill and fighting disease, and for the community to come together and have a renewed understanding of who God is in their midst.

### **Prayers for the World**

- **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**

Happy Anniversary, AMC!

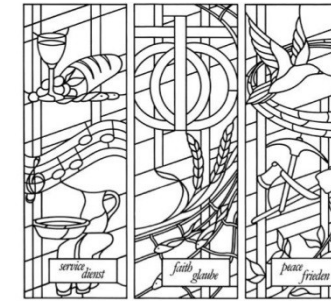
I'm writing this to you on Feb 21 (Wednesday), which marks exactly one year from when I 'moved in'. My first thought is that the last year seemed to fly by! In some ways it feels like I'm still settling in to the position, but in others it seems like I've been here for longer than 12 months (in a good way – a way that means AMC feels like home).

In the past year we said goodbye to a beloved long-time member, Sarah Sawatzky, and we also welcomed a brand-new life into the world and our church family, baby Margot. We wished well a few friends who moved on to the next chapter of their lives, Albert & Marilyn Bergen and Marlene Wiebe (which happened to be new homes closer to family in Winnipeg in both cases). We've seen the kids/youth of our congregation participate in worship services in a variety of ways. And we have enjoyed regular worship and fellowship with one another in this building and beyond.

If there are ways you imagine or would like to see our congregation engaging in the broader community, or if you have energy to be involved in any kind of project/service idea – I hope you let me (or someone on a church committee) know about these things! Last fall I told the Leadership Council that I'm not necessarily a visioning wizard. I didn't come to AMC with any grand 'visions' or specific plans for what we could be doing or where we could be going as a church. Of course I have natural inklings and interests, which are being pursued and explored, such as community engagement, advocating for inclusion and respect of marginalized people or groups, and issues of peace, justice and reconciliation – most specifically relating to Indigenous solidarity and fostering of relationships.

Pastors aren't mind readers or fortune tellers. At least I'm not. So I hope you reach out to me if you are ever wanting to talk or visit, and there needn't be a pressing issue (but if there is, then all the more reason!). I am happy to chat and visit, or just sit and listen, too. And some of you have felt inclined and comfortable to do this already, and I appreciate you being in touch. I love sharing a meal, coming/meeting for coffee, or serving lunch here at church on a weekday. The food part is totally optional, by the way... it just happens to be one of my love languages!

**Lent 2 Visuals:** This week's symbol is a cross. It reminds us that in order to follow Jesus, we must take up our crosses daily. *"Gazing at the image of the crucified Jesus will hopefully soften our hearts toward all suffering. When we can grasp God's unending love for us, we can grow in faith and let go of the things that hinder us. By doing so, we gain compassion for ourselves and all others who suffer."* – Leader Magazine Lent Worship Resources



# Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXIII No.8

February 25, 2024

## ***Christ Among Us, Showing Us Faith***

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn STJ 3 Jesus Calls Us Here to Meet Him

### Call to Worship (based on Psalm 22:23-31)

One: Come, you who seek God, proclaim God's glory!

**Many: All you descendants of Jacob and Rachel,**

One: come.

**Many: All who are isolated and feel alone,**

One: come.

**Many: All who are hungry,**

One: come

**Many: All who wander,**

One: come

**Many: Come, from all ends of the earth.**

**All: Come, you who seek God, proclaim God's glory, and walk in faith.**

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn HWB 156 All Things Bright and Beautiful

Scripture: Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16; Mark 8: 31-38

Solo His Eye is on the Sparrow Mary Costen

Sermon Shalom is the faith that guides us Ray Hamm

#### **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 Braul: C: 204-995-5347

Custodians: Dale Klassen 204-324-7458 Sandra Klassen 204-324-1475

*Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.*

Hymn HWB 559 O Thou, in Whose Presence  
Offering  
Hymn VT 788 The Garden Needs Our Tending Now  
Prayers of the People  
Hymn STJ 14 Lord Jesus, you Shall be my Song

#### Prayer of Confession

Leader: Trustworthy God, we want to live with faith,  
yet we worry there will not be enough.  
We want to believe in your promises,  
yet we lose hope.  
We want to follow you,  
but sometimes the road is too hard.

**People: We confess before you our unbelief,  
our worry, our hopelessness**

Leader: Shape us into a people who will live in faith.  
Strengthen us so we can deny ourselves, take up your  
cross, and follow you.

**People: In your grace, Lord, give us faith to believe  
that you will call into existence the things that do  
not exist. Amen.**

Hymn VT 810 Go, My Friends, in Grace  
Benediction

Worship Leader: Norma Thiessen  
Musician(s): Mary Costen, Marilyn Houser Hamm  
Technician: Dale Klassen

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

**TODAY** – lunch after the service, and discussion with CAWG  
March 3 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine  
*Theme:* Christ Among Us, Showing Us Justice *Scripture:*  
Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; John 2:13-22; 1 Corinthians 1:18-  
25 *Worship Leader:* Elaine Loewen *Musicians:* Loren Hiebert,  
Lori Hiebert *Technician:* Kevin Neufeld  
March 8-10 AMC Retreat at Camp Koinonia  
**11:00 am** *Coffee and visiting at church for those not at  
retreat*  
March 17 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine  
March 24 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine  
Palm Sunday  
March 28 – Maundy Thursday Communion Service

#### **AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- On behalf of Friendship Manor, a heartfelt thank you for your ongoing support towards the Food Co-op. The luncheon and donation from the pancake supper brought in \$600. Together with the tenants monthly contribution this should take us to the end of the calendar year. THANKS!

Thank you youth for serving, and a special thank you to Leah Ann Rodine for making the desserts.

- A reminder that the **10:30 am AMC Coffee sign up sheet** is on the wall near the office door. Feel free to volunteer!

- To those who signed up for the retreat, we anticipate a wonderful weekend! Please stay tuned for an email next week that includes details about arrival, directions, payment, food, etc.

#### **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.

- **MCI presents The Pirates of Penzance** – tickets are on sale now! Join us in Buhler Hall for this entertaining musical on March 7, 8, 9th nightly at 7:30 pm, and for a matinee at 2:00 pm on March 9th! Tickets can be purchased by visiting [www.mciblues.net](http://www.mciblues.net) or by calling the school at (204) 327-5891 during school hours.

- **Join us for an MCI Open House!** We invite prospective students (gr. 5-8) to register and join us for an open house one hour before show times on March 8th (evening) and 9th (aft.). Prospective students who register will receive a free musical ticket and backstage pass! Call the school or email [info@mciblues.net](mailto:info@mciblues.net) to register!

- **Local chamber choir Prairie Singers** invites you to join them in celebration of the universal language of music, with their concert 'Song of the Universal', featuring Post Road Strings – a DKSM orchestra. Two concerts on Saturday, March 9th, 2:30 pm and 7:00 pm at the Winkler Emmanuel Church. Tickets are \$15/adult, \$5/student. Tickets may be purchased from choristers or at the door prior to the concert. For more information email [theprairiesingers@gmail.com](mailto:theprairiesingers@gmail.com)

- **YFC's Miss Mondays will be hosting a paint night** with Cheryl Krahn! All girls ages 12 - 20 are welcome to attend. It will be held Monday March 11th from 7:00 - 9:30 pm. Make sure you let us know you're coming by March 8th. You can

text or call Kendra at 204-362 -4072, or email at [kendra.fehr@yfc.ca](mailto:kendra.fehr@yfc.ca). See you there!

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

- **MCM Mondays Feb 26, 7:30pm on Zoom.** These sessions are meant for everyone in the congregation who is interested in the topic. "Follow-up to the Returning Wealth event.". The Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity is inviting folks to follow their interest in participating in working groups related to land inheritance, decolonizing institutions, resource extraction and more. For more info and the link, go to [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays)

- **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](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/events)

- **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 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

- 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.