

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.

Prayers for the World

- **Significant suffering for our Palestinian Christian siblings in faith.** - The genocidal war and hunger crisis in Gaza, along with increased violence in the West Bank, have wrought unprecedented suffering to the people of the region, including our Palestinian Christian siblings in faith. Despite the crisis, MC Canada partner Bethlehem Bible College will host its biennial Christ at the Checkpoint Conference in Bethlehem, May 21-26, bringing people from around the world to consider the theme "Do Justice, Love Mercy: Christian Witness in Contexts of Oppression." Please pray that the peace witness of this conference, and of Palestinian Christians in general, may shine light into dark times.

From the Pastor

Marlene Plett wrote the following piece "Labyrinth" after the Maundy Thursday experience. Her daughters Rose and Imy read this at her funeral on Wednesday.

This was a new experience for me – walking the labyrinth. I had no idea or purpose or guideline on what to expect. Our church offered the experience and i took it on...AT First as an Easter or Good Friday experience. I walked, thinking it might be something like walking the Camino: that long walk in Spain. I had no idea of humbleness being the outcome.

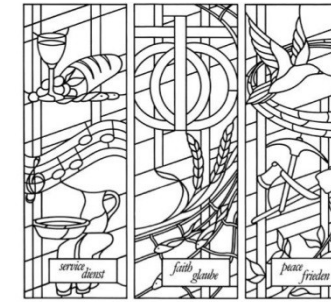
I followed the painted path lines but sometimes stepped over the lines when I came to a puzzling stop line. When I became comfortable, I opened my mind and heart to prayer...NOT Focusing on quietness or silence, or muteness; but with energy. I read the introducing notes and papers, but could not concentrate on obedience to the rules. On rereading, I now recognize the release I felt in the centre. But not at the time... I just was myself, right or wrong. On the walk, I noticed other people, and I saw invitations to talk, but i was focused on walking and so merely nodded, or did the "eyebrow" nod or wave. I did not leave my place of concentration.

Early on, before starting, actually, I was offered communion, but I refused. My feeling was I wanted to take the elements afterward. Maybe here was the beginning of my focused concentration (?) I did not want to leave the marked circle-like lines. I was sorry to leave when my self-set time

was up. And the communion at the end was an abrupt, quick faspa (think thrashing time), before leaving. Next time I'll take communion ahead, I think.

Then i got my ride back home, with home care duties, and puzzle room duties.... I went to bed and fell asleep, but awoke at about 3 a.m. With an amazing memory or reaction to having gone on the labyrinth. My first memory was that the whole sanctuary of marked paths was sparkling, as a solid spread of jewels, actually outside of the power or capacity of words... Something such as making music is different than hearing music or describing music. I had a strong sensation of: is this what heaven is like? Is this what life after death is like? And also how words are hardly adequate to describe the complete, total beauty of the perfection, contentment and glory, as in "words fail me" in experiencing this walking of the labyrinth. It was mind-expanding, other worldly, complete, all embracing. I was surprisingly carried outside of myself. I wondered, or thought: is this why people wear sparkling jewels, diamonds and crowns? But the effect of this sparkling labyrinth far outshone any crown or jewel.

I would go on another labyrinth walk on my next opportunity. Now I must rest or quiet myself for other memories to surface. Even the communion at the end was a small, necessary event to mark the occasion as preparation for Good Friday. A Quick bit of food before the bigger event to come. Actually I had done some preparing before I went to the labyrinth...SINGING "O haupt voll blut und wunden" (O sacred head now wounded). I prefer the German version due to my background; and crying, I always cry when deeply moved. Did that affect how I reacted to the evening? These visions continued to appear randomly for the next few days. Unsolicited but invited. I didn't want them to end.



Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXIII No.17

May 12, 2024

Stories That Shape Us – Ruth & Naomi

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Hymn VT 120 For the Beauty of the Earth

Call to Worship

Hymn HWB 492 God of Eve and God of Mary

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn VT 523 God Made from One Blood

Children's Time – Peace Table Story "Ruth and Naomi

Offering

Message Rev. Erika Enns Rodine

Hymn VT 527 Bless the Arms That Comfort

Sharing & Prayers

Hymn VT 514 I Saw a Tree by the Riverside

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Leader: June Schwartz

Musician(s): Loren & Lori Hiebert

Technician: Loren Braul

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

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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.

Birthdays: May 10 – Paul Krahn; May 12 – Dan Kehler; May 13 – Finnick Wood

Anniversaries: May 17 – Erika Enns & Josh Rodine

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

May 19 – 9:30 pm – Book Study – chapters 7/8
11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine
Theme: Pentecost – I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live *Scripture:* Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 *Worship Leader:* Ang Enns *Musicians:* Edna Zacharias *Technician:* Loren Braul
May 26 – 9:30 am – Book Study
11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine
June 2 – Church Picnic – details to follow
June 9 – 11:00 am Worship Service, guest Kirby Nelson who will speak on Anishnaabe Teachings
June 16 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Dave Regehr
June 23 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- From **Ken Hamm** this week: "I want to say a hearty Thank You for all the prayers that have been given on my behalf from the AMC family. Some of the scriptures that keep me fighting onward are John 10:10, Proverbs 3:5+6, Joshua 1:9, Isaiah 41:10. My health condition has improved a lot and still is. Now one of my biggest obstacles still is a weak voice, possibly from being on a ventilator machine for almost a week. Take care and enjoy your life as much as you can!!!

- **Mary Costen** had emergency surgery to remove her appendix last Sunday morning! She is mending. She says to thank the congregation for the flowers that Erika delivered.

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

WIDER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **MCI is looking to hire a half to full-time cook**, starting immediately. This position could be a term from now to the end of June, or long term, depending on interest. For more information about this position or to apply, visit mciblues.net or email tammypeters@mciblues.net.

- **MCI is accepting applications for teaching positions** for the 2024/2025 school year! These are full-time or part-time positions for the 2024-2025 school year with the potential of permanent status. To learn more about the areas of instruction or to apply, visit mciblues.net.

- **MCI Saengerfest on Sunday, June 2nd** in Buhler Hall! Join us for a time of worship and a celebration of song, centered on the theme "Joy, Joy, Joy!" The worship service begins at 10:30 am, with lunch (by donation) to follow, and an afternoon concert at 2:00 pm.

- **YFC Altona Golf Classic at Oakview - June 15th**
More information and registration can be done on our website YFCALTONA.COM

CONFERENCE or MCC RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Join in prayer and lament on Nakba Day, May 15** at 7:30 pm at Home Street Mennonite Church, Winnipeg. The Nakba, or catastrophe, which culminated in the forcible displacement of more than 750,000 Palestinians, between 1947-1949 continues today. During the Nakba, 90,000 Palestinian Christians were forcibly displaced. Today, the Nakba has never been more evident in Gaza and the West Bank. This event is a response to the call from Kairos Palestine to pray, to mourn, to collect money to support Palestinians who are suffering and to call for an end to the apartheid, ethnic cleansing and genocide. Learn more about Kairos Palestine: www.kairospalestine.ps. An MCM PIN endorsed event.

- **Annual Birding Retreat. May 24-26.** Camp Koinonia. No experience required. Visit the webpage for more information and to register. www.campswithmeaning.org/birding-retreat.

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

- **Volunteer health officers, kitchen staff, and maintenance needed for Summer 2024.** Consider giving a week or more to make a difference with our camping ministry. www.campswithmeaning.org/staff or contact the office at 204-895-2267.

- Do you want to take care of our earth? **MCC Thrift's Zero Waste Challenge** is a great place to start. Join us in learning all about going zero waste and challenge yourself to reduce your waste the **week of June 23**. If this challenge feels daunting, don't worry - even the smallest changes go a long way towards reducing our waste and helping the planet. We'd love for you to join us in making a difference. mccthrift.com/zerowaste

- **Camps with Meaning is 75.** Come out to Camp Assiniboia June 21-23 to celebrate. Events for all ages. www.campswithmeaning.org/75

- Join us for **MCC Manitoba's golf tournament on Thursday, July 4** at Bridges Golf Course. Enjoy our Texas Scramble tournament with on-course challenges, with a BBQ lunch and Mennonite-style supper. Visit mcc.org/Manitoba/golf for information and to register today!

- **Cycle for a cause** – support MCC's food projects around the world with Cycle Clear Lake! Join us on **Saturday, July 6** for a 34 km trail ride in Riding Mountain National Park. Come for the day or camp for the weekend. Check out mcc.org/manitoba/cycleclearlake for full event and registration information.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Pray for the family of Marlene Plett, as they continue their journey without her. They (and we) will miss her.

- We pray for our pastor and her family.

- We pray for recovering health for Ken Hamm, Mary Costen.

- We pray for the seniors in our congregation:

Jean Tarnick who is in the hospital; Marianne Braun who is at Eastview; Bill Loewen at The Gardens, Harry & Susan Klassen at Golden West, Hilda Elias at Centre Courts and others who are not named.

- We pray for all who are living with ongoing health concerns.

- 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.