

## **Prayers for Our Community and the World**

### **- Praise God for 100 years of faithful ministry of the Mennonite Brethren Church of the Congo**

(Communauté des Églises de Frères Mennonite au Congo, CEFMC). Visitors from across Africa, North America, and Europe gathered at the church's center in Kikwit, Democratic Republic of Congo, to celebrate the centenary anniversary expressing gratitude for God's provision and guidance. From one church plant the ministry has grown to now include nearly 104,000 members, 4 Bible institutes, 403 schools, 5 hospitals, and 9 health centers. Pray that the witness and growth of the church will continue. Mennonite Church Canada is involved with CEFMC through Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission (AIMM).

## **From the Pastor:**

Happy September, AMC!

As kids, parents, teachers, and others are settling into new rhythms and routines after the summer holidays, we are doing the same here at church. I once heard someone refer to this service as a "Welcome Back" Sunday. It's a time to regroup and reset after a summer of rest and adventure (although I hope we will still find moments of rest, and make time to play or have adventures).

For many, September is a hairy month. It takes time to settle into the fullness of the school year, with all the extra-curriculars that come along with this time of year. Registering for programs and activities, making sure you have all the necessary things for said programs and activities, clothes that fit your growing humans, and still squeezing in as much outdoor fun as possible while the weather is mild! Yikes!

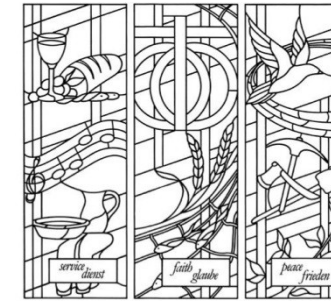
So while I was thinking about all this in relation to this Sunday, I thought it would be a fine idea to shift the emphasis from "Welcome Back" Sunday, to "Welcome Back Sunday". As in, we welcome Sunday (church services) back into our regular and intentional rhythm of life. But then it occurred to me that this could just feel like another 'thing to do' that adds pressure or strain to your plates and calendars. I don't want church to feel like that.

And the more I think about it, the more I like the idea of any and every Sunday being a "Welcome Back", or "Welcome Home" Sunday here at AMC. Whether you come most weeks, or every Sunday without fail, or if you attend more sporadically, or even hardly ever - I hope you feel welcomed into this community whole heartedly! I am delighted to see you each and every time!

There is of course something to be said about commitments and priorities regarding church attendance and being part of a community of faith, but that is not the message I want to communicate today. Church should not be a place where guilt is imposed, but rather a place to be uplifted, challenged (in a good 'be like Jesus' way), comforted, supported, equipped and surrounded by a loving body of believers.

Love to you all!

PS - Let me know if you want to do coffee in the coming weeks!



# Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXIII No.29

September 8, 2024

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn VT 25 Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

Call to Worship

(inspired by James 2:1-17, Psalm 125, The Message)  
We can trust God.

**God is like the mountain: rock solid.**

God loves all the people:

**the poor, the disabled, the outcast, the stranger.**

We can depend on God.

**God feeds the hungry, heals the sick,  
and restores relationships.**

Praise our Loving God.

**Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

Prayer

Hymn VT 519 God, Give Me Faith like a Child

Time for the Young and the Young at Heart

Congregational Sharing and Prayer

*Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

*Lord in your goodness we give thanks.*

Hymn VT 778 Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

Offering Prayer / Time of Reflection

### **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](mailto: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.*

Scripture: Psalm 125; James 2:1-10, 14-17  
Hymn VT 588 We Walk by Faith

Message Erika Enns Rodine  
Benediction  
Hymn VT 829 Go Now in Peace, Worship Continues  
Postlude

Worship Leader: Andrea Hildebrand  
Musician(s): Loren & Lori Hiebert  
Technician: Nathan Loewen

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

Sept. 10 – 4:30 pm Leadership Council meeting  
Sept. 11 – 12:30 pm Worship Committee meeting  
Sept. 15 – 11:00 am Worship Service – music morning  
*Worship Leader:* Ang Enns *Musician(s):* Marilyn Houser Hamm, Nancy Ratzlaff *Scriptures:* TBA *Technician:* Loren Braul  
Sept. 22 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine  
2:00 pm – church rental for rehearsal  
Sept. 29 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine

**Birthdays:** September 11 – Ray Mierau

### **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!

### **From the Treasurer (Marné Mierau Friesen)**

Please note that there are donation updates in your mailboxes this week. This is not a receipt, but rather a record of what you have given in donations to AMC up to Aug 31. If there are any discrepancies with your own records, please don't hesitate to talk to me.

And as always, thank you for your gifts of money. Our congregation has a responsibility to our church employees, to our church programs, to our community in southern Manitoba, and to our community across the world. Our donations make a difference in a world that needs that difference.

### **WIDER COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The Southern Manitoba Choral Society (SMSC) begins their season on **Tuesday, September 10 at 6:30 pm**. First rehearsal is at the Altona Bergthaler Church. Conductor is Ben Kroeker, accompanist is Loren Hiebert. \$35 for the fall season. No auditions required, just a love of singing.

- **Support Eden's Recovery of Hope cycling event** and help make counselling services accessible and affordable for Manitobans. Event on Saturday, September 28, 2024, leaving from Ft. Garry MB Church, Winnipeg, 1771 Pembina Hwy. At 9 am. See poster for details.

Register or donate online at [www.edenhealthcare.ca](http://www.edenhealthcare.ca)

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

- Save the date and join us at the **We Are All Treaty People celebration on Sunday, Sept. 15 from 1-4 p.m.** at the Forks National Historic Site in Winnipeg. Enjoy performances by Fontine, Duncan Mercredi, Scott Nolan and Island Breeze Manitoba Pacific Islands dance. There will be free food, crafts and family activities. For more information visit [mcc.org/wearealltreatypeople](http://mcc.org/wearealltreatypeople)

- **Fall at CMU** – CMU's annual alumni and community gathering takes place **Saturday, September 21 from 10:30 AM – 3:00 PM**. Highlights include 30+ craft and food vendors, activities and entertainment for children, artist workshops, live music, reunions, and the MennoCross cyclocross race. Visit [cmu.ca/fall](http://cmu.ca/fall) for more information.

- **CMU Song Feast** – Enjoy a feast of choral songs led by a choir of CMU alumni and students on **Saturday, September 21 at 7:00 PM**. Alumni are invited to rehearse with the CMU Singers at 3:00 PM before the Song Feast. Visit [cmu.ca/fall/song-feast](http://cmu.ca/fall/song-feast) for information and registration.

- **Secret Treaty Book Launch #3. September 22, 6:30pm-9:00pm**. Mennonite Heritage Village, Steinbach. Sharing stories of the West Reserve before Mennonite Settlement and first encounters between Ojibway and latecomers. How do we forge a different way of sharing this land? Info and registration at [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcis](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcis).

- Save the date! MCC Manitoba invites you to its **Annual General Meeting**. Please mark your calendars for Thursday, **Sept. 26 from 7-8:30 p.m.** Location will be confirmed closer to the date of the meeting. Visit [mcc.org/manitoba/agm](http://mcc.org/manitoba/agm) for

event and RSVP information. Contact [jonisawatzky@mccmb.ca](mailto:jonisawatzky@mccmb.ca) for any additional questions.

- **CMU's Xplore** extended education program investigates dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it—all without assignments or exams! "Lord teach us to pray", "The Great Oratorios" and "Coming to terms with Christian Anti-Semitism" are some of the fall courses offered through CMU's Xplore extended education program. Courses begin October 1; for course information and to register, visit [cmu.ca/xplore](http://cmu.ca/xplore). Churches may consider hosting an Xplore watch party with people from the community.

- **MHC Gallery** invites you to their current exhibit "ICE: Moments." Featuring work by photographer and scientist Klaus Hocheim, this exhibit provides a time-capsule view into the polar world at risk. Visit [cmu.ca/gallery](http://cmu.ca/gallery) for more information.

- **MCC** - Do you know an 18- to 20-year-old seeking to grow in their faith and personal development? Encourage them to join **Seek** – a transformative six-month discipleship program designed to deepen their understanding of what it means to be an Anabaptist follower of Jesus in a complicated world. The next Seek cohort will be travelling to Cambodia in January 2025. Applications close Aug. 31 – apply online today! [mcc.org/seek](http://mcc.org/seek)

### **PRAYER AND PRAISE**

- We pray for the students and teachers as they begin another school year. May they have a wonderful year!

- We pray for those who are travelling. May they have a restorative, joyous, and safe time away.

- We pray for the seniors in our congregation: Jean Tarnick and Hilda Elias who are in the Gardens Manor; Marianne Braun who is at Eastview; Bill Loewen at The Gardens, Elizabeth Falk at the Gardens; Harry & Susan Klassen at Golden West, and others who are not named.

- We pray for all who are living with ongoing health concerns: Jim Dyck recovering at home, Bev Barton at home, those awaiting surgery and others 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.