

Worship Committee Report 2022

Worship, what is it? And what are the responsibilities of the worship committee? I found a definition I like and I think it is well suited to what the worship committee tries to do to prepare for meaningful worship. The definition: "Worship is the response of the whole being – heart, soul, mind, strength – to beholding God's glory." You have entrusted us with the responsibility to prepare services that are worshipful and we hope we have done that. It has been challenging at times with all the unknowns we've experienced during the year. Thank you to all who have contributed in many and various ways to making our time of worship together meaningful.

Pastor Dan Kehler led us through our first theme for the year, "Sensing the Gospel" with each Sunday focusing on a different sense. Too bad we couldn't do this in person! One Sunday in January we heard from Sheridan Sawatzky about 'the Station'. (I believe this was online.)

The Lenten theme was "Seeking God's Way" always with a 'from - to' statement. Again, Pastor Dan led us through the season of Lent with Ray Hamm speaking on two of the Sundays, including Palm Sunday. The children were included in the recording of this service to wave palm branches and participate in the story time. Easter was Pastor Dan's last sermon before his resignation.

Without a pastor we now had to find other ways to worship and people to lead our services and that included people from AMC, MCM, MCC, CMU. In May these were: Dan Epp-Tiessen, Marlene Wiebe, and Marilyn H Hamm leading a music Sunday. It was decided by the worship committee and leadership council that the regional groups would be encouraged to meet on the long weekends during summer. Greg Costen served us on Pentecost Sunday, Simone Thiessen (MCC MB) spoke the following Sunday and on June 19th we met at The Commons in Neubergthal for our church picnic. Loren Braul shared information related to MCCanada Assembly - We Declare part 1 - on the last Sunday of June.

We continued through summer with a muffins morning at church; Dave Regehr followed Loren with We Declare - part 2 and also served communion. With two Sundays falling on long weekends and one Sunday being the Sunflower Festival we had only two meetings at AMC in July. August began with a service remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki and praying for peace. In the evening Marilyn and Marlene Wiebe led a Peace Service at Gallery in the Park where we floated paper lanterns along the channel. This was followed by a music Sunday led by Loren & Lori Hiebert.

Mid August we began our theme on Creation Care with Jack Heppner preparing us. Other speakers included Doug Klassen (MCCanada sermon video), Michael Pahl and Ray Hamm. Ray also served communion.

AMC celebrated Thanksgiving with a message by Loren Braul, a farewell to Dave and Hildie Regehr and a Thanksgiving meal. How wonderful to be able to share together again! The sharing Sunday that had been planned for the following Sunday had to be postponed due to COVID. Dorothy Fontaine (MCM) continued the Creation Care theme and Sandy Plett led a "For the Love of Creation" workshop in the afternoon. Greg Costen was our next speaker and then Erika Enns Rodine (candidate for pastor).

In November Harold Peters-Fransen began as a supply pastor, speaking twice a month. Others that served AMC during the next two months were: Marlene Wiebe, Jeff Friesen (including communion), AMC children with the Formation Committee, and Ray Hamm. Jeff began the Advent season's theme of "Restoration". Thanks to Mick, Marne and Gina for preparing and leading the Christmas Eve service. Also a big thank you to the children for their part in decorating the Christmas tree with their own hand-made decorations and for your part in the Dec. 11th service.

The committee values your feedback and suggestions so contact any of us when you have a comment or suggestion.

Submitted by Elaine Loewen on behalf of the Worship Committee: Marilyn Houser Hamm, Marne Mierau Friesen and Marlene Wiebe