

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

- Global Companion of the Month – Guatemala. -

Formed at the height of violent conflict in Central America, SEMILLA seminary challenges its students to live the gospel message of peace, justice, and compassionate service in their congregations and communities. Read more: <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/article/IWCompanionoftheMonth-Dec2025>

From MCIS - Prayer Request - That this Christmas season be a reminder to all of us to spread love instead of hatred, spread compassion instead of violence, and offer deep listening instead of denialism. May homes be found for those who are houseless, those missing be found alive and well, and those in despair find the embrace of community.

- Prayer Request from Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission

Let us pray for the people affected by instability and violence in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, including members of 10 Mennonite Brethren churches who have been forcibly displaced or confined to their homes, lacking food and basic supplies. May God intervene to bring peace to this region and raise up people of goodwill to provide emergency humanitarian aid during this critical time.

Christians in Palestine are entering the Advent season with great trepidation. In Gaza, military incursions and blockage of aid continue. In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, settler attacks are increasing with impunity. Let us pray for resilience, hope, and bold witness in the face of genocidal violence and ethnic cleansing.

--MC Canada Palestine-Israel Network

- Please pray for peace and wisdom for government and military leaders in Thailand and Cambodia as tensions escalate with land mines and aerial bombardments in the region.

- Tom and Christine Poovong are asking for your prayers as they again host evacuees. In the city of Ubon Ratchathani, where Tom and Christine live, they have been told to be on stand-by for possible evacuation.

From the Pastor

Greetings!

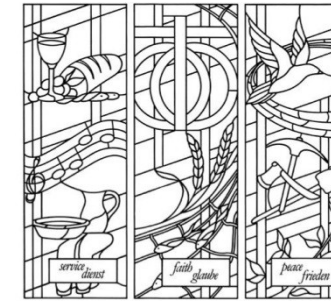
Last week when we were making the delivery of donated food to Roseau River First Nation, we showed up in the community without an address for where we wanted to go. Our plan was to bring all the food to the mother of the young woman who had passed away suddenly, but all we knew was her first name - Karen. We stopped at the Dakota Ojibway Police Station, where the officer on duty apologized to me, because he doesn't usually work out of that detachment and he didn't know who Karen was or where she lived. He suggested we try popping in at the Gaming Centre to ask for assistance.

We drove a few buildings down and Mick and I went into the little casino. A man in a wheelchair was having trouble getting over a pile of snow, so I helped push him through the drift. When we got inside, he asked what we were up to. Mick and I introduced ourselves and said we were hoping to deliver a bunch of donated food from Altona to Karen, the mother of Lishonta. He gave us verbal instructions: "ok, so you know the road? Go back on the road, and then turn right onto the other road, and then go down the next road..." We must have looked confused.

Another man walked into the building, and the gentleman in the wheelchair said, "Oh! You can ask Jesus! He'll give you better directions!" We again explained that we were looking to find Karen's house so we could drop off food. The second man said if he had pen and paper he could draw a map, because his verbal instructions sounded almost identical to the first directions we were given. With paper and pen procured, a map was drawn and it made sense!

Before leaving, I excitedly asked him, "Did the other fellow call you Jesus? Am I lucky enough to be meeting Jesus a few days before Christmas?!" He chuckled and replied, "Oh, yeah. That guy always calls me Jesus because I'm a Christian."

Jesus helped Mick and me find where we needed to go. And I delight at the memory of having met Jesus at the Gaming Centre in Roseau the week of Christmas. Jesus continues to show up in unusual places. I hope you also find Jesus in delightful ways and surprising places, too! Merry Christmas!



Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXIV No.46

December 28, 2025

Celebrating Hope, Peace, Love, Joy

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn VT 252 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Call to Worship

We gather to worship the Word made flesh, who fled from the wrath of human powers into Egypt.

The God we worship was a refugee.

We remember the children, from the time of Christ to today, caught in the cross-fires of fear and greed.

The God we worship was a refugee.

We gather to dream and build a better world where all children grow up, all exiles return home.

The God we worship was a refugee.

Prayer of Invocation

We sing together...

Scripture: Isaiah 63:7-9

Sounding the Seasons On the edge Malcolm Guite

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: Ang Enns C:204-324-4046

Past 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.

We sing together...

Invitation to Generosity / Time of Reflection

Prayers of the People

We sing together...

Scripture Matthew 2:13-15 – The Escape to Egypt
Sounding the Seasons Refugee Malcolm Guite

We sing together...

Benediction
Hymn STS 32 Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem
Postlude

Worship Leader: Lori Hiebert
Reader: Erika Enns Rodine
Musician(s): Lori & Loren Hiebert
Technician: Kevin Neufeld

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

January 4 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine
Theme: Epiphany Scripture: Worship Leader: Margruite Krahn Musician(s): Paul Krahn Technician: Loren Braul
January 6 – 9 am – Contemplative Prayer time
January 7 – 7 pm – Christmas Clean up
January 11 – 11 am – Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine
January 18 – 11 am – Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine
January 25 – 11 am – Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine
January 25, 2026 – AMC’s AGM after the service, bring a lunch

Birthdays: December 28 – Edna Zacharias; January 2 – Nancy Ratzlaff

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Welcome to the world Kylie Erica Fehr!** She arrived on December 21, weighing 7 lb, 11 oz – born to Samantha & Tyson Fehr, Welcoming her is brother Brooks, Grandparents Deb & Terry Klassen, Great-grandparents Ted & Darlene Klassen, Great Aunts & Uncles Ang & Don Enns and Cheryl & Irv Giesbrecht. Mom and baby (and relatives) are doing well.

- **Contemplative Time of Silent Prayer** – Tuesday, January 6, 9 am at AMC. Come for a time of silent prayer for AMC, the community, and whatever is on your heart. Sit and pray, walk and pray in silent reflection.

- **AMC Christmas clean-up event on Wednesday January 7th** at 7 pm. Please invite participants to bring their leftover Christmas baking to share afterwards.

- **Advent 4 (Dec 21)** -A gift of LOVE - \$400 was donated for this week’s project. Mick, Freya, Margruite and Erika delivered a large fruit tray, and several meat and cheese trays, and a \$125 gift card to Roseau on Monday.

- **AMC Custodians:** After many years of faithful service, Dale and Sandra have decide to hang up their mops, set down the vacuum and put away the plunger for the last time. This means AMC is actively looking for new custodians. If you would like to apply for the job, please email your intentions to altonamennonite@gmail.com. Or, if you know someone who might be interested have them send their contact details and a brief statement why they might be chosen to clean the church. For more information, please contact Trustee Dan Kehler.

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

- If anyone wants to receive the **Rejoice! Devotional booklet**, please lthe church office know asap. The cost for the subscription is \$65 or so for the 4 books. If you are currently receiving it, and wish to continue, the next pay period is when the current book runs out.

- Also if there are any changes you wish to make to your **Canadian Mennonite subscription**, let the church office know that too. They like to keep the lists updated.

From the Treasurer:

- Thank you for what you have given these past 11 1/2 months. Please continue to make donations to AMC through etransfer (amchurchdonations@gmail.com), online bill payments through Access Credit Union, and the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary.

Budgeted Revenue & Donations— \$150,863.00
Donations/Revenue as of December 26th---- \$143,247.00
December 31st is the end of our fiscal year and as a congregation we need to donate \$7,616.00 more in order to

meet our budget. If we are able to meet our budget in this way, we can donate the 4th quarter donations to the organizations we support, and move savings back into a discretionary fund.

Thank you for all of your donations in this year and for your prayerful consideration as we continue this practical part of being church together.

COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

(none at time of printing)

CONFERENCE or MCC RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Camps with Meaning** Summer Leadership applications are open. www.campswithmeaning.org/staff

- **MCM is hosting Winnipeg’s ecumenical service** that begins the 2026 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. January 18, 7:30pm at First Mennonite Church. Consider joining the choir, which will rehearse at First Mennonite January 4 and 11, 6:30pm. It would be great to have strong MCM representation for this!

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Jean Tarnick is back in her room at Eastview Place. She is finding the days long as she is not moving around much, and would welcome visitors.

- Norma Enns, Erika’s grandmother, was transferred back to the Altona hospital. She is in the Palliative suite there.

- Bev Barton requests prayer as she recovers from her knee replacement surgery.

- We pray for the seniors in our congregation: Marianne Braun at Eastview; Bill Loewen and 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.

- We pray for those who are grieving, for those whose mental health and physical health make employment and daily life a struggle, for those in transition/who have moved to a new home. We pray for the family care-givers.