

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>

- 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!

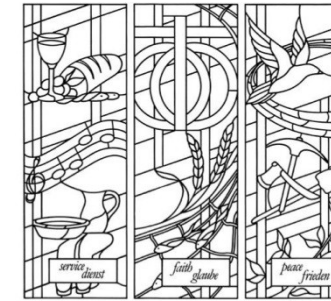
Last week when we were making the delivery of donated food to Roseau River First Nation, we showed up in the community without an address for where we wanted to go. Our plan was to bring all the food to the mother of the young woman who had passed away suddenly, but all we knew was her first name - Karen. 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 LXV No.1

January 4, 2026

Epiphany

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Hymn VT 273 Arise Your Light

Call to Worship & Prayer of Invocation

Hymn VT 277 As With Gladness

Scripture Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

Musical time of reflection (can Paul play a song here?)

Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon Erika Enns Rodine

Hymn VT 549 Be Thou My Vision

Sharing & Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Hymn SJ 13 My Soul is Filled With Joy

Postlude

Worship Leader: Margruite Krahn

Musician(s): Paul Krahn

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

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 Braul: C: 204-995-5347

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

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

January 6 – 9 am – Contemplative Prayer time

January 7 – 7 pm – Christmas Clean up

January 11 – 9:45 am AMC Kids; Adult Study group

11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine

Theme: "Choose the Topic" from auction sale *Scripture:* TBD

Worship Leader: June Schwartz *Musician(s):* Gina Enns

Technician: Nathan Loewen

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: January 4 - Kevin Neufeld; January 10 – Karen Martens

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.

- **AMC Custodians:** After many years of faithful service, Dale and Sandra have decided 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 let the 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 e-transfer (amchurchdonations@gmail.com), online bill payments through Access Credit Union, and the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary. The year ended with AMC being quite close to meeting budget.

COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Do you like to sing? Southern Manitoba Choral Society begins the new season on Tuesday, January 6 at 6:30 pm in the WC Miller choral room. Come a little early to register (\$35) and collect your music. No auditions required.

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 was admitted to the Altona hospital for some tests and observation. Pray for calm.

- 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.