

## **PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD**

- Provincial leaders and National Chiefs arrive today in **Pimicikamak Cree Nation** to witness first hand the challenges faced by the community in the aftermath of the 4-day power outage last week. We pray for good discernment and action that supports infrastructure changes so the community is better equipped to respond to emergencies in the future.

Letters of concern can be sent to:

premier@manitoba.ca; mgi@gov.mb.ca; minfin@manitoba.ca; pchura@hydro.mb.ca

- Please pray for the **Chuncheon Community Peace Center and the work of Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers, Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park.**

For the past year they have been collaborating with Circles of Support and Accountability Korea (CoSA Korea) to provide a counselling and training program for local probation offices. Your financial support for continuing the peace presence in South Korea provided by Bock Ki and Sook Kyoung is urgently needed. Use this study guide to learn together with our companions in South Korea how to "seek peace and pursue it".

## **From the Pastor**

Good morning!

I had a lovely holiday season. Our Candlelight Service on the 24th was beautiful (many thanks to Ray & Marilyn for that gift). Things weren't crazy busy over the week of Christmas for us, so I did lots of puzzling, watched the World Juniors, and made lots of hospital visits to see my grandma. It felt fairly relaxed. It just so happened that my family's get togethers all came the first weekend of January - between Friday, Jan 2 and Sunday, Jan 4 we had 3 family gatherings. The thought in planning it this way was that it would be less intense over Christmas for everyone if we waited until the New Year. And this was true!

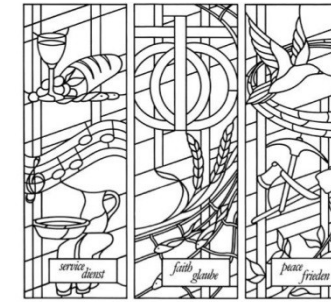
But on Friday, January 2 in the afternoon I got a message from Trevor at the funeral home asking about doing a funeral the following Tuesday at AMC for Ruth Klippenstein, a woman I'd never met. This made the busy weekend busier, but I honestly enjoy working on funerals. It's always a bit of a different experience, though, when I don't know the deceased or their family. And especially so when the family isn't familiar with church or funerals in general!

The evening before Ruth's funeral, my grandma Norma passed away peacefully. This was a merciful death. Cancer had withered her body away, and for the last few days of her life she was not really awake anymore. The hard part was watching her physically deteriorate over the past months, and more acutely during her final weeks. She was so ready to be finished her earthly journey, and to join her family members heaven-side. So we celebrate that she is now at peace and in the embrace of Jesus.

I want to thank everyone for their kindness, care, love and support. Our church family is amazing. Thank you to Dan for stepping in to preach today, so I only have to worry about writing one more sermon (and not two) this week. Thank you to Kim for making those arrangements. I feel very well looked after.

I have continued to be in the office this week, and will be at church all of next week, as well, because there's a wedding to prepare for (yay! and congratulations to Chris and Sara!). But I will definitely be taking a few days of bereavement time to rest and recover the week of January 19-23. I'll likely pop in here and there to church that week and respond to emails as needed, but will not have regular office hours except for Thursday morning with Lori!

Love, Erika



# Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXV No.2

January 11, 2026

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn VT 9 Come Away from Rush and Hurry

Call to worship with Prayer of Invocation!

Hymn STJ 10 Spirit, Working in Creation

Scripture Reading: Genesis 6:17-18, Exodus 14:21-22,  
Joshua 3:14-17

Musical time of reflection

Scripture Reading: Romans 6: 1-6; Ephesians 4:1-6

Sermon "It's only water" Dan Kehler

Hymn VT 455 Make Us One

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Hymn VT 838 The Peace of the Earth Be with You

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Leader: June Schwartz

Musician(s): Gina Enns

Technician: Nathan Loewen

### **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](mailto:altonamennonite@gmail.com)

Website: [altonamennonitechurch.ca](http://altonamennonitechurch.ca)

Moderator: Ang Enns C:204-324-4046

Past Moderator: Loren Braul: C: 204-995-5347

Custodians:

*Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.*

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

January 18 – 9:45 am AMC Kids; Adult Study Group

11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine

*Theme:* Baptism *Scripture:* Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17

*Worship Leader:* Elaine Loewen *Musician(s):* Marilyn Houser

Hamm *Technician:* Dale Klassen

January 25 – 9:45 am – AMC Kids, Adult Study Group

11 am – Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine

January 25 – 1:00 pm AMC's AGM after the service, bring a

lunch or order pizza

February 1 – 9:45 am AMC Kids; Adult Study Group

11:00 am Worship Service

February 8 – 9:45 am AMC Kids; Adult Study Group

11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine

**Birthdays:** January 14 – Fredric Dyck; January 15 – Sylvia Klassen

## **AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The custodian position has been filled. More information to follow.

- All those who are able are invited to join together to clean the AMC kitchen on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 9:00 am. Contact June for further information as needed.

- The Report Books are put out ahead of time so that folks have some time to read them in advance of the AGM, which is what we assume/expect people to do! In other words, we won't be going over the reports during the AGM! They are also available on line on our church website.

- There is an invitation to stay for lunch after church on Jan 25. We will order pizza again, so if you're interested in joining the pizza party, please text/email/talk to Erika by Jan 20 to let her know how many pieces of pizza you'd like. Drinks will be included in this lunch option. 😊

- 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 in 2025. 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. The year ended with AMC being quite close to meeting budget.

We received a newsletter and card from Neuvos Vecinos, a ministry of Roca Refugio, one of the Sunday School projects in Advent. They are most grateful.

## **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. No auditions required. You may still join.

- **Steps Toward Reconciliation** extends an invitation to join them on Tuesday **January 20th at 7:00pm** at the Rhineland Pioneer Center in Altona for an evening with Niigaan Sinclair, renowned Anishinaabe writer, editor, professor, and activist. This event is made possible by the Province of Manitoba Orange Shirt Day Funding.

Niigaan Sinclair is Anishinaabe from Peguis First Nation and a professor at the University of Manitoba, where he holds the Faculty of Arts Professorship in Indigenous Knowledge and Aesthetics in the Department of Indigenous Studies. He is an award winning author and a featured member of the Friday "Power Panel" on CBC's Power & Politics. Niigaan is a proud Treaty One member.

## **CONFERENCE or MCC RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **MCM Monday. January 12, 7:30-8:30pm on Zoom.** MC Canada on the Hot Seat: Interview with Jeanette Hanson. International Witness is adopting new language to describe our relationship with global partners. Let's ask Jeanette Hanson how the language of "companionship" resonates with MC Canada's relationships worldwide. [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays) for the the Zoom link and more info.

- **Camps with Meaning** Summer Leadership applications are open. [www.campswithmeaning.org/staff](http://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, passed away on Monday. Prayer for the family as they remember. The funeral was Saturday.

- Bev Barton is back at home. There are still tests to be done. 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.