

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

- **Joint Council Meeting** - Mennonite Church Canada's Joint Council meets on Saturday, January 31. Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as they discern nine action items that have developed out of Gathering 2025. Each item will have congregational, regional, and nationwide significance.

- **Global Companion – China** - Anabaptist teaching is finding a welcome audience in small groups of believers in China as they face many of the same kinds of challenges as did their ancestors in faith. Read more: <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/article/45880-iw-global-companion-for-january-2026--china>

- **Learning Pilgrimage in South Africa** - Join the Mennonite Church Canada Learning Pilgrimage in South Africa! Journey alongside South African Anabaptists as we build relationships, listen to lived stories, and explore how their experiences of faith, justice, and reconciliation can inform our own efforts to heal colonial wounds with Indigenous neighbours in Canada. Learn more at [mennonitechurch.ca/international-witness/pilgrimage](http://mennonitechurch.ca/international-witness/pilgrimage) or contact Tany Warkentin for details ([tanywarkentin@gmail.com](mailto:tanywarkentin@gmail.com)).

## **From the Pastor**

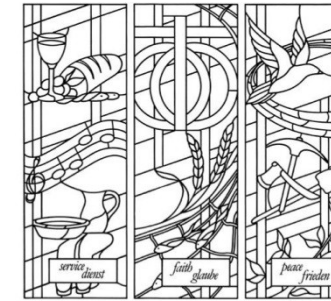
*This week I'm including in this space A Note From Dianne (a different pastor)! Below is part of the message we received in the mail from Dianne Garcia, pastor of Roca de Refugio. They got all our Christmas cards and greetings, and she sent mail back to us at AMC saying Thank You and Happy Holidays, and this note comes from the first ever Annual Report for Nuevos Vecinos (New Neighbours), a ministry of Roca de Refugio.*

"This has been the hardest year that our community has experienced. The community has been under attack from multiple directions. People, especially those without work permits or who had their work permits and legal status revoked, are struggling to keep steady jobs and put food on the table. Everyone struggles under the weight of the constant fear of being detained by ICE. Children have watched their parents arrested and taken away, never to come back. Pregnant mothers wonder how they will manage now, having and caring for a baby all alone after their husbands have been deported. The current administration has sent loud and clear the message that: you aren't wanted here; you don't belong here; we don't care about you.

Walking alongside a community facing such injustice and dehumanization has been exhausting and heart-breaking. But I couldn't have done it and we, as an organization that includes a super-committed board and amazing volunteers, couldn't have helped so many people without your generosity and support, without you all sending loud and clear the opposite message that our immigrant brothers and sisters are wanted, they do belong here, and their lives and their struggles matter.

Thank you so much, on behalf of our whole community: for your kindness, generosity and compassion. It has meant so much to so many. We are going to keep doing everything that we can every day to create thriving communities together with our immigrant neighbors. We are going to continue telling the story that immigrants are our best collaborators in building a brighter future for us all. We are going to keep advocating for our community in every way that we can. We look forward to continuing to join together with you in this effort in the year to come.

In community,  
Dianne Garcia,  
Pastor of Roca de Refugio  
Director of Nuevos Vecinos



# Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXV No.4

January 25, 2026

## **GATHERING**

Prelude *In Thee is Gladness* J.S. Bach  
Welcome and Announcements  
Hymn VT 31 Come We that Love the Lord

### Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

Today we celebrate a special baptism;  
the baptism of Jesus of Nazareth.

God says:

Look! See my chosen servant,  
the One in whom I utterly delight;

**I have placed my Spirit on him,  
He will bring true justice to the nations.**

When Jesus was baptised, the heavens opened up,  
and the Spirit came down like a dove;  
and there was a voice from heaven saying:

**"This is my dearly loved Son,  
with whom I am delighted."**

The joy of the Lord be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Hymn VT 43 God be the Love

### **AMC Contact information:**

Pastor: Rev. Erika Enns Rodine C: 204-963-5764  
Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 9 am – 4 pm  
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Website: [altonamennonitechurch.ca](http://altonamennonitechurch.ca)  
Moderator: Ang Enns C:204-324-4046  
Past Moderator: Loren Brault: C: 204-995-5347  
Custodians: Ethan Franz C:204-304-2296 Rheeane Julien C: 204-914-9591

*Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.*

## **LISTENING and LEARNING**

Scripture Matthew 3:13-17

Sermon Erika Enns Rodine

Hymn VT 458 The Water Is Ready

## **RESPONDING**

Reflection Time

Shall We Gather at the River (VT667) Gordon Young

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Hymn VT 297 You Are Salt For The Earth

Benediction

Postlude Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Worship Leader: Elaine Loewen

Musician(s): Kevin Neufeld, Nancy Ratzlaff

Technician: Loren Braul

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

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

11:00 am Worship Service – Guest Paul Peters

*Theme:* The Community Exchange *Scripture:* TBA

*Worship Leader:* Susie Fisher *Musician(s):* Marilyn Houser

Hamm, Nancy Ratzlaff *Technician:* Loren Braul

Soup and Buns luncheon served by Friendship Manor.

February 3 9:00 am Contemplative Prayer

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

11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine

February 15 – Worship Service – guest speaker from MCC

February 22 – Worship Service – Dan Kehler

March 1 – Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine

**Birthdays:** January 18 – Margot Fisher; January 19 – Ken Hamm

**Anniversaries:** January 31 – Irv & Cheryl Giesbrecht

## **AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Congratulations to Chris and Sara (Carlson) Klassen who married on Saturday, January 17 between the blizzards! We wish them joy for this journey!

- We welcome Ethan Franz and Rheanne Julien to the position of AMC custodians!

- **Save the Date!** AMC Church retreat at Camp Koinonia, March 13 to 15th.

- 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.

### **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.

## **COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Next Community Meal at the Exchange is on January 31.

## **CONFERENCE or MCC RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **MCM Monday - January 26, 7:30-8:30pm - Safe Church Policies: A panel discussion** Join Michael Pahl who will moderate a conversation on how churches are handling the necessary work around Safe Church policies. For the Zoom link, go to [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays)

- **Camps with Meaning summer staff** application portal is open. [www.campswithmeaning.org/staff](http://www.campswithmeaning.org/staff)

- **Summer camp registration** is open for kids Gr 1 to Gr 12. [www.campswithmeaning.org](http://www.campswithmeaning.org)

- **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!

Mennonite Action Canada in action! January 25 and/or February 22, join us in national community phone zaps. We will collectively contact our MPs to urge them to vote in favour of Bill C-233, the "no loopholes" act, to prevent Canada from selling armaments to Israel and Sudan through the USA. For more information: FB or IG: @MennoActionCanada Email: MennoniteActionCanada@pm.me

## **PRAYER AND PRAISE**

- Jean Tarnick is at Eastview Place. She is finding the days long as she can't move independently. She welcomes visitors.

- 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, for those who have moved to or are waiting to move to a new home. We pray for the family care-givers.