

From the Pastor

Good Morning, AMC!

I'm at Camp Assiniboia this weekend, on the first of three retreats I've got in the calendar between now and mid-March (when we have our own AMC retreat at Koino)! Canadian Mennonite University is hosting a Ministry Inquiry Retreat for adults across Canada who have some degree of interest in entering ministry. Most of them are post-secondary students at the undergraduate or graduate level. I've been asked to speak about my own journey of becoming a minister, and I'm also facilitating some group discernment sessions throughout the weekend.

In preparing for the retreat, I was asked whether my story had a theme. I didn't even have to think about the question, because I have known all along that 'love for the church' is my theme. I didn't set out to become a minister - I studied history. I'll probably never be the most spiritual person in the room. But I have a deep love for the church, and for people. And I am willing to serve the church, by loving people.

This happened because I grew up being loved by the church and its people. I was raised in a caring community of faith - and here there are rings within rings within rings... There are 4 rings in particular I'm thinking of:

It was Freya's first high school exam week, and it seems I've had rings in my head since she was studying the Bohr Model

My **immediate family** was a place where love was ever-present and questions of faith were discussed with openness, curiosity and challenge, and we were encouraged to see the good in all people and places.

My **extended family** (on both sides) were also environments of playfulness, love, and faith (and dedication to the church) was a lived example to me in all kinds of areas of life.

My **church family** fostered a sense of safety and nurturing through relationships and activities - throughout my childhood years of Sunday school, youth, and later my university years, I was surrounded by wonderful people who cared about me, recognized my gifts and supported me as I developed them. I still feel a profound sense of connection to my home congregation because many of the friendships that took root there have continued to grow over the years, and it's still a community of support and care.

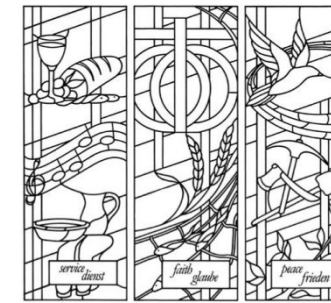
The final/outer ring is the **community of Altona**. This is only my story, I know a lot of people don't share this experience. I didn't grow up feeling stifled in or by this small, 'Mennonite' town. I felt safe here. I felt connected - to the

past, to a sense of identity, and to the people. And all of those things shaped me, and taught me lessons about life. You see the good and bad, of course, but I choose to look at the good. I've seen people come together in times of hardship: holding fundraisers, passing sandbags, delivering food, welcoming newcomers, and volunteering. Altona has an amazing volunteer spirit! This community legacy has been a huge influence in my life. And while you surely find good volunteers in all communities, there's something about the specific history and identity of our community that has had a special hand in developing an ethos of volunteerism. No matter where folks are at on the political or religious spectrum, putting one's faith into action by serving others is just something people do here.

While family life, church life, and community life can get messy and frustrating (and people can and do end up getting hurt), there is also much beauty to be found in the rings of community we are each a part of, chosen or otherwise.

Erika

"At AMC, we welcome all persons into fellowship, membership, and leadership. We do so inclusive of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and other identities that have experience discrimination and marginalization. We seek reconciliation with those who have not historically experience such welcome in the church. As a congregation, we embrace God's way of welcome, love and justice for all."



Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXV No.5

February 1, 2026

Prelude *Awake, Awake to Love and Work* arr. Held
*To give and give, and give again what God hath given thee;
To spend thyself nor count the cost;
To serve right gloriously the God who gave all worlds that
are, and all that are to be.*

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship arr. Hustad

Welcome & Announcements

Hymn VT 809 Sing a New World Into Being

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer

Hymn HWB 459 I Come with Joy

Children's Time

Scripture Reading Luke 10: 25-37

Hymn VT 568 Christ has no body here but ours

Sermon/Sharing Paul Peters, Executive Director of TCE

Hymn VT 574 We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace

Words of Reflection

Hymn VT 556 I Bind My Heart

Sharing & Congregational Prayer

Hymn VT 36 Let Us Build A House- st 1,3,4,5

Benediction

Postlude *Help Us to Help Each Other* arr. Powell

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: Ethan Franz C:204-304-2296 Rheanne Julien C: 204-914-9591

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Worship Leader: Susie Fisher
Musician(s): Marilyn Houser Hamm. Nancy Ratzlaff
Technician: Kevin Neufeld

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

Feb. 1 – 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*
Theme: Looking at the role of the fool in Shakespeare
(trickster theology!) *Scripture:* 1 Corinthians 1:18-29
Worship Leader: Lori Hiebert *Musician(s):* Lori Hiebert, Loren
Hiebert *Technician:* Nathan Loewen
February 15 – Worship Service – guest speaker from MCC
February 21 – RRVFA Scholarship Event
February 22 – Worship Service – Dan Kehler
March 1 – 11:00 am Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine
5:00 pm Progressive Supper

Birthdays: February 1 – Marnë Mierau-Friesen

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Save the Date!** - **March 1**, 5 pm – Progressive Supper

- **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!

From the Treasurer:

- Ways to Give at Altona Mennonite Church:
 - cash or cheque in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary
 - online bill payments through Access Credit Union
 - etransfer to amchurchdonations@gmail.com

Thank you for your donations as we continue to be church together!

COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFERENCE or MCC RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **MCM Annual Gathering will be held March 6-7** at Bethel Mennonite Church. The theme is "See, I Am Doing a New Thing!" We are allowed 4 delegates for the meeting. Please let Erika Enns Rodine or Lori Hiebert know if you wish to be part of the discussion on a new Vision and Mission statement for MCM. Delegates need to be registered by February 13.

- MCM Monday -February 2, 7:30-8:30pm

Let's ask Sandy Plett (Mennonite Church Canada Climate Action Coordinator) why it is important that the church be concerned about climate change. To get us warmed up - here's what Katharine Hayhoe has to say... Short video blurb. www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays for the Zoom link.

- First Mennonite Church in Winnipeg is 100 years old!

Our celebrations will officially kick off in September, 2026. To help us commemorate adequately, we are holding a fundraising social, Tuesday, February 17, 7:00 p.m. at Trans Canada Brewing, 1290 Kenaston Blvd. Tickets are \$45 in advance, or \$50 at the door. Space is limited! Included in the ticket price is TCB's delicious pizza! To purchase tickets, or for more information, email office@firstmennonitechurch.ca.

- **CMU Discover Day** – Join us for the full day or the afternoon of Friday, February 27 to discover what it is like to be a CMU student. Tour the CMU campus, attend a sample lecture, meet professors and current students, and have lunch and treats on us! For more information and to register, visit cmu.ca/discover-days.

- **CMU Open House** – Prospective undergraduate students of all ages are invited to drop in on Thursday, February 19, 5:00-8:00 PM to experience CMU's academic programs, student supports, and community life at their own pace. Visit cmu.ca/openhouse for more information.

- **Camps with Meaning summer staff** application portal is open. www.campswithmeaning.org/staff

- **Summer camp registration** is open for kids Gr 1 to Gr 12. www.campswithmeaning.org

- **Canadian Mennonite is seeking a contract-based advertising sales representative** to connect values-aligned advertisers, organizations, and ministries with our readership. This remote, commission-based role offers flexible hours and opportunities to build relationships across our wider church community. Full job description and application details: <https://canadianmennonite.org/about-cm/jobs/> Open until the position is filled.

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.

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

- **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 or contact Tany Warkentin for details (tanywarkentin@gmail.com).