

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

- **MCC laments** the U.S. military aggression against Iran and mourns our collective failure to stop the endless cycles of violence and the cheapening of human life. We recommit to be peacemakers in a time of escalating violent conflict.

- **Global Companion of the Month: South Africa** - As we embrace a posture of companionship in the global church, an Anabaptist group called Iziko Lamaqabane in South Africa is stepping up to that commitment and offering to walk with us. In addition to their ministry of working with urban peace and justice practitioners in South Africa to "heal colonial wounds, disrupt systemic violence and cultivate faith formed by and expressed in liberative praxis", the Iziko leaders are gifted in facilitating pilgrimage learning experiences. Mennonite Church Canada is working in partnership with Iziko Lamaqabane to explore the long history and legacy of colonialism and apartheid in South Africa through one of these pilgrimages. For more information:

<https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/international-witness/pilgrimage>

- **Scholarships and prayers for Palestine.** - MC Canada's Palestine/Israel Network thanks all who donated to its Advent giving project for scholarships at Bethlehem Bible College. Donations are still being accepted through March 31; for more information, please visit <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/adventgiving2025>. The PIN also urges prayer for our siblings in faith as they maintain a gospel message in Gaza, West Bank, and East Jerusalem with the added complexity and threat from the US/Israel conflict with Iran.

From the Pastor

I didn't have the best week. I started feeling feverish Sunday night, and didn't step foot outside the house until Wednesday evening. I caught my third virus of the winter, and I am SO DONE with being sick! I watched a whole season of The Great British Baking Show, and probably a season and a half of Finding Your Roots. I also had plenty of time to work on my reading project...

This week I'm finishing The Making of the Bible, and I've got 2 more chapters to go! It is a fairly dense read, and I am not a fast reader, but it has been most interesting to learn about how the Bible as we know it came to be. Here are a few learnings that stand out to me:

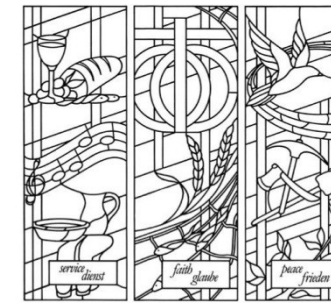
- The shift from oral tradition to written text happened later than I thought. A good deal of the Old Testament was written between the 8th-5th centuries BCE. The Torah (first five books of the Hebrew bible) was canonized between 450-400 BCE, and the Hebrew bible as a whole was finalized over the course of several centuries.

- Evidence shows that as texts (scrolls of scripture) were copied, they were also edited over time to reflect new understandings and interpretations. Meaning-making in relation to scripture has always been dynamic and evolving along with human history.

- The shift from paganism to monotheism was also a very gradual movement. The ancient Israelite religion was not static, and before turning into a permanently monotheistic formalized religion (around the time of the Babylonian Exile), it was considered to be 'just another' ancient tribal cult religion of the Hebrew people.

- Many gospels exist(ed)! They were written and used by early Christians in the first two or three centuries of the Common Era. Various Christian communities adopted different gospels, such as the gospel of Thomas, gospel of Mary, gospel of Judas, gospel of Peter, the infancy gospel of Thomas, and the gospel of James. Ultimately the 4 biblical gospels that we are familiar with (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John) were canonized into the Christian New Testament.

Biblical canonization: the historical, church-led process of recognizing, selecting and accepting specific texts as divinely-inspired, authoritative scripture. Derived from the Greek kanōn ("measuring rod"), the canon serves as the standard for Christian faith and practice. Books were included based on criteria such as apostolicity (connection to apostles), orthodox content, and universal acceptance by churches.



Altona Mennonite Church

Worship Service 11:00 am

VOLUME LXV No.11

March 22, 2026

Lent 5 – Complicity and Innocence

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Hymn VT 43 God Be the Love

Call to Worship

Prayer of Invocation

Time for the Young and Young at Heart

Time of Reflection

Scripture Reading John 19:1-16a

Hymn VT 696 My God, My God

Sermon

Confession poem

Hymn VT 323 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Chain of Sorrows – John Thiessen

Sharing & Congregational Prayer

Hymn VT 715 Longing for Light

Benediction

Hymn VT 803 We Shall Overcome

Postlude

Worship Leader: Lori Dueck

Musician(s): Margrute Krahn, Paul Krahn

Technician: Dale Klassen

AMC Contact information:

Pastor: Rev. Erika Enns Rodine C: 204-963-5764

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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 & MEETING EVENTS AT AMC

March 29 – 9:30 am AMC at Eastview and Gardens

11:00 am Worship Service – Palm Sunday - Erika Enns Rodine *Theme:* Palm Sunday *Scripture:* John 16b-22; John 12:12-27

Worship Leader: Marge Friesen *Musician(s):* Nancy Ratzlaff
Technician: Kevin Neufeld

April 2 – 7 pm Maundy Thursday Communion service

April 3 – Good Friday service with Altona United Church

- see announcement below

April 5 – Easter Morning – Erika Enns Rodine

9:30 am Breakfast ; 11:00 am – Worship Service

April 12 9:45 am – Adult study resumes

11:00 am – Worship Service – Erika Enns Rodine

Birthdays: March 24 – Ken Loewen, John Thiessen

Anniversaries: March 25 – Chris & Lori Franz; March 28 – Lori Dueck & Loren Braul

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please let Erika Enns Rodine know asap if you are willing to be part of a singing group for **AMC's turn at providing the service at Eastview and the Gardens on March 29.** The group would meet at church by 9 am, do a quick run-through of the morning hymns, then head to Eastview for 9:30 am, and the Gardens for 10:15 am.

- **Good Friday** – Meet at AMC by 10:00 am for the Cross Walk to Altona United Church. The service begins there at 11:00 am.

- Please join us for **Easter breakfast on Sunday April 5, 2026 at 9:30 AM.** Please bring paska or hot cross buns, fruit and hard boiled eggs, enough for your family and a little more to share. Set up group is Group 1 and clean up is group 2 from the serving group list.

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

- **February 2026 marked the 3 year anniversary** for Erika Enns Rodine as pastor of AMC. We want to celebrate and review how the last 3 years have gone for her and us. She has requested to hear feedback from the congregation and a small group will gather to review and discuss this with her. If you have feedback in the form of positive aspects or areas you'd like to see more attention or focus, we'd like to hear from you. Please share these thoughts with Ang Enns, John Thiessen or Kim Batchelor prior to March 31, 2026. Thanks for your feedback!

- Ray and Marilyn Houser Hamm's new mailing and street addresses are Box 1223, 3002 5th St., Rosthern, Saskatchewan. S0K 3R0

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

- **Altona United Church** (45 3rd Ave SE) invites us to join them for their Lenten services:

- Lenten Bible Study "Journey Through Lent" – Tuesdays – March 24, 31 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- An Evening of Prayer "From Ashes to Grace" – Wed. April 1 @ 7 pm

We will be worshipping together on Good Friday.

- **Gardens on Tenth Spring Soup & Pie Fundraiser** is coming up quickly! Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 26, 2026 from 5-7pm. See poster on bulletin board.

- **Community Meal** at TCE on Saturday, March 28, 5-6:30 pm.

- **The Southern MB Choral Society** will be performing their spring concert on Sunday, March 29th, 2026, 3:00 p.m. at the Altona Bergthaler Church. Admission by donation.

CONFERENCE or MCC RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Living in a Changing Climate: Stories of Wildfire Impact in Cross Lake – Pimicikamak Cree Nation.** Come join the MCM Climate Action Working Group (CAWG) on Saturday, April 11 at 9:30am as we listen to stories of the devastating 2025 wildfires and reflect together on how climate change is impacting us all. Refreshments will be served. South Conference Room - Canadian Mennonite University (600 Shaftesbury Blvd).

- **Light the Fire Party** with comedian Matt Falk. April 19, 2026. 7:00pm. Caboto Centre, Winnipeg. Come out and support your Camps with Meaning Capital Campaign by enjoying the "effortlessly funny" comedian, Matt Falk. Free tickets are available at www.lightthefire.ca There is a sign up sheet to order tickets.

- **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

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Condolences to Harv & Kathy Heinrichs on the passing of Harv's brother Elmer. The service was last week.

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

- Bev Barton is home, still waiting for some tests. 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.