

Pastor's Report

I love my job! I love our church. I do not love trying to condense a year of ministry and church life into a formal report. So what I've decided to do this year is present a Top 25 of 2025, which will highlight the work I do and some of what has happened over the past year.

Rev. Enns Rodine's Top 25 of 2025: highlights of another year of Life at AMC

**I'm not numbering them, because I couldn't possibly attempt to rank these memories!*

- **Summer Long Weekends** when we visit on the lawn
- our **Looking Back & Living Forward worship series** from this past fall
- **Baptisms!** The classes, the evening with deacons & sponsors, & the baptism service including when the power dramatically went out! What a wonderful, memorable day!
- **Church retreat** at Camp Koinonia in February (soo cold that weekend, but fun times!)
- **Worship Survey** - this was a lot of work for the Worship Committee, but we learned a lot and the data we collected was really great!
- Fall Fun **Auction & Winter Progressive Supper**
- Connecting at & supporting **TCE**, and participating in the work of **Steps Toward Reconciliation**
- Being a **Ministry Mentor** (to Selenna Wolfe) and a designated **Support Person** for the GMLC (MCCanada's Clergy Conduct Policy)
- **Matheson Island!** The May work weekend, the baked potato lunch fundraiser, summer camp, teaching Bible, and ongoing ministry and connections with MI.
- **Xplore Courses:** I took 3 CMU Xplore courses in 2025! (on Loneliness, LGBTQ+ Inclusion in the Church, and History of the Catholic Church)
- **Pastoral Visits;** whether it's post-op check ins, going for coffee, hospital visits, picking rhubarb, delivering soup, crashing happy hour, weekly visits at the care home, or taking a 10 year old out for lunch who just needed a break - I love visiting with you all!
- Being **Camp Pastor** at Assiniboia, Mentoring Leadership Staff, and being on the **MCM Camp Committee!** I am so grateful AMC allows me to be a passionate supporter of our camping ministry!
- **Birthday Parties!** I love a reason to see people (and enjoy cake)! There were some milestone birthdays in our congregation this past year!
- The No-Rehearsal **Nativity Pageant** - it is such a delight to see 'kids' of all ages taking stage to bring this story to life for us.
- **Sunday School!** (no matter what age group - kids, youth, and adults)
- Performing at the MCM Fundraiser **Sunday Night Life** in November
- **Anabaptism at 500** and celebrating this with a worship series in January
- doing a **funeral for a complete stranger.** I've done this a few times now, and as with any funeral I am involved in, it's always a meaningful experience where I learn about life, death, families, and faith.
- co-directing (and planning) the **MCM Winter Youth Retreat.** Equally exhausting and energizing!

- **Committee Meetings!** I will keep saying this: I enjoy meetings! You all are such wonderful people to work with! We all care about AMC, and it's a pleasure and a privilege to get to sit around a table with you and discuss/plan.

- **a fall full of music in worship!!!** We hosted CMYC, Cheryl Pauls, & the Faith in Life Men's Chorus

- attending the **MCCanada Gathering in Kitchener-Waterloo** in July was a supreme highlight! I've shared plenty about this experience already. Connecting with the wider church is always enriching, but my first adult conference was an amazing experience!

- **Lenten Reading Challenge:** I challenged myself to tackle a different book from my library each week of Lent. This was a challenge indeed, but it was very rewarding to get this intentional reading done and then reflect on each selection afterwards in order to write a book review (a task that kept me accountable).

- **Thursdays in the office with Lori!** I am so grateful to have Lori in the office once a week with me. She's a sounding board, co-conspirator, listening ear, rememberer of things, artistic consultant, secretary-extraordinaire, visiting buddy, encourager, and so much more!

- **Sunday Morning Worship,** the weekly heartbeat (is that a thing?) of our congregation. I so enjoy Sunday mornings with you all. Thank you many times over for the countless ways you contribute to all that happens in the life of AMC. And thank you for showing up! I recognize the effort it can be to just show up, and I am ever grateful that you choose to do so. Mwah!

* *Mwah: a holy kiss, an expression of affection as written about by the Apostle Paul*

Comments about the cover image on this report book:

At various points over the past year I used the imagery of a Forest to refer to our church. This was a useful metaphor that came to me; I appreciated the way that the image of a forest lends itself to the life of a church body. A family of individuals that make up one body. The different stages of life and growth that a forest/congregation experiences. Individuality & uniqueness of experiences and expressions, yet they are all parts of the whole - we come together to make something bigger. We all feed from the same source, even if we grow at different rates and look different from one another.

My hope is that this guiding image can help ground us and connect us as a community, or family, of faith. Our AMC Forest will continue to change and evolve as time goes on. This is simply how a living thing exists! When you've witnessed a forest's life for generations, it's probably impossible not to look back at various points and make comparisons (growth, size, appearance, vitality). Sometimes this remembering brings grief. And this is normal. It might even be good! But I also hope that when we look around at our Forest as it stands at present, we're finding contentment and joy where we're at now. A small forest, or congregation, is no less beautiful or vital than a massive forest. There are many wonderful things about being a small forest! For starters, it's harder to get lost, and the light shines through more easily!