

## **Worship Committee Report to AGM**

Various themes were explored by our congregation at Altona Mennonite Church in 2025.

The first of which was the series on Anabaptist 500 through Story, Trust and Yieldedness, Song, Repentance, and the Lord's Table. We heard from John and Norma Thiessen, Marilyn Houser Hamm, and Erika Enns Rodine on this subject.

The annual church retreat was held the weekend of February 16<sup>th</sup> at Camp Koinonia, followed by a Sunday shared with Nadia Langelotz, who is Program Director at Camps with Meaning.

The Lenten series followed, which was entitled Christ Collides; specifically examining Bias, Condemnation, Priorities, Our Selfishness, and finally, our Expectations. Easter Sunday was a wonderful service of worship and praise!

April ended with two guest speakers, Gerald Gerbrandt and Dale Friesen.

The summer months of May - August included long weekend coffee on the lawn Sundays, information on Matheson Island, Grad Recognition, Baptism, Church Picnic, a Camp Sunday, and guest speakers Andrea De Avila and Greg Costen.

September opened with our Education / Welcome Back Sunday! The AMC Worship Survey was also launched, which was something this committee had compiled through the spring and summer months. There was the deliberate decision made to align church services with the materials being used by the AMC kids which was the Shine Curriculum. We enjoyed Cheryl Pauls and also had our annual Thanksgiving Lunch. The CMYC choir and the Faith and Life Male Choir were highlights in October/November, as well as exploration on the theme of Who Were We? Who Are We Now? And Who Do We Hope to Become? Led by Erika.

This moved us nicely into Memorial Sunday and the Advent Season. These were beautiful services with a special highlight being the pageant held on December 14th. Proving that the wonderful Christmas story can be retold over and over again!

The concert held at AMC on December 5th was not part of this committee's work but was so lovely! A huge thank you to Erika, Marilyn, Edna, Loren, and Nancy for this. It was heart warming and inspiring!

Christmas Eve was a gift offered by Ray and Marilyn. It too was a lovely service of reflection and music. Thank you!

And while we traditionally report on the past, as we enter 2026, we look forward and interpret the results of the AMC Worship Survey. We tried to analyze the data and "hear" the individual comments coming from the survey. We were so grateful to the individuals who took time to complete the survey. Thank you! We believe we have already implemented most, if not all, of the recommendations brought forward, and there will be further detail on this following the January Leadership Committee meeting.

Thank you, Erika, for the leadership and guidance you provide to our congregation and the community beyond; and one last thank you to all, mentioned or not mentioned in this report, who make worship meaningful at AMC. We appreciate you and your many contributions!

Kim Batchelor on behalf of the Worship Committee - Elaine Loewen, Peggy Martens, and Erika Enns Rodine.

