

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Our Church family

- Pray for Tim Wiebe and family as they heal.
- Pray for strength and calm for those with parents in transition.
- Condolences to Rudy and Elfie Krahn on the passing of Elfie's mother Katie.

Our Community

- Pray for MC Manitoba Executive Director – Ken Warkentin and Canada General Secretary – Willard Metzger.

Our World

- *If you would like to add or remove any prayer requests, please contact Dan Kehler or the church office.*

Altona Mennonite Church

Vision

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

Purpose

We seek to know God through Jesus, the centre of our faith.

We seek to follow God in community, through worship, fellowship, and interpreting the Scripture from a Christ-centred point of view, in the Anabaptist tradition.

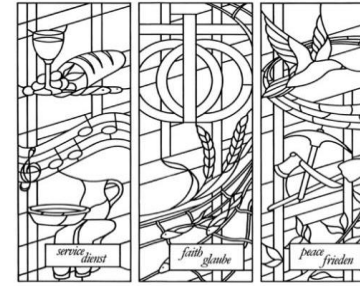
We seek to obey God by working toward peace and reconciliation, in the spirit of Jesus, reconciling all people to God, to each other, and to the world around them.

From the Pastor: Advent 2017

This year's Advent theme draws us into Mary's prayer in Luke 1:38, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." This is Mary's response to God's amazing plan as told to her by the Angel Gabriel; "And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:31-33) The plan was for her to carry, and give birth to, the Son of God! Mary responded, "Let it be." Mary is often characterized as a meek and passive, obedient servant. Meekness and obedience do have value, but a close look at the language Luke uses suggests a more active engagement with God's plan. The Greek phrase, "let it be with me . . ." expresses a wish, or a prayer; Mary is giving voice to an active commitment. Mary is expressing a strong desire to be part of God's plan. A more informal way of expressing this would be "Bring it on!" This Advent season we are invited, along with Mary, to make this our prayer to God: "Yes! Let it be!" or, if you prefer, "Bring it on, God!" as each Sunday we explore this prayerful desire to participate in God's reconciling work in the world. "Let it be with me according to your word."

Sunday Morning Mini Retreats

Advent is a season of much preparation. One event follows the other, and between decorating, baking, shopping, and gathering, we hardly find space to wait for the One who came, is always coming, and will come again. In the Adult Education time on the first three Sundays of Advent you are invited to a time of reflection intended to create space for waiting with quiet anticipation. We will enter the Scriptures with silence and prayer to watch for God's coming and to listen with the prophet Isaiah for God's word to us. The Isaiah Scriptures invite us to join the people of the past who have explored our vulnerability in waiting, our openness to receiving the words of God, and our courage to respond like Mary, "Let it be to me according to your word."



Altona Mennonite Church

Sunday School – Adults & Children: 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 am

VOLUME LVI No. 46

November 26, 2017

Who is my neighbour: Walking alongside our elderly neighbours

GATHERING

Prelude

Hymn STJ #28 We worship God the Rock
Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship STJ #176

Prayer of Invocation

LISTENING

Children's Time

Scripture Reading: Psalm 71

Hymn HWB #343 My Hope is Built

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 46:3-4

Sermon In an Ageing Demographic Dan Kehler

WE RESPOND

Hymn Insert Sing a New Church

Sharing and Prayers of the People

Offering

COMMUNION

Prayer

Hymn: HWB #461

In the quiet consecration

Receiving the bread and wine

Pastor: Dan Kehler

Secretary: Lori Hiebert

Office Hours:

T: 204-324-6773 (church office)

Wed. & Thur. 9:30 am to noon

T: 204-324-5952 (home)

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Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

SENDING

Hymn HWB #429 Go now in peace
Benediction
Postlude

Worship Leader: Elaine Loewen
Song Leader: Dave Regehr
Accompanist(s): Hildie Regehr

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS at AMC

Nov. 27 7:00 pm DECORATING FOR ADVENT

Nov. 30 2:00 pm Worship Meeting

Dec. 3 9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service – First Advent
Food Bank, Coin Collection

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37 *Theme:* Advent 1 – Hope *Worship*

Leader: Andrea Hildebrand *Song Leader:* Lori Hiebert

Accompanist(s): Loren Hiebert *Sound:* Greg Heinrichs *Coffee:*
Albert & Marilyn Bergen

Dec. 17 Sunday School Program in the morning service

Dec. 21 Longest Night Service at AMC

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Join us **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27 @ 7:00 pm** for the annual Advent decorating event. All are welcome! Bring something to share for coffee time after the decorating is done.

- **A sincere thank you** to all who sent messages of condolences via email, cards, phone calls and prayers. A thank you to those who also made the trip to Killarney to attend my mother's memorial service. We as a family have greatly appreciated your support.
Sincerely, Elfie, Rudy & Family

- **Thank you for** visits, handshakes, hugs, sympathy cards and flowers in the recent homegoing of my sister Wilma. God bless you! Love, Sarah Sawatzky

- Henry & Margaret Rempel extend their gratefulness for all the prayers and support they have received over the last months.

- An Update from the treasurer:

1. As of November 22 we have received 76% of our budgeted revenue, and paid out 84% of our budgeted expenses.
2. We need \$37,000 in the next 6 Sundays to meet our budget.
3. As of November 22, after all cheques are cashed and designated revenue (including Sabbatical fund) is distributed, we are almost \$8,000 into our line of credit.

- If you are interested in purchasing items for hygiene kits to be donated to the Refugee Reception Centre in Gretna, the items currently needed are Travel sized deodorant and shampoo, wash cloths and bath towels (approx. size 24 x 40 inches) Other items are in good supply. Contact Marge Friesen for details 204 327 5400

- For those of you who ordered them, the December – February Rejoice! books are in your mailboxes.

Birthdays: Nov. 26 – Karey Hildebrand; Nov. 29 – Andrea Hildebrand; Nov. 30 – Peggy Martens, Cayden Wood; Dec. 2 – Madison Gerbrandt, Greg Costen

Anniversaries:

COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Eastview Place volunteer drivers needed ASAP:** We are in need of volunteer drivers for our Adult Day Program. The volunteers will be accompanied by an Eastview Place staff member to bring seniors to and from the care home. Volunteers work on a rotation basis and would be needed approximately three days a month (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) at 9:00 am and 2:50 pm. Please contact Jonathan Sawatzky at Eastview Place at 324-2375 for more information. We appreciate all of your support for our seniors in the community and would be grateful to have that continue through volunteer drivers.

- **Exhibitions:** Carolyn Mount and Tracy Fehr. MHC Gallery, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., CMU south campus. Nov. 24 – Jan. 20.

Along the Road to Freedom: Mennonite women of courage and faith BOOK now available. www.commonword.ca or Connie Wiebe 204 487 3300, ext 344 or cwiebe@cmu.ca

- **November 30 – December 2 @ 7:30 pm** - Cottonwood Community Drama presents “Murder Takes the Veil”, at Buhler Hall in Gretna. For tickets visit www.mciblues.net.

- **November 30, Dec. 1 @ 7 pm.** Enjoy the timeless **Amahl and the Night Visitors**, presented by students of CMU’s Opera Workshop, directed by David Klassen in the Laudamaus Auditorium, 500 Shaftesbury Blvd. Adults \$8; students \$5

- **December 3, 7 pm** - The choir of First Mennonite Church, 922 Notre Dame Ave, with a small orchestra under the direction of Yuri Klaz, invite you to their Advent Concert featuring Vivaldi's Gloria as well as smaller works by Dvorak and Pergolesi. Admission is free; a donation will be received.

- **December 9, 10** - Come and listen to a delightful mix of music sung by a multigenerational choir. Southern Manitoba Choral Society will present concerts on Saturday, December 9th @7:00 pm at Winkler Emmanuel Mennonite Church and Sunday, December 10th @2:30 pm at Altona Bergthaler Church. Everyone is welcome. A freewill offering will be received.

- **December 16 & 17** – Faith and Life Male Choir, and Faith and Life Women’s Chorus concerts – see bulletin board for times and locations.

- **Christmas Giving** - This Christmas, give a gift that gives twice! Through MCC's Christmas Giving projects, you can bring joy to the people you love and transform lives around the world. Each gift comes with a card that explains the gift you've given. Choose from a variety of gift options that will be meaningful to friends, teachers, co-workers or family! Visit mccmb.ca/christmas today.

Check the bulletin board for more info on these...

- Newsletters / updates / Concerts
- Nov. 25 – MCC Christmas Craft & Bake sale at the Plaza Drive location.
- December 7 – Book launch at CMU
- **Christmas Concerts** – Faith and Life and others