

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

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.

Our Community

- Pray for MC Manitoba Executive Director – Ken Warkentin and Canada General Secretary – Willard Metzger.
- Bill C-262 will be debated in Parliament following its second reading on December 5, 2017. Bill C-262 is a private member's bill that seeks to harmonize Canadian law with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. As a result of grassroots advocacy, the Government of Canada has just announced that they will be supporting Bill C-262. This is incredibly encouraging! But we need to keep applying the pressure. Active ways to be involved: pray, email a word of thanks to local Liberal MP's, and keep sending the Walk the Talk postcards to all MP's (www.commonword.ca/go/1283).
Mennonites Learning Indigenous Theology

Our World

- Please pray that the new structures of the Mennonite Church Canada international ministry will find ways to involve our international partners in the changes that are happening
- Join with Tom and Christine Poovong in asking God to continue to "open doors" to discipleship ministry in Laos. Pray that these new disciples would be strengthened in their faith and encouraged to embrace Christianity from an Anabaptist perspective.
- Hippolyto and Miriam Tshimanga (Bloemfontein, South Africa) invite prayers for brick making in order that houses of worship may be constructed. In an email recently, Hippo indicated that, "only one of our small congregations has a house of worship. Other churches pray in garages or rent classrooms. We believe that having visible structures will give them visibility and help with the church growth."

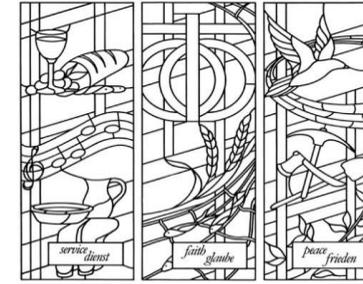
- If you would like to add or remove any prayer requests, please contact Dan Kehler or the church office.

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. 47

December 3, 2017

First Advent – Let it be

GATHERING

Prelude

Hymn HWB #83 With happy voices singing
Welcome & Announcements

Call to worship

Leader: Awake! The invitation to carry light comes from the
God of trembling mountains and shaking foundations.

***All: O God, your expectations terrify us. How can our
small selves bold your blazing presence?***

Leader: Quiet our question souls.

All: Lead us beyond our resistance. Let it be.

Hymn STS #5 Open my eyes
Lighting the first candle

Offering (Food Bank)

Children's Story

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Hymn HWB #175 O Saviour, rend the heavens vs. 1-3, 5
Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7,17-19, Mark 13:24-37

PSALM 80:1-7,17-19

O Shepherd of Israel,
leading Joseph like a flock, listen;
seated upon the Cherubim, shine forth,
before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh.

Pastor: Dan Kehler

Office Hours:

Wed. & Thur. 9:30 am to noon

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Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Stir up your strength
and come for our salvation.

O God, restore the life we once knew,

let your face shine that we may be saved.

O LORD, God of hosts,

how long will you fume at your people's prayers?

You have fed us tears for bread,

and given us tears to drink by the flagon.

You have made us a disgrace among our neighbours,
and our enemies ridicule us among themselves.

O God, restore the life we once knew,

let your face shine that we may be saved.

Let your hand be on the one at your right,

upon the person you strengthened for yourself.

Then we will never turn away from you.

Give us life, and we will call upon your name!

O LORD, God of hosts, restore the life we once knew,

let your face shine that we may be saved.

Message Advent and Apocalypse Dan Kehler

RESPONDING

Confession & Words of Assurance

Hymn STS #49 I will come to you in the silence

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

SENDING

Benediction

Hymn STS #1 Praise the one

Postlude

Worship Leader: Andrea Hildebrand

Song Leader: Lori Hiebert

Accompanist(s): Loren Hiebert

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **MEN-** You are invited to an **AMC Men's Morning Coffee** at AMC on **WEDNESDAY, Dec. 6 at 10 am**. No agenda other than coffee and visiting. Please join us.

- **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

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS at AMC

Dec. 10 9:30 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service – Second Advent

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-

15a; Mark 1:1-8 *Theme:* Let it be so *Worship Leader:* Ang

Enns *Song Leader:* Kevin Neufeld *Accompanist(s):* Marilyn

Houser Hamm *Sound:* Dale Klassen *Coffee:* Harry & Susan

Wiens

Dec. 6 10:00 am Men's Coffee

Dec. 17 9:30 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service / Sunday School

Program

Dec. 21 Longest Night Service at AMC

Dec. 24 11:00 am Worship service

6:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service

- Congratulations to Joel and Mikaela Martens on the birth of their daughter, Kira Beth, on Nov. 27! Parents and grandparents Ron and Karen Martens are delighted.

- 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.

Birthdays: Dec. 3 – Shanda Hochstetler; Dec 5 – Oliver Hochstetler Epp; Dec. 9 – Loren Hiebert

Anniversaries:

COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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.

- **The Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund** is now accepting referrals for Christmas Hampers. These referrals can be called in to 204-324-7167. Include the name of referral, number of children in the family with age and gender of child, address and phone number. Deadline is December 8. Referrals must live in the R.M. of Rhineland.

- December 9, at 9:00 a.m., Help wrap presents at the former Sawatzky Furniture building across from the Altona Mall.

- December 16, at 9:00 a.m., Help deliver the Christmas hampers. Parcel pick up at the former Sawatzky Furniture

- Donations can be hand delivered to Rexall Drugs in the Altona Mall, at the Access Credit Union - Gretna, Altona or Plum Coulee locations or simply by mailing the donation to Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund, Box 2255, Altona, MB R0G 0B0

- **December 9**, 1pm to 3pm, Circle of Life Thunderbird House (715 Main St) Join *Friends of Shoal Lake 40* in hearing updates and stories about the progress of the road from the Shoal Lake 40 community: Chief Erwin Redsky, Angelina McLeod, and Karine Duhamel from Canadian Museum for Human Rights. There will be coffee and snacks, and child-minding will be available during the event. We hope to see you there!

- **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.

Dec 21, 7pm – "The Longest Night Service" at the **Altona Mennonite Church**. If you are grieving the death of a family member or friend, separation, or any difficult loss, you are invited to attend. Coffee & refreshments to follow

- **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.