

- **NAIITS** is an Indigenous Learning Community that hosts annual theological gatherings intended for young and older, pastors and activists. Mennonite Church Canada's Indigenous-Settler Relations would like to help sponsor a group of women and men from across our nationwide church to attend this year's symposium on "White Supremacy and Indigeneity," June 7-9, 2018 @ Acadia Divinity College (Nova Scotia). *Sponsorships will help cover the cost of registration and food.* If you are interested, please email Steve Heinrichs for details (sheinrichs@mennonitechurch.ca).

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

- Newsletters / updates
- Exhibitions

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Our Church family

- Pray for Tim Wiebe and family as they heal.

- Condolences to Albert & Marilyn Bergen and family. Marilyn's mother, Annie Braun, passed away this week. The funeral was Thursday.

Our Community

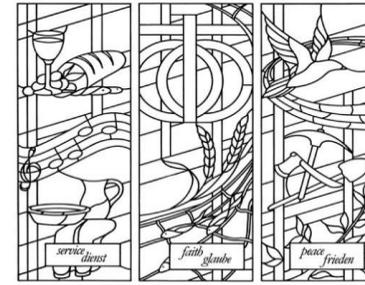
- Pray for MC Manitoba Executive Director – Ken Warkentin and Canada General Secretary – Willard Metzger.

Our World

- May all of our Witness workers who have left their home communities and families (including grandchildren) to share the story of Jesus with others, be embraced by their global families and be truly refreshed and inspired through discovering anew the true meaning of Christmas.

- Mike & Cheryl Nimz (Witness workers - UK) continue to build numerous relationships who have become like family to them. They invite prayers for: their 18 month old godson Kip being treated for leukemia. Kip's parents are also part of Mike and Cheryl's Tuesday night group; as well, Janet from their Cornwall "family" has discovered she has cancer and will begin treatments in the New Year.

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



Altona Mennonite Church

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

VOLUME LVI No. 51

December 31, 2017

Yes! Let it be new

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome words

Announcements

Hymn SS #32 Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 148)

One: Yes!

We will give thanks and rejoice!

Many: We will praise the Lord from the heavens, from the heights, and with the angels!

One: we praise the Lord with the sun and moon!

We praise the Creator of the shining stars!

Many: Fire and hail! Snow and frost! Mountains and hills! Fruit trees and cedars!

One: Young men and women alike!

Children and the aged ones too!

Let us praise the name of the Lord.

Many: Praise the Lord!

One: Yes! Let all things be new.

Hymn HWB #327 Great is Thy Faithfulness

Our worship service this morning

Sharing and Singing together

Pastor: Dan Kehler

Office Hours:

Wed. & Thur. 9:30 am to noon

Tel: 204-324-6773 (Church office)

Tel: 204-324-5178 (home)

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Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

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.

Hymn HWB #553 I am weak and need thy strength
Prayers of the People
...Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer
...Lord, in your goodness, we give thanks.

New Year's Prayer

We come like the magi, as wise and as foolish men and women, to kneel before the Christ child. We bring our regrets from the past year, our shame, our guilt, acknowledging our failures and ready to begin afresh.

Touch us with your hand of forgiveness. Help us also to forgive ourselves.

We come like the shepherds, from out on the rough hills of life, bringing our memories of danger, of suffering, of grief, bearing our own hurts and carrying the pain of those around us, like lost lambs in our arms.

Sing to us your peace. Shine on us with the glow of your gentle comfort.

We come like Mary and Joseph, excited by new life, promises of hope, joys remembered from the past year, progress made, achievements that light up our year.

Glory to God in the highest! Take us on to Jerusalem!

We come also like Mary and Joseph and the baby, fleeing from Herod, at one with all who seek asylum and languish too long in detention centres, and with those who have not escaped but wait for liberation.

We open our hearts to make room for all whom you love. Move us and all who have power to move mountains.

We come like the baby wrapped in cloth and laid in an animals' feeding trough, looking at the faces of children everywhere who suffer the effects of poverty and malnourishment, and remembering those who still suffer the impact of natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis and failed crops.

Speak to us through the cries of the baby Jesus and the cries of all children. Feed us with the good news of his gospel of love.

And now we must go to our Nazareth, our Galilee, our Jerusalem, our New Year. You will announce good news to the poor **and we want to be there.** You will reach out to the marginalised **and we want to be there.** You will meet us in deep communion, in brokenness and life poured out **and we want to be there.**

We will stand by your cross and share your risen life. We greet you with the palms of peace:

**Hosanna in the highest! Welcome to our Jerusalem!
Welcome to our New Year! Amen**

Offering

More sharing and singing

Sending

Benediction

Hymn HWB #639 Great God, we sing

Postlude

Worship Leader: Lori Hiebert

Song Leader: Lori Hiebert

Accompanist(s): Loren Hiebert

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **TONIGHT! AMC New Year's Eve Party, Dec. 31, 8:00 pm.** Are you looking for a good way to end the year? Join us at AMC for an evening of games and food. Bring whatever you like to snack on for sharing, and a board game or two, or an idea for a group game. You can still enjoy your usual New Year's activity before or after this event.

- **January 3, 2018 – 10 am,** Men's coffee

- An order form for the **Rejoice!** devotional guide has been prepared and is on the lobby table. A year's subscription is \$29. Please attach the cheque to the form and place in the mailbox marked "Rejoice book orders". Please do this by Dec. 31. Thanks.

- AMC collected \$110.00 to help fund the Altona Christmas Dinner. Approximately 200 guests enjoyed a great meal, as well as sticking around to visit and feel comfortable. A big thanks goes out to those who contributed.

An Update from the treasurer:

- We need about **\$10,000** before the end of the year to meet our 2017 budget. Please prayerfully consider an extra gift. Thank you.

Birthdays: Jan. 2 – Nancy Ratzlaff; Jan. 4 – Kevin Neufeld; Jan. 6 – Ken Braun, Teresa Braun

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS at AMC TONIGHT 8:00 pm AMC New Year's Eve Party

Jan. 3, 2018 10:00 am Men's Coffee

Jan. 7, 2018 9:30 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

Food Bank Collection, Coins for SS project

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12 *Theme:* Yes! Let it be declared *Worship*

Leader: Dave Regehr *Song Leader:* Dave Regehr

Accompanist(s): Hildie Regehr *Sound:* Greg Heinrichs *Coffee:*

Harv & Kathy Heinrichs

Jan. 9 2:00 pm AMC Book Club

7:00 pm Church Leadership Council Meeting

Jan. 11 2:00 pm Worship meeting

Jan. 14 9:30 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **January 4, 2018, 2 – 7 pm,** Blood donor clinic (Canadian Blood Services) will be held at the Rhineland Pioneer Center

- **February 10, 2018** - Recovery of Hope Counselling, together with the Neufeld Institute – Manitoba Chapter, is proud to announce that **Dr Gordon Neufeld, author of "Hold On to Your Kids: Why Parents Need to Matter More Than Peers," is coming to Morden on Saturday, Feb 10, 2018** to deliver a new full-day workshop called **"Keeping Children Safe in a Wounding World."** Parents, educators, youth workers and caregivers will be interested to learn from Dr Neufeld, one of Canada's leading developmental psychologists, as he uncovers the keys to helping children thrive while living in a wounding world. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.edenhealthcare.ca or call [1-866-493-6202](tel:1-866-493-6202).

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