

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Our Church family

- Pray for those for whom mental health makes daily life a struggle.
- Pray for those who experience physical pain, and for friends and family who help with care.
- Anne Loewen has been diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma. Your concern is appreciated and prayers are welcomed.

Our Community

- Pray for Ken Warkentin (MCM's Executive Minister), and all our church leaders at all levels of our conference.
- Mennonite Church Canada is pleased to announce that Doug Klassen has accepted the call to the position of Executive Minister.

Our World

- Pray for the Benin Bible Institute (BBI) as it will experience significant transitions in the next few years as several professors and the current administrator plan to retire. Pray that capable professors and the right person to fulfill the role of administrator will be found to continue the vibrant and impactful ministry in Benin.
- *If you would like to add or remove any prayer requests, please contact Dan Kehler or the church office.*

From the Pastor:

In my preparations for our time of Advent worship I came across this phrase "The Advent through Christmas season is about History, Mystery and Majesty." (If I am fortunate enough to track down its originator, I will be sure to give credit.) Advent is a time for us to remember *history*, where Jesus enters God's story. We tell and retell the story of Mary and Joseph, the angels and the shepherds, the wise men and the baby in manger. As we tell this story we enter the *mystery* of how this story forms our story, as a community of God's people. How does the Christ child come to us today? Where is he seen in our lives and in our time? And in faithfulness we look with hope to the future. We long for a time when Jesus comes to us in *majesty*, a time when God's plan for the world unfolds in glory and righteousness.

The Old Testament passage for the first Sunday of Advent is Jeremiah 33:14-16. It ends with the phrase "The Lord is our righteousness." This is our theme from Advent to Epiphany. Righteousness is a word used regularly through the Bible. It is often in reference to God. Righteousness is a characteristic of God. It can be an ethical term that refers to the right-ness of God. It speaks of God's desire for justice. In the Jeremiah passage, when he says that "God is our righteousness", it tells us that God is the ultimate example of what good looks and acts like.

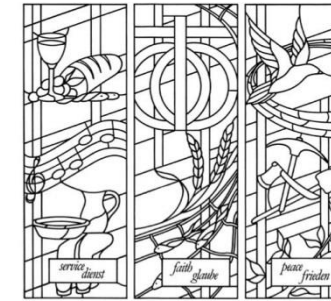
God is still the ultimate example of right-ness and good in the world. God's righteousness has been revealed in the life and faithfulness of Jesus. God sent Jesus Christ to the earth to save us and to show us how to make the ways of justice and righteousness reign on earth. Through the life and example of Jesus, God shows us the ways of righteousness and justice in the world, calling us to follow Jesus and his teachings. In this way we too can proclaim "The Lord is our Righteousness!"

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 center of our faith.
We seek to follow God in community, through worship, fellowship, and interpreting the Scripture from a Christ-centered 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.*



Altona Mennonite Church

Christian Formation & Education - all ages: 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 am

VOLUME LVII No. 44

December 2, 2018

The Lord is Our Righteousness Watching and Waiting

Welcome

Hymn HWB #611 Soon and very soon
Greeting / announcements

Call to worship

Leader: Now is the time of waiting and watching. We wait expectantly for the Messiah, for God's promises to be fulfilled.

People: We turn to you, O God, in the midst of this chaotic world, longing for that day of salvation to arrive. How long must we wait?

Leader: Pay attention, be still and know that God is with us. The signs are all around us.

People: Fill us with the faith and the hope of what is to be as we come before you with open hearts.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Hymn SS #2 Maranatha, come - vs 1,3,5,6
Prayer

Lighting the Advent candle – Albert & Marilyn Bergen
Hymn HWB #172 O Come O Come Emmanuel – vs 1

Scripture reading Luke 21:25-36

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Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Hymn SS #124 My Soul Cries Out

Children's time
Offering and Food Bank Collection

Scripture reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Sermon A Righteous Branch Pastor Dan Kehler
Hymn STJ #54 Longing for Light
Prayers of congregation
Hymn HWB #553 I am weak and I need thy strength

Benediction
Hymn HWB #582 Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Worship Leader: Ang Enns
Song Leader: Marilyn Houser Hamm
Accompanist(s): Edna Zacharias

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS at AMC

Dec. 4 8:00 pm Leadership Council
Dec. 5 7:30 pm AMC Christmas Choir Rehearsal
Dec. 9 9:30 am Christian Education for the children
9:30 am AMC Christmas Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am Worship Service
Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11;
Luke 3:1-6 *Theme:* Proclaiming *Worship Leader:* Andrea
Hildebrand *Song Leader:* Loren Brault *Accompanist(s):* Gina
Enns *Sound:* Nathan Loewen *Coffee:* Harry & Susan Wiens
Dec. 16 9:30 am Christian Education
11:00 am Worship Service
Dec. 23 9:30 am Christian Education
11:00 am Sunday School Program
Dec. 24 6:30 pm Candlelight Service
Dec. 25 10:00 am Christmas Day Service

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **AMC Christmas Choir:** rehearsal Wednesday, Dec. 5, 7:30 pm, and Sunday, Dec. 9 at 9:30 am (no adult education on Dec. 9). We'll sing as part of the worship service on Dec. 9.

Birthdays: Dec. 2 – Madison Gerbrandt, Greg Costen

COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **December 6th,** 7:30 pm - the fourth annual "Merry Little Christmas show" will be held at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall. The show will be an evening filled with great musical entertainment from We Who Wander, Ed Wayne, Orlando + Grace, Paul Bergman, Henry Abrams and more! All proceeds will be donated to Central Station in Winkler. Visit www.bowenmusic.org/events to purchase tickets.

- **December 8, 7:30 pm** - Celebrate the good news of Christmas by attending **Messiah**, featuring the **CMU Festival Chorus** and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra Centennial Concert Hall. See cmu.ca/events.

- **Dec. 15 or 16 - Faith and Life Male Choir and Women's Chorus Christmas Concerts** - December 15, 7:00 PM Springfield Heights Mennonite Church, Winnipeg; December 16, 3:00 PM, Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church, Altona. A freewill offering to support the choir ministry will be taken.

- From the Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund

The RESF is now accepting referrals for Christmas Hampers. Call 204-324-7167 to refer with the following information: name of referral, number of children in the family with age and gender of child, address and phone number. **Deadline for referrals is December 5.** Just a friendly reminder that the referrals must live in the R.M. of Rhineland;

- **December 8, at 9:00 a.m.,** Volunteers needed for Wrapping and packing the hampers in the empty space beside Pembina Valley Pharmacy.

- **December 15, at 9:00 a.m.,** Volunteers needed to deliver the hampers.

- Cash donations for the Empty Stocking Fund can be hand delivered to Pembina Valley Pharmacy, Rexall Drugs, 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.

Check Bulletin Board for Posters about...

- Dec. 15 or 16 – Faith and Life Christmas concerts
- Bible Land Israel Tour Feb.5-14/19
- other concerts, classes, newsletters.