

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.

Our Community

- Pray for Ken Warkentin (MCM's Executive Minister), and all our church leaders at all levels of our conference.
- Pray for Doug Klassen (Mennonite Church Canada's Executive Minister).

Our World

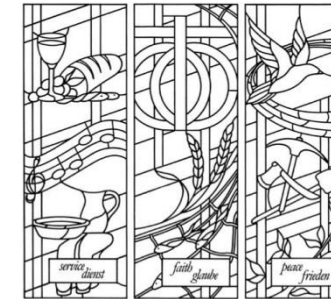
- **An excerpt from a letter from Werner and Joanne DeJong** (short term witness workers in Ethiopia) – "Werner and I are constantly being invited to churches to preach and do workshops. Two weeks ago, Werner preached to Somali Christians in a hidden church. Somalis really suffer when they become Christians often being beaten or taken to court. Two sisters shared how their children were taken away and their mother lost all her teeth when beaten by her husband and 7 of his friends. Please pray for our Somali friend, Eid, whose wife is constantly afraid. His wife's name is Khadra."
 - *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

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

VOLUME LVII No. 46

December 16, 2018

The Lord is Our Righteousness Rejoicing in God's Justice

Welcome

Hymn HWB #181 My soul proclaims with wonder

Greeting one another & announcements

Call to worship

Leader: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for
God-with-us is coming to set things right!

**People: The proud will be scattered and the humble
lifted up.**

Leader: The hungry will be filled and the prisoners set free.

**People: He will guide us in the way of peace and
proclaim salvation.**

**All: Let us rejoice, for our God comes to bring
wholeness and new life to the world.**

Prayer

Hymn STS #1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness

Lighting the Advent Candles - Greg Heinrichs

OT Scripture Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6

Hymn STS #26 Helpless and hungry

Children's Time

Pastor: Dan Kehler

Office Hours:

Wed. & Thur. 9:30 am to noon

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Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Offering

NT Scripture Readings: Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
Sermon We can do this! Pastor Dan Kehler
Hymn HWB #184 Hark the glad sound

Prayers of the congregation

Benediction

Hymn Insert Solemn stillness, weary streets

Worship Leader: Norma Thiessen

Song Leader: Kevin Neufeld

Accompanist(s): Nancy Ratzlaff

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS at AMC

Dec. 23 9:00 am Rehearsal for Sunday School Program

9:30 am Adult Christian Education

11:00 am Sunday School Program

Scripture: Theme: Worship Leader: Song Leader:

Accompanist(s): Sound: Dale Klassen Coffee: Loren & Lori Hiebert

Dec. 24 6:30 pm Candlelight Service

Dec. 25 11:00 am Christmas Day Service

Dec. 30 11:00 am Worship Service

Jan. 6, 2019 11:00 am Worship Service

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **From the Treasurer:** Good news! The \$18,000 furnace loan is now down to \$6,103.76, due to \$11,750 in generous member donations, along with 2 loan payments. Our Trustees were somewhat apprehensive about this project, but our faith in the generosity of AMCs has been reaffirmed.

As for the rest of the financial picture, it's not quite as good news, but not impossible! The remainder of our 3rd Quarter donations have been made, and to meet all expenses as well our 4th Quarter donations, **we need \$16,000 in the next 3 Sundays.** With this information, you may wish to postpone your extra furnace gift until the new year, and give toward the budget during December. Thank you.

Birthdays: Dec. 16 – Elizabeth Falk; Dec. 19 – Lori Dueck; Dec. 20 – Eric Geirnaert; Dec. 22 – Robert Martens, Karly Wiebe

Anniversaries: Dec. 17 - Dan & Crystal Kehler (30 years)

COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Please donate some coins** to “buy” ornaments for the Community Christmas Dinner tree in the lobby. The dinner will take place on December 25, beginning at 11 am at the Pioneer Center.

- **Dec. 16 - Faith and Life Male Choir and Women's Chorus Christmas Concert** - 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

- 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.

- **Enrol in a CMU evening course** – for credit or audit. Options include: History of Indigenous Peoples in Canada; The Art of Preaching; Fundamentals of Marketing; The Detective in Fiction and Film; Principles and Paradigms of Youth Ministry... Seniors and alumni audit fees available. Go to cmu.ca/timetable for details.

- **CMU Christmas Vespers on Sunday, Dec. 16** at 7:00 PM in the Laudamus Auditorium. Allison Pauls will lead the choir and Cheryl Pauls will be the reader. Reception to follow. See cmu.ca/vespers.

- **December 19, 2 – 7 pm** - Canadian Blood Services - will hold a Community **Blood Donor Clinic** at Altona Rhineland Pioneer Centre.

- **December 20, 7:30 pm** - Mennonite Collegiate Institute in Gretna invites you to their Christmas Concert in Buhler Hall.

- **December 21, 7 pm** - Altona Palliative Care annual Longest Night Service, at the Altona United Church. All who are grieving the loss of a loved one or any other losses are welcome.

- **Seeds Church presents 'One Starry Night'** on Dec. 23 & 24, 7 pm at the eXchange (116 Main St. Altona). You will be invited to experience the Christmas season through story, music & dance. Doors open at 6:30 pm so come enjoy some hot cider or hot chocolate before the production begins. Everyone welcome!

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.

The bulletin inserts bring the stories of Advent and Epiphany together with the realities of Bethlehem and the Holy Land today. The meditations follow the Christmas narratives, from the angel's announcement to Mary, to Herod's massacre of the baby boys of Bethlehem. Advent is a time for us to remember where Jesus enters God's story and our own stories, to remember what it means to live righteously, and to look to the future as we seek God's plan for us as faithful individuals and faithful communities. The meditations come from the Mennonite Church Manitoba Working Group on Palestine and Israel.