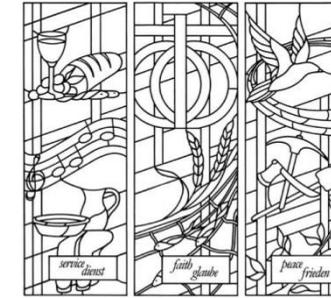


From the Pastor:

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. 48

December 30, 2018

The Lord is Our Righteousness ***Love Revealed*** **Hallelujah! Christ is Born!**

Gathering in Praise

Prelude

Call to Worship Isaiah 9:2-7 HWB#827

Hymn SS #27 Sing a different song

Welcoming One Another

Prayer of Invocation

The Word Made Flesh Dwells Among Us

Scripture Reading: Psalm 148

Hymn HWB #185 Hail to the Lord's Anointed, st 1-3

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

A story

Hymn SS #15 Hope is a candle

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 25; Luke 2: 41-52

Message The Uncertainty of Love Pastor Dan Kehler

Receiving our Tithes & Offerings

HWB #195 It came upon the midnight clear

Responding With Our Lives

Hymn SJ #95 I want to walk as a child of the light vs. 1-2

Prayers of the People

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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Secretary: Lori Hiebert

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www.altonamennonitechurch.ca

Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Hymn SS #28 Holy Child within the manger
Benediction
Postlude

Worship Leader: Ray Hamm
Song Leader: Marilyn Houser Hamm
Accompanist(s): Gina Enns

WORSHIP & MEETING EVENTS at AMC

Jan. 6, 2019 11:00 am Worship Service
Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Eph. 3:1-12;
Matt. 2:1-12 *Theme:* Light *Worship Leader:* Marlene Wiebe
Song Leader: Kevin Neufeld *Accompanist(s):* Sylvia Klassen
Sound: Nathan Loewen *Coffee:* Harv & Kathy Heinrichs
Jan. 13 9:30 am Christian Education resumes
11:00 am Worship Service
Jan. 15 7:00 pm Formation Committee Meeting
Jan. 16 Deadline for Reports for AGM
Jan. 22 7:30 pm Leadership Council Meeting
Feb. 10 AGM

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **From the Treasurer:** AMCCers have been generous again in 2018. Our furnace loan is down from \$18,000 to \$5,300, and our Compassionate Fund is up from \$47 to \$297. **However, we do still need \$6,500 in order to meet all our expenses and obligations for 2018.** If you wish to make a donation after Sunday, Dec. 30, you may make it online, or drop a cheque off at Norma's house. Thank you.

- **January 7, 7:15 pm** - Gather at the church to take down the Christmas decorations. I'm sure someone will make coffee.

- **January 16** – If you are the one responsible for a report for the AGM report book, Jan. 16 is the deadline to get it in to the office. Thanks.

Birthdays: Jan. 2 – Nancy Ratzlaff; Jan. 4 – Kevin Neufeld
Anniversaries:

COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Are you getting tired of the cold and dark of winter? Join us for The Gardens on Tenth theme night 'Cabin Fever' on Thursday, Jan 17 at 5:00, with Johnny Cash (Corny Rempel). Join us for comfort food and warm entertainment for only \$20/person. Bring a friend who also needs to get out! Call 204-324-8945 for tickets by Jan 11th.

- **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.

Check Bulletin Board for Posters about...

- Bible Land Israel Tour Feb.5-14/19
- classes, newsletters.

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.
- Keep Tim and Marlene Wiebe and family in your prayers as they deal with an aggressive return of Tim's cancer.
- Condolences to Nancy and Kevin Neufeld and family. Nancy's father Peter Dyck passed away. The funeral was on Friday.

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

Maria Rosa Triana Lopez, Coordinator of the Mennonite Biblical Seminary of Colombia ("Seminario Biblico Menonita de Colombia") recently shared some of the difficulties and challenges facing the seminary: the economic situation of the country affects the possibility of students attending the SBMC and the ongoing challenge to promote programs and activities of the SBMC. Pray that the different ecclesial communities to become involved with the seminary and for wisdom and perseverance in the face of these difficulties.

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