

*Welcome to the  
Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
of Altona*



*Arrangement by: Jmy Rempel*

*Photo credit: Susan M Ducek*

*Sunday, February 20, 2022*

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona*

*Worship Service*

*February 20, 2022 10:30 A.M.*

*“Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.”*

*~ Deuteronomy 6:4-6*

**GATHERING and PRAISE**

Welcome and Announcements

Music **Praise, I will praise you Lord** HWB 76

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music **Lord, you sometimes speak**

**LISTENING**

Music **Jesus loves me** HWB 341

Children’s Story

Scripture **2 Kings 22:3, 8, 10-13; Matthew 4:1-11**

Sermon **“The community discerns”**

**RESPONDING**

Music **I know not why Gods wondrous** HWB 338

Prayer for the Offering, the Church, and the World

**SENDING**

Benediction

Music **Move in our midst** HWB 418

**Sermon:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert **Worship Leader/Scripture:** Harold Schlegel

**Music:** Tena Giesbrecht **Children’s Story:** Heidi Toews

**Our worship service** will be live-streamed Sunday morning at 10:30am and is available on the church website at [[abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca)]. If using a handheld device [phone/tablet] you may get a message that says “*video unavailable*”, but if you click on the line “watch this video on YouTube” it will reload and play for you.

## **PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Bernard Wiebe, Lena Hoffman at Altona Health Centre.  
Susan Toews at Boundary Trails Health Centre.
- ~ **New addresses:**
- ~ Harold Sawatzky - # 310 Eastview Place.
  - ~ Helen Neufeld - # 103 Gardens On Tenth Apts.
  - ~ Helen Schulz - # 124 Evergreen, Eastview Place.
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** to Edna & Rudy Martens, Ben & Susan Dueck, families and extended family, at the passing away on Feb 12, of sister in-law, Susan Dueck of Horndean.
- ~ **Condolences** to Pete & Gert Hildebrand, family and extended family, at the passing away on Feb 15, of Pete's sister Helen Epp of Altona.
- ~ **Thank you** all for your prayers and acts of kindness at the passing of my husband John Dyck. Thank you for the phone calls, cards, flowers, food and visits. All were much appreciated. ~ Kathy Dyck & Family
- ~ **A big thank you** for your generosity at the Girls Ventures bookmark sale last week. We raised \$281.30 from the sale! This money along with money collected at a past fundraiser gives us enough money to put together 50 MCC school kits.
- ~ **MC Canada / Manitoba**  
**Pray:** Werner and Joanne De Jong, Witness workers serving in Ethiopia at Meserete Kristos Seminary, have left Ethiopia due to visa complications. They plan to stay in Macedonia for a week, while they re-apply to enter the country and stay for the rest of the semester. Please pray for peace for them in this discouraging situation. To donate to ministry in Ethiopia, visit [mennonitechurch.ca/ethiopia](http://mennonitechurch.ca/ethiopia).
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**
- |                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Natalie Toews              | [Feb 18] |
| Dorothy Friesen [Eastview] | [Feb 22] |
| Walter Hamm                | [Feb 22] |
| Ryan Alex Wahl             | [Feb 22] |
| Charlie Hildebrand         | [Feb 23] |
| Hilda Klassen [Jake]       | [Feb 23] |
| Dave N Wiebe               | [Feb 24] |

## **WORSHIP CALENDAR**

**We are exploring challenging questions about the Bible.**

**Feb 27** – Why is there evil and suffering? Biblical responses to the "Problem of Evil". Speaker: Mark

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Do you love books?** The ABC library is looking for a volunteer to lead the Library Committee! This individual would help coordinate and perform duties related to our library, including cataloguing, purchasing, organizing books. Please speak to Jolene Friesen-Stoesz, Education Commission chair if you want more information, or if you would be interested in supporting the ABC Library Committee as a volunteer in some capacity.
- **Feb 27, 1pm - ABC Annual Membership Meeting.** The meeting will be in-person and you may also join by Zoom. The Zoom link is in the Report Book. Report books are available in the foyer. Everyone is invited to bring a bag lunch to eat in the church basement. Dishes/utensils and beverages **will not** be provided. We hope to enjoy a time of fellowship.
- **If you are interested** in becoming a member of our church, we invite you to speak to one of the pastors. We are planning to welcome new members into our congregation this spring.
- **Singers** of all ages join an impromptu choir on **Sunday, March 6. Rehearsal** at 9:15am - sing with the congregation in our worship service at 10:30am. Contact Laurie Enns with questions. Songs will come next week.

### **Sr Youth**

- **Feb 22 [Tues], 7pm** – Waitlisted Bible Study, week 4.

### **Jr Youth**

- **Feb 23 [Wed], 7pm** – Tough Talks.

### **Ventures – Wednesdays 7:00 – 8:15 pm**

- **Girls:** Big games.
- **Boys:** TBD

**We are NOT requiring vaccination to attend our worship services.**  
We ask that you please wear a mask throughout the worship service.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona 117 2<sup>ND</sup> Street NW Altona, MB R0G 0B1  
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Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990 cell 1-204-771-3406 [marktd@abchurch.ca](mailto:marktd@abchurch.ca)  
Assoc Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 [virginiagr@abchurch.ca](mailto:virginiagr@abchurch.ca)  
Assoc Pastor of Youth Min: Josh Janzen, 204-502-1991, cell 1-402-631-3481 [joshj@abchurch.ca](mailto:joshj@abchurch.ca)  
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 [amandaw@abchurch.ca](mailto:amandaw@abchurch.ca)

### **From the Church Council Chairperson:**

We are coming upon that time of year. You have no doubt heard the announcements regarding seats on Commissions that need filling, nominations, discerning your gifts, etc. And, as you may have noticed in the AGM report book, there are MANY empty seats. We have been attending to church business without a Vice Chairperson, without any Members at Large, by combining Home and World Ministries, we are down to only two people on Education, two people on Finance, and a Personnel Commission that will be down to zero members as of the AGM. Next February, Worship and Music will also be down to zero members. And then we have our Youth programs...Jr and Sr Youth along with both girls and boys Ventures and our Sunday school programs...we are still searching for volunteers for these programs.

Of course, Covid and the lack of being "in church" together has not helped this situation, but the truth is, we have been through many years of trying to fill empty seats on commissions or finding volunteers for various programs. And every year there has been more and more of a reluctance to join/help. As a result, we have been working with smaller and smaller commissions and adjusting our programs to work with fewer and fewer volunteers. In other words, we have been putting a band-aid on the symptoms rather than fixing the problem.

So, what is the problem? We believe that one of the problems is that we are using a church leadership structure that was created for a much larger congregation. One of 600 people. And it simply cannot work for a church of our current size and demographic. Using a model that doesn't fit us anymore it forces us to beg you or guilt you to fill open seats or positions even if it really isn't going to bring you joy. We just need a body to fill the empty space. No one feels good about this. When you are doing the work of the church, we want it to bring you joy and to fuel your love for this church.

According to the results of the Natural Church Development (NCD) survey that we filled out in spring of 2021, we as a congregation believe that "loving relationships" are one of the top characteristics we need to focus on in order to become a healthier church (see p.4 of the AGM report book). When we are busy working at filling the many roles in the church we become "role centered" instead of "relationship centered". If together we create a structure that allows you to contribute to the workings of the church in a way that fuels your passions and brings you joy, not regret, then we become relationship centered,

Members of Church Council have some ideas we want to share with you at the AGM. And we think it's very important to hear from you too. So, we have prepared a few questions for you to consider. We hope that you will think about your answers to these questions and come to the AGM prepared to hear what we have to say and prepared to share your answers, thoughts and ideas with us.

1. What is it about ABC that you consider "essential"?
2. Who are you here at ABC?
3. How can you help us shift from being a role centered church to a relationship centered church?

*Stephanie Friesen, on behalf of Church Council*

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Gardens On Tenth** job opportunity: Accounting & Payroll clerk, full time position. For details visit [www.gardensontenth.ca](http://www.gardensontenth.ca)
- **YFC Altona**/Youth Unlimited is seeking to fill the position of Outreach Director, to lead ministry outreach and programs directed to young women. This is a full-time position, with flexibility. Start date July 1. Sheridan Sawatzky at 204 304 6521 / email [sheridan.sawatzky@yfc.ca](mailto:sheridan.sawatzky@yfc.ca)

**Mennonite Church Canada** – [office@mennonitechurchcanada.ca](mailto:office@mennonitechurchcanada.ca)

**Mennonite Church Manitoba** – [mennochurch.mb.ca](http://mennochurch.mb.ca) 204-896-1616

- **March 5 - MCM Annual Gathering 2022.** If you're not a delegate, you're still welcome, register at [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/events](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/events)
- **Join** the Virtual Choir for Gathering 2022. Instructions and files at [www.mennonitechurch.ca/gathering2022](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/gathering2022) [open until March 1].
- **Camps With Meaning** summer camp registration is open. Visit [www.campswithmeaning.org](http://www.campswithmeaning.org) to learn more and register.

**Canadian Mennonite University** – [cmu.ca](http://cmu.ca)

- **Feb 23, 6pm** – Virtual Open House. Visit [cmu.ca/experience](http://cmu.ca/experience).
- **Xplore:** At the Intersection of Faith and Life – Xplore offers life-long learning investigating dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it. All without any assignments or examinations! Xplore happens in a six-week block, with online courses offered Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, beginning March 1. Visit [cmu.ca/xplore](http://cmu.ca/xplore).
- **John & Margaret Friesen Lectures:** Reading Mennonite Writing Now – Mennonite literary studies in North America is in a period of transition with a fast-growing body of Mennonite fiction, poetry, and life writing. What does Mennonite literature look like today, and how can we read it most productively? Join Dr. Robert Zacharias on March 3 at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Details at [cmu.ca/friesenlectures](http://cmu.ca/friesenlectures).

**Mennonite Disaster Service** – [mdscanada@mds.org](mailto:mdscanada@mds.org)

- Make a difference, consider one of our openings. Visit our website: <https://mds.org/employment/>
- Our February edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Meet two sisters who carry on the family tradition of MDS service, learn how Mennonites and Catholics are working together in Ontario to reunite a family separated for nearly two years, and relive the excitement and hear memorable stories from the MDS Annual Celebration in Sarasota last month. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3GSYSQY>