

*Welcome to the  
Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
of Altona*



*Photo credit: Susan M. Dueck*

*Sunday, January 30, 2022*

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona  
Worship Service*

*January 30, 2022 10:30 A.M.*

*"[Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things,  
endures all things." ~ 1 Corinthians 13:7*

**GATHERING and PRAISE**

Welcome and Announcements

Music **Praise the Lord, sing hallelujah** HWB 50

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music **For we are strangers no more** HWB 322

**LISTENING**

Music **If you believe** STJ 32

Children's Story

Scripture **1 Corinthians 13: 1-13**

Sermon **"God's vision of love"**

**RESPONDING**

Music **Help us to help each other** HWB 362

Sharing Time

Prayer for the Offering, the Church, and the World

**SENDING**

Benediction

Music **Bless'd be the tie that binds** HWB 421

**Sermon:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert **Worship Leader:** James Friesen

**Music:** Flying Free **Children's Story:** Delores Enns

**Scripture Reader:** Glenys Voth

**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:** Anton Dueck, Helen Neufeld, Lena Hoffman, and Helen Schulz at Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **Condolences** to Larry and Rose Tryon, Damian & Lisa, Gavin and Jack; Brendan, and Aaron, at the unexpected passing away of Larry's brother Jack Tryon of Santiago, Chile. The funeral service is pending.
- ~ **MC Canada / Manitoba**  
**Pray:** Praise God for the commitment and dedication of Lao Mennonite Fellowship Canada as they work with Mennonite Church Canada Witness in supporting ministry in Thailand and Laos. They have taken the initiative to translate Anabaptist Essentials by Palmer Becker into Lao. It will soon be printed for use by Lao speakers around the world.
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**
- |                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Shelby Penner     | [Feb 1] |
| Marilyn Friesen   | [Feb 2] |
| Ben Hildebrand    | [Feb 2] |
| Alvin Kehler      | [Feb 2] |
| Mary Sawatsky     | [Feb 2] |
| Austin Harder     | [Feb 3] |
| Gladys Hildebrand | [Feb 4] |
| Wayne Loeppky     | [Feb 5] |
| Anne Friesen      | [Feb 6] |
| Edna Stoesz       | [Feb 6] |

## **WORSHIP CALENDAR**

### **Next week we begin a series exploring challenging questions about the Bible:**

- Feb 6** - Violence in the Bible. How do we understand and interpret difficult texts? Speaker: Mark
- Feb 13** - God, creation, and science. How does the Bible's teaching about creation relate to scientific explanations for creation? Speaker: Mark
- Feb 20** - How did the Bible come to be. Exploring questions of inspiration, transmission, and translation. Speaker: Virginia
- Feb 27** - To be determined. Speaker: Mark

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Web Page Address: [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) Office: 324-6717 E-mail: [office@abchurch.ca](mailto:office@abchurch.ca)  
Worship Services available online at: [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) Facebook: ABC community  
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 Pastor:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Here is a blessing for you from Kate Bowler, taken from her upcoming book "Good Enough."

A blessing when you realize everyone is struggling

blessed are you who have realized that life is hard. and it's hard for everyone. your awareness came at a cost. you lost something you can't get back. you were diagnosed with chronic pain or a degenerative disease. your family fell apart and things have never been the same.

blessed are you who gave up the myth that the good life is one of happiness, success, perfection. the life that looks beautiful on Facebook, but isn't real. you who realize it is okay to not be okay. To not have a shiny life, because no one does.

blessed are you who see things clearly, where struggle is everyone's normal. you walk among the fellowship of the afflicted, a club no one wants to join.

and while this life isn't shiny, it does come with superpowers. superpowers of ever-widening empathy and existential courage that get you back up after another fall

and a deepened awe at the beauty and love that can be found amid life's rubble. like flowers that grow from the cracks in the sidewalk. these virtues blossom in you. and thank God for you.

blessed are all of us who struggle, for we are in good company, and we'll never walk alone.

## **Sr Youth**

- **Feb 1 [Tues], 7pm** – Waitlisted Bible study.

## **Jr Youth**

- **Feb 2 [Wed], 6:30pm** – Food Bank service project.

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

- **Girls:** Flower and vase craft for Eastview residents.
- **Boys:** Boot hockey.

The Ventures girls will be making bookmarks to sell in the foyer after church on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Cost is by donation. All funds raised through the bookmark sale will go towards purchasing supplies to put together MCC school kits. If you will not be at church but would like to purchase a bookmark or would like to make a donation towards the MCC school kits, please let Amanda know prior to February 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona is seeking someone to join our team as the **Administrative Assistant**. We are looking for an individual to serve our congregation in the front office, and to facilitate all office duties for the church. This is a part time position with holiday time, church benefits and pension plan. Duties include but are not limited to general office duties, minute taking at Church Council and AGM meetings, bulletin preparation and rental agreements. For more information and to discuss the duties of this position, please contact Andrew Rempel at [andrew\\_rempel@yahoo.ca](mailto:andrew_rempel@yahoo.ca) or call him at 204-304-0055. Thanks.
- **Our Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, Feb 27 at 1:00 pm**. We are planning a hybrid format with both in-person and online participation.
- **Mennonite Church Manitoba** Annual Gathering is scheduled for March 5, 9am-1:30pm online. If you would like to be a delegate for ABC, please contact the church office.
- **We are requiring** that all 12 and over attending our in-person worship services be vaccinated. Please be willing to show your proof of vaccination. Wear masks throughout the worship service.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

- **Feb 9, 7pm** - Travel to Mindanao, southern Philippines. [online]. No need for visa applications or Covid-tests. Join your guides Lakan and Lakambini (Witness workers Dann and Joji Pantoja) for a tour of communities in Mindanao. Meet people working in Peace and Reconciliation teams, many supported by income generated through Coffee for Peace. <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/event/12762>
- Camps with Meaning Summer Camp registration is open. Visit [www.campswithmeaning.org](http://www.campswithmeaning.org) to learn more and register.
- MCM invites applications for the position of "Director of Leadership Ministries". Visit [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/get-involved](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/get-involved) .

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

- **Feb 4 - Campus Visit Day** - Potential students are invited to a half-day in-person experience. Tour the campus, visit a class, meet profs and current students, learn about financial aid opportunities, and enjoy a treat from folio café. Visit [cmu.ca/campusvisit](http://cmu.ca/campusvisit).
- **Xplore**: at the intersection of faith and life – a 55 Plus enrichment program starts Mar 1. Visit [cmu.ca/xplore](http://cmu.ca/xplore).
- **June 6-10; 13-17** – Canadian School of Peacebuilding, registration now open. Visit [csop.cmu.ca](http://csop.cmu.ca)

**MCC Manitoba** - [manitoba@mccmb.ca](mailto:manitoba@mccmb.ca)

- **Feb 22-24** -Is our climate polarized? MCC Peace & Justice Office invites university students to engage with development professionals & civil servants in a student seminar in Winnipeg for in-person & ZOOM sessions to explore ways to make a difference. Register by Jan 31 at [mcccanada.ca/get-involved/events/peace-justice-student-seminar](http://mcccanada.ca/get-involved/events/peace-justice-student-seminar).

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

- **January edition** of *On the Level* is now available from MDS. In our current issue: a new partnership with MDS Canada and MCC to respond to the flood damage in the Fraser Valley, a new job opening for MDS Canada, and links to join the Annual Celebration online. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3KqsX3r>
- **MDS is hiring!** If you want to make a difference and you thrive in an exciting, fast-paced disaster response environment, consider one of our openings at Mennonite Disaster Service. Learn more on our website: <https://mds.org/employment/>