

Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite
Church of Altona



Sunday, April 16, 2023

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona
Worship Service

April 16, 2023, 10:30 am

Listen to these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man whose credentials God proved to you through miracles, wonders, and signs, which God performed through him among you. You yourselves know this. Acts 2:22

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Music All Who Are Thirsty VT 49

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music Sing A New World Into Being VT 809

Offering

Hearing God's Word

Children's story

Scripture Acts 2:14a, 22-36

Sermon New Life in Jesus

Responding in Trust

Music Longing For Light SJ 54

ABC Conversations

Prayer of the Church and World

Benediction

Music Lord, Let Us Now Depart In Peace
HWB 428

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Worship Leader: Terrell Weibe

Children's story: Amanda Wiens

Music: ABC Ensemble

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Linda Braun and Helen Voth at the Altona Health Centre. Marge Loepky is recovering at home.
- ~ **Please pray for the people of Myanmar** as they continue to live under fear and chaos. Villagers are hiding in nearby jungles and villages not daring to go home. Emergency Assistance from MC Canada and MWC is able to provide food and medicine to those in need.
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**
 - Marge Friesen April 16
 - Anne Doerksen April 16
 - Tim Fast April 19

WORSHIP CALENDAR

In the next weeks we will continue to explore the resurrection of Jesus and all that it means for us.

April 16: Speaker: Virginia

April 23: Speaker: Mark

April 30: Speaker: Virginia

May 6: Brunch Church

YOUTH

Senior Youth (gr 9-12) Tuesday 7-9, - Youth Talk Night -
Introducing our series on big questions.

Junior Youth (gr 7-8) Wednesday 7-9, - Youth Talk Night
- Why should I follow Jesus?

FROM THE PASTOR: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Continuing my From the Pastor's Desk series on Funerals...

Many people have had the experience of attending a funeral and heard the deceased praised beyond measure and left wondering if the person who died was even human!? (or if you showed up at the wrong person's funeral). In not wanting to be an example of this, sometimes we react by saying that we don't want any tributes or any flowers or anything beyond the bare minimum at our funeral because we don't want to be like those people who are unrealistically lauded at their funerals. We may be seeking to model humility in such a response, but there can also be a hidden arrogance (look how humble I am!) within it.

A Christian funeral is grounded in the love and faithfulness of God, the creator of life and the giver of eternal life. Because we rely on God's love and grace for our life and salvation, we have freedom to recognize sins, regrets, and unfinished goals and grapple with these issue and the troubles they bring. I have experienced these realities being named at funerals in ways that honour the deceased and edify the living. Sometimes leaving these realities unnamed creates an 'elephant in the room' (particularly if there are challenging circumstances surrounding the death) and this does not honour God or serve the living. Also, remembering the nature of God frees us from burdens such as: should we get the extra fancy coffin and what if there aren't enough flowers?! Simple can be beautiful.

Because a Christian funeral is centred on God, we must also name and celebrate the goodness present in the life of the deceased for this is an expression of God's goodness. Funerals are important times to celebrate relationships and love and the connections that impacted the people who remain. In Christ we are not defined by our sins and so we do not need to see funerals as an opportunity to be focused on our sins, even though the deceased is a sinner just like the rest of us.

In addition to the grief of loss, we can also experience regret at funerals. Regret for things we did or did not do, and regret for things that our deceased loved one did or did not do. Funerals are a reminder that God is at work to redeem all things, including our memories, our lives, our relationships, and our character.

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Sunday, April 16, Sunday school for ages 3-18 from 9:15-10:15 am in the basement of the education wing, youth are in the south wing.

Tuesdays lunch sermon discussion time

Tuesday, April 18, Sr. Youth 7-9pm
Constitutional Review Committee meeting 7pm

Wednesday, April 19, Community Meal Planning
Committee meeting at the Exchange 4:30pm,
Jr. Youth 7-9pm

Thursday, April 20, Anabaptism at 500 bible study at
Gardens on Tenth 2pm, Church Wedding Shower 7pm

Sunday April 23 -Adult Sunday School 9:15am, Child
dedication

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Attention Bakers - Terrell would welcome the generous donation of baking to be used for snack at youth events. If you are willing, you can bring it to Terrell in the office or place it in the church freezer with the label "Youth" on the baking. Thank you!

Thursday April 20, 7pm - Church Wedding Shower. A "Box of Blessing" for people to contribute money to as a gift alternative will be in the church office ahead of time and also at the shower itself. See insert for additional details.

Church Council - Church Council is pleased to share the formal appointment of Joanna Ginter, Trevor Friesen Stoesz and Andrew Rempel as the re-established Personnel Commission. They held their first meeting this week. Church Council, at its most recent meeting, also followed through on the AGM discussion to review the church constitution. Ben Dueck, Melissa Tiessen Dyck have volunteered to join Al Friesen in that process, and were formally appointed by council. This progress is a direct result of a request at our most recent annual meeting. Church Council is grateful for your willingness to share of your time.

Next Sunday, April 23 we will celebrate Child Dedication with our church family. Maverick, Redden and Piper Friesen will be dedicated by Mike and Nicole Friesen and Ivan Wiebe will be dedicated by Terrell and Janna Wiebe.

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am--this Sunday, April 16, we begin a three week discussion on Indigenous education and reconciliation. Meet in the church basement.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

YFC: YFC running their breakfast program weekly and they have a need for more baking. Anything from muffins, to biscuits, to cookies, to bread and cinnamon buns. They are usually open 9-4 during the day if you'd like to drop it off. Feel free to contact Kendra at 204 362 4072 or email her at kendra.fehr@yfc.ca with any questions.

CMU Virtual Open House takes place on Wednesday, April 26, 6:00-7:00 PM (CDT). Receive a virtual campus tour, ask questions of our admissions team, and hear from faculty and current students—register at cmu.ca/virtual-open-house. Personal campus tours are available upon request by visiting cmu.ca/experience.

Mennonite Heritage Village Learning from First Nations and Metis People: Anishinaabe Treaty Making – All My Relations speaker Anishinaabe Law Scholar, Dawnis Kennedy. Monday, April 17, 7-9 pm.
All My Relations – Film Screening The Power of story with discussion led by Erica Daniels. Tuesday, April 25, 6:30 pm

Mennonite Church Manitoba: Could it be that God is singing? Faith and Life Choirs Spring Concerts. Saturday, May 6, 7:00pm, First Mennonite Church, Winnipeg.
Sunday, May 7, 3:00pm, Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Winkler. A freewill offering will be taken for the ministry of the choirs.

The following announcement from the MCI Board arrived this week , and Church Council felt it should be shared with you, the congregation of ABC

To the supporting churches of MCI:

You are invited and urged to attend a **meeting on April 25th at 7 pm** at MCI regarding the future of Mennonite Collegiate Institute in Gretna, Manitoba. The Board wishes to provide information about the school, including student numbers, finances and future plans.

Important decisions will need to be made in the near future. As per the constitution and the articles of incorporation, supporting/ society/ member churches hold the decision-making authority for MCI and therefore are responsible for corporate decisions. All who support the school are welcome and invited, but we are also **requesting delegates from member churches**. This will be an information meeting, with a special corporation meeting date, as needed, to be decided at the meeting on the 25th of April.

As per MCI constitution, each member church is entitled one vote per 20 members and a delegate may carry one proxy vote (representing a total of 40 members). Every congregation represented shall present a written list of voting delegates to the secretary of the corporation at the meeting, and their number of votes. Kristen Falk is our representative on the MCI Board of Directors and will attend the meeting. We are also encouraging other members of our church family, who care for MCI and its future, to attend the meeting on April 25th. If you are willing to serve in that capacity as a Bergthaler Mennonite Church delegate, we encourage you to contact Ang Loepky at the office or Kristen at mkfalk05@gmail.com



You are invited to a miscellaneous

WEDDING SHOWER

ABC basement on Thursday, April 20, at 7 pm

Couples are:

Josh Driedger and Rebecca Barber

Parents: Jason and Tammy Driedger and
Wendy and Brian Barber

Craig Neufeld and Courtney Gabrielle

Parents: Rick and Caroline Neufeld and
Rick and Wanda Gabrielle

Lucas Driedger and Kenna Traweek

Parents: Jason and Tammy Driedger and
Tim and Lisa Traweek