

Welcome to the Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona



Sunday, April 30, 2023

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona
Worship Service

April 30, 2023, 10:30 am

God, my shepherd! I don't need a thing. My cup brims with blessing. Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life.

Psalm 23: 1, 5c, 6a (The Message)

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Music Saviour Like A Shepherd Lead Us HWB 355

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music Come Let Us All Unite To Sing HWB 12

Offering Praise Him, Praise Him HWB 100

Hearing God's Word

Children's Story

Scripture Psalm 23

Sermon A Call To Life

Responding in Trust

Music We Praise Thee O God HWB 99

ABC Conversations with Elmer Friesen

Prayer of the church and World

Benediction

Music The Blessing

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert
Worship Leader: Mark Tiessen-Dyck
Children's story: Lisa Hiebert-Penner
Music: Glenys Voth and Lorraine Hamm

FROM THE PASTOR: Terrell Wiebe

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Linda Braun and Helen Voth at the Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **Pray for peace** in Colombia as reconciliation and peace talks continue. The World Council of Churches has been invited into that process and a Mennonite theologian is part of that delegation.
<https://mwc-cmm.org/en/stories/mennonites-advocate-total-peace-colombia>
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**
 - Leona Braun May 1
 - Anne Froese May 6

WORSHIP CALENDAR

On May 7th will be having brunch church again. Here is what this means: We will gather in the church basement at 9:15, with brunch beginning at 9:30. Brunch is a potluck, please bring brunch food to share. There will be a time of eating and fellowship, followed by a time of worship also in the basement. The worship time will include singing, prayer, a children's story, preaching, with the addition of times of conversation. The theme will be how relationships in the church can help nurture each other's faith.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona: 117 2 Street NW Altona, MB, R0G 0B1

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Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324.5990, C 204.771.3406, marktd@abchurch.ca

Assoc. Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, C 304-6119, virginiagr@abchurch.ca

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058, C 204.417.8200, terrellw@abchurch.ca

The final important factor in the lives of young adults whose faith has stuck with them through their transition from high school into young adulthood is that they received positive spiritual influence from their parents. The parental role in helping our children learn to trust Christ is twofold. "First, we help our kids learn to trust God and create the kind of environment where they are able to explore faith and trust while practicing their freedom to respond in love. Second, we model an unconditional, nonjudgmental, and ever-embracing love in which our kids can do nothing that jeopardizes or even lessens that love." (*Sticky Faith*, pg 37)

Parental support, while important, is not the only way we influence our children. More than even our support, it is who we are that shapes our child. Studies show that how we express and live out our faith will have the largest influence on the future faith of our children.

As a parent, I find this last factor the most daunting. If our own faith is the most important factor in the faith of our children, then it follows that we need places and people with whom to work out that faith.

Thankfully, we are a part of a larger church family, where each person is similarly working out their own faith.

Brunch Church

Sticky faith is not just something to think about for our young people. Sticky faith is for the whole community. Next week, at brunch church, we will focus on how we can be a community that supports the faith of each other. There will be times of learning, and times for sharing with those around our tables what our journeys of faith have looked like.

Our hope is that this time together will be an occasion of faith building for each of us while also providing ideas about how our community of diverse ages and experiences can continue to support one another and grow in faith together.

We hope you will join us!

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Sunday, April 30, 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 7-9 Senior Youth - Youth Talk Night - "Big Questions: Who am I?"

Wednesday 7-9 Junior Youth - Youth Talk Night - "Was Jesus really God?"

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Terrell is taking his weekend off. He will be back in the office on Tuesday, May 2.

The pastoral staff are calling on all who might be interested in taking a **discipleship class**. The focus of this class would be to explore what it means to be a disciple of Jesus today. Those who are considering baptism might regard this class as an opportunity to explore their faith and help guide them in that decision. Those who are baptized might see this class as a chance to expand their learning, enrich their faith, and speak into the lives of others in the class. The dates and times of the class will be decided when the class is formed. If you are interested, please speak with any of the pastors.

MCI update: This past Tuesday, close to 200 alumni, church representatives / delegates, staff, students and curiosity seekers gathered at Buhler Hall/MCI Gretna at the invitation of the Board of Directors for a discussion regarding the future of MCI, established in 1889, and the longest-serving of some thirty Mennonite schools in Canada today. The frank, emotional, (passionate, and inspirational) conversation included the unveiling of "Renewed Hope for the Future" an ambitious three year strategic plan which highlighted five pillars of commitment: financial sustainability, student retention and recruitment, educational and program excellence, identity, and stakeholder engagement. Those in attendance, including 6 delegates from ABC, were also informed of the need to raise \$450,000 by the end of the school year to replenish endowment funds, and honour financial commitments. While recognizing the tireless efforts of the board and administration to weather the current circumstances and create healing among divisions, those of us in attendance, were also left with no doubt that the current circumstances are extremely serious, perhaps the most critical in the school's 134 year history. (CONTINUED)

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

MCI UPDATE continued: Your delegates included Sarah Dueck, Hilda Franz, Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, Mark-Tiessen-Dyck, Kristin Falk, and Al Friesen. Kristin also serves as your church's representative on the MCI Board of Directors. A copy of "Renewed Hope for the Future" is available at the church office (and will be available on the MCI website mciblues.net) Please reach out to any of the above for further information or discussion.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mennonite Church Manitoba: Camps Assiniboia and Koinonia still need a number of volunteers to help us run our spring and summer programs - health officers (nurses, doctors, EMTs, first aid trainers), camp pastors, kitchen help and maintenance help. We would love for folks to commit to a week (or more!), but would also be happy if you have part of week to spend at one of our camps. Please contact the office at camps@mennochurch.mb.ca or 204-895-2267, or apply online at www.campswithmeaning.org/staff.

MCC: Join us at Agowiidiwinan (Treaties): Moving Forward Together events at the Forks! This is a four-part series that will be held in person, with virtual option, at the TRCM Agowiidiwinan Centre (15 Forks Market Road) from 6:30-8:30pm on the Wednesdays in May. These events bring together treaty focused leaders to share about meaningful ways to honour and recognize Treaties and our relationships within them. Come and hear speakers like Kerry Saner-Harvey (May 3) from MCC, and Grand Chief Cathy Merrick (May 17) and others. [RSVP online](#) with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba.

CMU: Build your capacity for restorative solidarity with our Indigenous neighbours in "Healing Haunted Histories: Decolonizing from the Inside Out" with Elaine Enns and Ched Myers at CMU's Canadian School of Peacebuilding, June 12-16, 2023. Deadline to register is today; visit csop.cmu.ca.

MCI: You're invited to MCI's Spring Fundraiser with comedian Matt Falk on May 6th! 7:30pm in Buhler Hall. Come for an evening of laughs, a silent auction and supporting MCI! Reserve your tickets online by calling the school at (204)327-5891 or by visiting mciblues.net. There is no cost to reserve tickets, as they are by donation. Donations will be accepted throughout the evening.

Spring Food Drive in support of Altona Rhineland Food bank will be taking place on Monday May 8th. Teens will not be knocking on doors asking for donations. If you want to donate, please leave your food items on your front step and they will be picked up between 7-9pm. Most needed items include canned vegetables, meat, soup, fruit and beans as well as pasta, kraft dinner, rice, oatmeal, peanut butter and juice crystals.