

Welcome to the Bergthaler Mennonite  
Church of Altona  
August 6, 2023  
10:30 am

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*"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."  
~ Philippians 4:4*

**Gathering and Praise**

Welcome and Announcements

Music Rejoice in the Lord always

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music My hope is built on nothing less HWB 343

Offering Sweet hour of prayer HWB 510

**Hearing God's Word**

Scripture Philippians 4:2-9

Sermon Getting Real

**Responding in Trust**

Music O Christ, in thee my soul HWB 510

Prayer of the Church and the World

Benediction

Music He leadeth me HWB 599

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Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert  
Worship Leading: Mark Tiessen-Dyck  
Music: Glenys Voth

**PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

**Hospitalized:** Helen Voth, Bernard Wiebe and Jake Rempel at the Altona Health Centre.

**Congratulations** to Elaine Erb and Harold Schlegel on the birth of a grandchild! Owen Kai Erb, was born July 19th to Yukiko and Julian Erb in Calgary and is a baby brother to Zaden.

**Lydia Klassen** passed away on July 29. We are invited to join in prayer for her husband Abe, children Debbie and Mark Heinrichs and extended family. A private funeral service was held on August 2.

**Indigenous Relations:** Hold in the Light the organizers and participants from Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, who are continuing to build partnership with Indigenous friends and neighbours in the month of August at 'Singing Under the Arbour' on the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and also the Spruce River Folk Festival in support of the Stoney Knoll Fund.

<https://www.spruceriverfolksfestival.com/>

**We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**

Lily Niemczak July 31 Lena Hoffman Aug. 1 Byron Loeppky Aug. 11

Ken Doell July 31 Alfred Klippenstein Aug. 2 Menno Friesen Aug. 12

Laurie Enns July 31 Leroy Friesen Aug. 7

**WORSHIP CALENDAR**

This is the last Sunday in our sermon series on Paul's letter to the Philippians.

**August 6:** Endurance: Virginia

Next Sunday, Aug 13, we begin a four-week sermon series called "**Seeking Peace Together.**" Each week we will explore a different Biblical character and how they modeled peace through their actions and how we are called to do the same.

Aug 13: Mark

Aug 20: Virginia

Aug 27: Mark

Sept 3: Terrell

**Rejoice in the Lord Always**

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice (2x)

Rejoice! Rejoice! And again I say Rejoice! (2x)

**THIS WEEK AT ABC:**

**Tuesday, August 8, 10:30 am,** Coffee with the church staff.

## FROM THE PASTOR: Terrell Wiebe

Each summer our family spends some time camping with extended family at Spruce Woods Provincial Park. For me, this has always been a wonderful time of rejuvenating and reconnecting with God through nature. Hiking over streams, scrambling across sand dunes, and ascending and descending through different climate zones offer plenty of chances to marvel at God's creation. However, my favourite part of being at Spruce Woods is the night. A priority of the park is to keep light pollution to a minimum, so when the sun goes down the stars come out in all their glory.

This year, appreciation of our surroundings was hampered by some boisterous neighbours who enjoyed loud music all day, shouting at each other across a bonfire at all hours, late-night birthday parties, and movies on a big screen. It was obvious that our neighbours were not trying to take in their surroundings to the extent that I was. Throughout our time there I silently chided them for wasting their opportunity for peace and silence and connection with God.

Returning home, it has struck me that while my setting has changed, God still provides me with small chances for rejuvenation, peace, and connection with God in my everyday life. And yet, like my neighbours at Spruce Woods, I often drown out those chances with the noise of social media, music, worry, and other frivolous thoughts that could easily wait. Perhaps I should be the one who is chided for wasting these opportunities. My hope and commitment are to let those still small moments remain sacred. Are you able to make room for moments of peace and connection with God in your everyday life? How do you avoid filling those spaces with the noise of our world?

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**There will not be livestream** of the worship services during the summer months. The services will be posted online shortly after the service.

**During the summer months** there will not be a children's story however feel free to pick up a children's bulletin from the ushers in the lobby.

**Pastors vacation time: Virginia:** August 7-13, **Terrell:** August 2-15. For August, the **administrative office** will be open Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

**Hello from Finance and Maintenance:** Our church has passed the halfway point of our financial calendar year. Based on reports compiled by church accountant Laurie Enns, despite a significant furnace repair, and sizeable insurance hike, our overall expenses continue to track below 2023 budget and 2022 totals, at \$238,976.00. It should also be noted that offering contributions, at the halfway point, are tracking at approximately \$31,000 behind the pace of 2022, resulting in an overall deficit to date of \$25,969.75. As a result, Finance made the decision to temporarily scale back our quarterly outreach contributions by 50%. We are gratified for the financial contributions to date provided by those who call Bergthaler Church home and continue to have confidence in a positive 2nd half of 2023. In an unrelated matter, Town of Altona has approved the proposed subdivision of our property to the east of the sanctuary. As the paperwork is completed, it is our intention to reach out to you for a conversation on the appropriate way to proceed (or not). Thank you, Laurie Enns, Elmer Friesen, Al Friesen

**ABC goes to camp! September 16-17. September 16-17.** Please **sign up** either in the foyer or by calling the church office. The cost for overnight and meals is \$86 per adult and \$52 per child. Having a retreat costs money—some people can cover it and it is not a burden, for others it impacts their decision more. We are looking at ways of cost sharing. If you are interested in helping reduce the cost for others, be in touch with one of the pastors.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Altona Gospel Festival:** August 19 at the Altona Park starting at 1 pm. See the poster in the lobby for more details.

**Camps with Meaning invites donations** towards our Staffership Fund. We have a number of amazing staff working with us this summer who are not connected to MCM churches. Please help us to support them financially for the hard work, time, and love they are pouring into camp this summer. Donations are welcome by mail, online [camps@mennochurch.mb.ca](mailto:camps@mennochurch.mb.ca).

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