# BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH OF ALTONA SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023, 10:30 am

"Arise, shine, for your light has come."
Isaiah 60:1a

#### How will we know . . . what we know?

#### **Gathering in God's presence**

Welcome & Announcements

Hymn O Little Town Of Bethlehem HWB 191

Call to worship and Prayer

Hymn Angels From The Realms Of Glory VT 265

Prayer for offering

Offering In The Bulb There Is A Flower HWB 614

## **Hearing God's word**

Children's story

Drama

Scripture Matthew 2:1-12 Sermon Following The Star

### **Responding in Faith**

Hymn Breathe On Me, Breath Of God HWB 356

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn O Beautiful Star VT 275.

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# Reflection: How can you shine God's light for others?

**Sermon:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert **Worship Leading**: Byron Loeppky

Music: Glenys Voth and Lorraine Hamm

**Children's Story:** Caroline Neufeld **Drama:** Caroline and Rick Neufeld

Next Sunday, January 7, we will begin a five-week sermon series called "Jesus and our Imagination". This series will explore the role of imagination in discipleship and how Jesus enhances our imagination.

January 7. Speaker: Mark January 14. Speaker: Mark January 21. Speaker: Mark January 28. Speaker: Terrell

February 4

On January 7, our worship service will include the dedication of Micah Neufeld, daughter to Josh and Alyssa Neufeld.

#### **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **Prayer and Praise:**

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

Edgar Loeppky- December 31 Katie Krahn- January 1 Sheree Wahl- January 2 Bernie H. Friesen- January 4 Tena Giesbrecht- January 5 Linda Hildebrand- January 5 Marilyn Martens- January 5 Ed Martens- January 5

Hospitalized: Ben Dyck at the Altona Health Centre.

**Bernard Wiebe** from our church family passed away Thursday, December 28. We are invited to pray in gratitude for his life and for his family. Funeral services are pending.

A warm thank you to Bergthaler Mennonite Church from the family of Marge Friesen on mom's recent hospital stay and passing in late November. Mom spoke glowingly about the regular visits of encouragement and cards from her church family. We were also grateful to the many who assisted with Mom's memorial service.....Mark, Virginia, Trevor, Mark (Penner), Elaine, John, Bill, Agustin, along with the ABC serving group. Despite the less-than-ideal weather conditions, many of you, Mom's church family made the effort to attend the service, and others have shared how they appreciated the "online" option. Thank you to each and everyone of you – Al and Tara

**Pastor Virginia** begins her Sabbatical on January 1, and will be back on April 1.

**There will be no** children's or adult Sunday School Dec 31 and Jan 7. We will resume both on Jan 14.

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#### **Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona**

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