

**-BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA-  
Sunday, February 16, 2025, 10:30 am**

*God will judge between the nations, and settle disputes of mighty nations.  
Then they will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into  
pruning hooks. Isaiah 2:4*

**Gathering**

Hymn Come Let Us All Unite to Sing VT 7

Opening and Prayer

Hymn Holy Spirit, Come with Power VT 57

Offering Be a Sower VT 789

**Listening**

Children's Story

Scripture Matthew 5:43-45, 2:13-15

Sermon part 1 Anabaptists: 500 years of non-violent  
resistance

Readers Theatre Peace, Peace: Menno Simons

Sermon part 2

**Responding**

Hymn If the War Goes On VT 794

Prayer with the Anabaptists

Benediction

Music We Are People of God's Peace VT 797

**Sermon:** Terrell Wiebe **Worship Leading:** Janna Wiebe

**Music:** Glenys Voth **Children's Story:** Delores Enns

*\*Anabaptist Dramatic Readings by Alan Kreider and Eleanor Kreider May 2011*

We are in the midst of a worship series on **Anabaptism at 500**. This is in part to commemorate the five hundredth anniversary of the Anabaptist movement that began in 1525. In this series we will share stories and explore our current connections to this movement. The goal is not the past but the future, we will be invited to "look back as we strive to live wholeheartedly into God's future."

**Feb 2.** Origins and Baptism: Speaker Virginia

**Feb 9.** Knowing Jesus is Following Jesus: Speaker Mark

**Feb 16.** Non-violence: Speaker Terrell

**Feb 23.** Sharing about his Sabbatical experience: Speaker Mark

**March 2.** Separation from the world: Speaker Mark

**CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**- PRAYER AND PRAISE -**

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

Gladys Hildebrand- Feb. 4, Mary Dyck- Feb. 17,  
Trevor Friesen-Stoesz- Feb. 17, Elvera Peters- Feb. 18,  
Natalie Toews- Feb. 18, Norma Enns- Feb. 19, Betty Heinrichs- Feb. 19,  
Bill Friesen- Feb. 19, Ryan Wahl- Feb. 22,

**Hospitalized:** Henry Klassen is in the Altona Health Centre.

**Art Dyck** from our congregation passed away on February 11. We are invited to join in gratitude for his life and to pray for his wife Mary and family. The funeral service for Art was held here on Saturday.

**International Witness:** Please pray for wisdom, peace, and joy as South Korean Anabaptist Mennonites work together to strengthen their ministry the for the next decades. After 20 years of serving a growing Anabaptist community in a rapidly changing Korean church and society, they are reenvisioning the Centre's work under God's guidance. Mennonite Church Canada Witness liaison worker, Scott Kim, will be a consultant in this process. Consider donating to this reenvisioning process [www.mennonitechurch.ca/southkorea](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/southkorea). Mark your gifts: KAC Reenvisioning.

**- THIS WEEK AT ABC -**

**Sun. Feb.16, 9:15-10:15 am:** Sunday school for age 3-gr. 12, adults

**Sun. Feb.16, 10:30 am:** Worship service

**Tues. Feb.18, 10:30 am:** Coffee with the Church staff

**Wed. Feb. 19, 7-8:15 pm:** Ventures

**Thur. Feb. 20, 2 pm:** Book study at Gardens on Tenth

**Fri. Feb. 21:** Youth retreat at Camp Assiniboia!

**Sat. Feb. 22, 5-6:30:** Community Meal at the Exchange

**Next Sunday, February 23,** we will have our worship service in the basement. The service will start at the regular time (no brunch this time). The worship time will include Mark showing some pictures and sharing about his sabbatical experience in Thailand. There will be opportunity for questions and conversation.

**The AGM** is set for Sunday, March 2. Potluck lunch begins after the worship service, followed by the AGM at approximately 12:30 pm. The AGM books (the financial portion of the books will be available next

week) are ready in the foyer. Please remember to bring your book to the meeting. Books are also available electronically.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Many of the community announcements have posters in the lobby for more extensive information*

**MDS:** In celebration of Mennonite Disaster Service's 75th anniversary, we are inviting church sewing circles and individuals who enjoy sewing, knitting, crocheting, or weaving to join us by creating wall hangings or prayer shawls for our Housewarmer Project during the month of February! The Housewarmer Project provides quilted wall hangings and prayer shawls to disaster survivors whose homes have been rebuilt or restored by Mennonite Disaster Service. The wall hangings and prayer shawls are presented to the homeowner at the dedication of the home. These handmade gifts are a lasting symbol of compassion and of coming home. Housewarmer Project information, guidelines, and mailing instructions for completed wall hangings and prayer shawls can be found at [mds.org/housewarmer-project](https://mds.org/housewarmer-project).

**CommonWord:** March 6. 7 pm. Marpeck Commons, CMU. Join Michael Pahl and guests Janessa Nayler-Giesbrecht and Phil Campbell-Enns as we launch The Word Fulfilled: Reading the Bible with Jesus. How did Jesus read his Bible, and what does that mean for how we should read ours? Join us in person or via livestream, buy or borrow the book – <https://www.commonword.ca/go/3820>.

**CMU's Xplore** extended education program investigates dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it. Join one or more in-person or online courses beginning February 18 in topics such as loneliness, Indigenous spirituality and Christian faith, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and more. Churches may consider hosting an Xplore watch party with people from the community. For more information and to register, visit [cmu.ca/xplore](https://cmu.ca/xplore).

**MCI** presents *Anne of Green Gables: The Musical!* Shows are in Buhler Hall, Gretna on March 6-7 at 7:30 pm and March 8 at 2:00 pm. Tickets are available at [mciblues.net](https://mciblues.net) or by calling the school at 204-327-5891.

**Mennonite Church Youth Gathering 2025** – July 2–5, 2025 at the epic University of Waterloo campus. Registration opens March 5, 2025 – [www.mennonitechurch.ca/nationwide-events/Gathering2025](https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/nationwide-events/Gathering2025)

## **FROM THE PASTOR – Virginia Gerbrandt Richert**

This month we have been focusing on Anabaptism in our worship services. This is in part to commemorate the start of this movement 500 years ago. And we are joined by Anabaptists around the world who are marking this occasion throughout the year. The dreaming and planning for some of these celebrations started many many years ago. I can remember people talking about it already in 2010.

MennoMedia has created several resources in commemoration of this occasion; including worship resources, history books, children's books as well as a new Anabaptist Bible. This Bible includes commentary from Anabaptist scholars as well as church lay people, including work that was done by some people from our church. Two years ago, when they asked for groups to do Bible studies and then send in their notes, I passed the request along to the congregation. About a dozen people joined me as we studied three passages of scripture and sent in our notes. In total there were about 600 other groups that did the same thing.

This idea of including both scholarly and lay comments beside the scripture texts touches on a core understanding of Anabaptism that all voices matter and can contribute something. That is why they decided to call it the **Anabaptist Community Bible**. But when the idea was first presented to one of MennoMedia's donor's they said, "That's the craziest thing I ever heard of." But then went on to say, "I think you should do it."

The overwhelming response to the call for Bible study groups showed the coordinators that "there's a deeper interest in scripture than what you might think of if all you are doing is reading the headlines." And that by creating this resource we, as Anabaptists, are "proclaiming that God is still living and active."

There is much more I could say about the Bible, but I invite you to check it out for yourself. I will leave my copy in the foyer at the bottom of the stairs for people to look through, or you can check it out at <https://www.mennomedia.org/anabaptist-community-bible/> or at <https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/83/27819> for purchase.

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