

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA
SUNDAY, February 18, 2024 10:30 am
First Sunday of Lent

"Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your hearts, with fasting, with weeping, and with sorrow; tear your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, very patient, full of faithful love, and ready to forgive." Joel 2:12-13

Gathering and Praise

Announcements

Hymn Holy Spirit, Come With Power VT 57

Call to worship and prayer

Hymn All Glory, Laud and Honor VT 315

Entering God's Story

Prayer for the church and the world

Offering

Children's Story

Scripture Matthew 20: 29 -21:11

Sermon Turning inward as we turn toward Jesus

Confession and Assurance

Hymn Oh, Lord Have Mercy STJ 47

Receiving ashes*

Benediction

Hymn The Love of God VT 162

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Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leading:** Mary Anne Loeppky

Music: Tena Giesbrecht **Children's Story:** Kristin Falk

** Everyone will be invited to come forward and receive ashes as a sign of our brokenness and need for God.*

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

Web Page Address: abchurchcommunity.ca **Office:** 324.6717

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Worship Services available online at: abchurchcommunity.ca

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

Assoc. Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, on sabbatical until April.

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,

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FROM THE YOUTH: Ben Rempel

What is a favourite youth group memory?

The lock in last year. It was loads of fun to hang out with friends and participate in fun activities.

Why is the church important to you?

It is important to me because it is a place for like minded people to come together and support each other in many ways.

Tell us about one thing that you really enjoy doing, and why?

I enjoy playing video games in my free time. They are a way to experience different worlds and to do things that I could never do.

Is there someone you really look up to?

I really look up to my father because he is a man who always knows how to help me and works extremely hard to achieve a goal. Just look at the arcade.

Read any good books lately? Listened to any good music lately?

I don't read books that often, but I do love music. I wouldn't call any of them "normal music" because most of them are video games soundtracks. I like the soundtracks of games like Splatoon and Mario kart in particular.

What is something you accomplished that you are proud of?

I am proud of my grades, which are way better than I thought, and of course, my parents, who have worked so hard to make a new business, not just make it, but make it well.

What are your hopes for the church, the world, and yourself?

I hope that our church can continue to support people from far away. I hope that the world can stop being greedy and selfish so that we can stop war once and for all. I hope that I can continue to do the best that I can and make the world a better place however I can.

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Today Lent Begins. This year our journey to the cross will be guided by the theme, "The Last Week". We will be taking a magnifying glass to the final week of Jesus' life: What he did, what he taught, the controversies he was involved in, and the questions he was asked. Our hope is that by exploring Jesus' last week we will better understand what hangs in the balance of Jesus' life and death. In keeping with the purpose of Lent, our worship services will include times of confessing sins and receiving God's grace.

Lent will begin with Palm Sunday (instead of the Sunday before Easter) because this event is the start of Jesus' last week. We will also have the opportunity to come forward and receive ashes as practiced in an Ash Wednesday service.

Feb. 18: Jesus enters Jerusalem. Receiving ashes. Matthew 21:1-11. Speaker: Mark

Feb. 25: Jesus disrupts the temple. Matthew 21:12-17. Speaker: Mark

March 3: Jesus is questioned. Matthew 22:15-40. Speaker: Terrell

March 10: Bags of gold. Matthew 25:14-30. Speaker: Jason Driedger

March 17: The last supper. Matthew 26:17-30 (John 13:1-20). Speaker: Mark

March 24: Jesus in the garden. Matthew 21:31-56. Speaker: Terrell

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer and Praise:

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

Elvera Peters- Feb. 18, Natalie Toews- Feb. 18, Bill Friesen- Feb. 19,
Norma Enns- Feb. 19, Betty Heinrichs- Feb. 19, Ryan Alex Wahl- Feb. 22,
Dorothy Friesen- Feb. 22, Hilda (Jacob) Klassen- Feb. 23,
Piper Friesen- Feb. 23, Redden Friesen- Feb. 23

Hospitalized: Pete Heinrichs at the Altona Hospital.

Our love and sympathy to Andrew Richert and Virginia Gerbrandt Richert and their family, at the passing of Andrew's Grandma, Pearl Richert, on February 10. There will be a memorial service on March 9.

International Witness: Mennonite Church South Korea will have their annual meeting February 23-25 in Jeju. Cheryl Woelk and Scott Kim, Mennonite Church Canada liaison workers, will be the plenary speakers talking about discipleship. Pray for Scott and Cheryl and all participants in this important annual gathering.

This week at ABC:

Sun. Feb. 18 9:15-10:15: Sunday School for age 3-grade 12.

Tue. Feb. 20, 10:30: Coffee with the church staff.

Wed. Feb. 21, 7:00 - 9:00, Youth (grades 7-12) Broomball and tobogganing at the Altona nature Pond. Weather dependent. Meet at the church.

Wed. Feb. 21: Ventures, 7:00-8:15, movie night

Thur. Feb. 22, 2 pm: Book study.

Sat. Feb. 24, 2 pm: Memorial service for Ben Dyck at ABC

Sat. Feb. 24, 5-6:30: Community Meal at the Exchange

Sun. Feb. 25, lunch immediately after the service, followed by AGM at 12:30 pm

From Mark and Terrell: We are excited about baptism conversations. If you are interested in baptism, please be in touch with us so we can start talking. This invitation is for people of all ages and places in our journey with Christ.

You are invited to the Annual General Meeting next Sunday Feb 25 at 12:30. Lunch, and "Nutrition break" will be provided. Childcare will also be provided during the meeting. A limited number of AGM report books and the proposed constitution will be supplied at the meeting. IF you already have a copy, or prefer e-copies, please bring those along. Your Council looks forward to hearing your voice, and sharing the exciting plans for 2024.

Camp sponsorship forms will be available in the church office for campers and camp staff planning on going to camp this summer. Application deadline April 30.

Invitation to those using hearing aids that are connected to their mobile phones. Please visit the AV Tech desk at 10 am on Sunday morning or after the worship service and we'll be excited to help you connect to our AudioFetch sound system. The AudioFetch system will provide live sound during the service to your device and you can adjust the volume!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

You are invited to attend the Altona MCC Thrift Shop AGM at Altona Southpark MB Church, 2:00 pm, Monday, Feb. 26. The agenda will include: MCC report on Ukraine and Middle East, Financial Report. Anecdotal Reports, Board Elections, Soup and pie to follow.

MCM: Kathy Giesbrecht, MCM Director of Congregational Ministries, will be retiring at the end of April. We are grateful to God for her decades of service to the church. She has faithfully supported our pastors in their ministry to children, youth, and young adults. She has resourced our congregations in the areas of worship, faith formation, and congregational care. She has provided spaces for pastors, youth and young adults, women, and congregations to come together for encouragement, worship, and learning. And so much more! We will take time at our upcoming Gathering to express our appreciation to Kathy for her presence and faithful ministry among us.

Canadian Mennonite: Peace & Possibility, Part I: Tune into a live web event with Maoz Inon, an Israeli peace and tourism entrepreneur with strong Mennonite links. Since his parents were killed by Hamas, Inon's message of peace has drawn the attention of international media. Hosted by *Canadian Mennonite, Anabaptist World* and the *Palestine-Israel Network*. **Feb. 21, 11 a.m. CT.** **Peace & Possibility, Part II:** Raja Khouri is a Palestinian-Canadian; Jeffrey Wilkinson is an American Jew. Hear them discuss their 2023 book, *The Wall Between: What Jews and Palestinians Don't Want to Know About Each Other*. Hosted by *Canadian Mennonite, Anabaptist World* and the *Palestine-Israel Network*. **Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. CT.**

Mennonite Church Manitoba weekly congregational profile:

Hope Mennonite Church meets in the West Broadway community of Winnipeg, gathering on Sunday mornings in the chapel of Thomson Funeral Home. We are a congregation of about 160 people, with a large number of young families and small children. Our Sunday worship service is typically fairly traditional, though we have lots of lay involvement in preaching and leading worship. We invite your prayers for our community, particularly our partners in Crossways in Common as we try to balance financial realities, the varying needs of each organization, limited volunteer energy, in the midst of a community of people who need support and care.