

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona
Worship Service*

February 12, 2023, 10:30 am

"Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders"
~ Exodus 15:11

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering and Praise

Music All Who Are Thirsty VT 49
Call to Worship and Prayer
Music Holy God, We Praise Thy Name HWB 121
Welcoming Terrell and Janna as members
Covenanting with Terrell
Offering and Prayer for the Church and the World

Hearing God's Word

Children's story
Music Holy Lord
Scripture Isaiah 6:1-8
Sermon The Love of Holiness and the Holiness of Love

Responding to God's Word

Music Santo (Holy)
Licensing Terrell
Benediction
Music The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Today we welcome Janna and Terrell Wiebe as members of our congregation. We also covenant with Terrell as our Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry, and, together with Mennonite Church Manitoba, grant Terrell the ministerial credential of Licensing toward Ordination.

Jeff Friesen, Co-Director of Leadership Ministries for Mennonite Church Manitoba, joins us today as we license and covenant with Terrell.

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck
Worship Leader: Jolene Friesen-Stoesch
Children's story: Delores Enns
Music: ABC ensemble

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Shirley Toews is at the Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **A BIG thank** you to all who supported the Venture Club cookie sale last week. We raised \$537 dollars which we will use to put together 60 school kits for MCC.
- ~ **We are grateful** to the team at St. Boniface for their dedication during my by-pass surgery and the God inspired healing that is taking place assisted by the many well wishes and prayers from this community.
- Edward and Erna Doell.
- ~ **International witness:** Pray for students Ochan (Peter) Lual and Khan (Isaac) Gatkuoth from South Sudan as they begin their second semester studies at Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia. Pray also for Witness workers Werner and Joanne DeJong who are offering them specialized supports.
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**
Janna Wiebe Feb 12 Mary Dyck Feb. 17
Ron Friesen Feb 13 Norma Enns Feb. 17
Lena Schellenberg Feb 13 Natalie Toews Feb. 18

WORSHIP CALENDAR

On Jan 22 we began a 4-week worship series on the **Characteristics of God**. We will explore the question; What is God like?

- January 22:** God is Good.
- January 29:** God is Just.
- February 5:** Music Sunday.
- February 12:** God is Holy.
- February 19:** God is my refuge.

Welcoming Terrell and Janna as members of ABC:

Terrell and Janna, we welcome you with joy as companions on the journey of faith.

We commit ourselves
to fellowship and worship,
service and witness,
as partners in God's mission,

We receive you as Christ has received us.

Covenanting with Terrell:

Terrell, we promise
to receive your wisdom and offer you counsel for the benefit of our lives together,

to respect you as a leader in this community of faith and endure with you in times of disagreement,

to support your leadership with prayer and resources
and bless you in gratitude, grace, and hope for the ministry we share.

FROM THE PASTOR: Terrell Wiebe

In my last *From the Pastor*, I wrote of a study by the Fuller Youth Institute called "Sticky Faith" that details four important factors that are present in the lives of young adults whose faith has "stuck" with them through their transition from high school into adulthood. Today we look at the first of these four factors – *Intergenerational relationships within the congregation*.

A hallmark of doing children's and youth ministry for decades has been trying to find a ratio of 1:5; 1 adult for every 5 children or youth. However, the Sticky Faith study suggests that each young person is greatly benefited when surrounded by a team of five adults. They call this the 5:1 ratio.

Congregations like ours have a wonderful opportunity to invert the old ratio by taking advantage of the breadth of ages that make up our church community.

What might it look like to be one of those five adults who invest in the life of a young person? Each of you will have something different to offer. It might be helpful to ask yourself "How can I plug into the lives of our youth?" Perhaps you will feel called to be an encourager, a friend, a mentor, a youth sponsor, a teacher, etc.

I don't want to limit the ways that you could become someone who makes a real impact on the lives and faith of our young people. For example, a teacher might not be a classroom teacher. It might be that you have skills or passions that you greatly enjoy and could invite a youth to join you in. Perhaps you will find a common love or inspire a new hobby.

The bottom line is that youth need caring adults (more than just family members) who are willing to build relationship with them. When those relationships exist, then faith becomes something that youth do with the whole church community, and not just by themselves.

If you are inspired by this idea but still wondering about how you might plug into the lives of our youth, I welcome you to reach out to me. I would love to chat with you!

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Sunday, February 12: 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.

Sunday, February 12 and 19 Adult Sunday School: 9:15 in the church basement.

Wednesday, February 15: Ventures from 7:00-8:15 pm

Wednesday February 15:

*Worship and Music meeting at 9 am

*Appreciation tea for hospital visitors and special visitors at 2 pm.

Wednesday February 15, 7:00-9:00: Junior Youth (Gr. 7-8) Youth Talk Night "Loving like Jesus"

Thursdays, Book Study at 2:00 pm at Gardens on Tenth.

Friday February 17, 7:00 - 9:00: Senior Youth (Gr. 9-12) - Youth Talk Night "Welcoming like Jesus"

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Terrell is generally in the office: Tuesday morning, Wednesday afternoon, Thursday afternoon, Friday morning and afternoon. Sometimes his responsibilities take him out of the office during this time, however you are welcome to reach out if you would like to connect with him.

On February 26th, you are invited and encouraged to attend the Bergthaler Mennonite Church **Annual General Meeting** in the church basement. It's an opportunity to share and discuss the past 12 months at ABC. Thanks to Administrative Assistant Ang Loepky, with welcome insight/assistance from Susan Dueck, the annual report book will be available following today's church service (and online as well). It's an illuminating snapshot of the meaningful contribution of the many who "put a shoulder to the wheel" on behalf of our church, and express appreciation for your financial contributions, and the many ways ABC was blessed in 2022. The Feb 26th AGM is also an opportunity to look forward and discern the best path for our church. Your presence and your voice are important. We encourage you to attend. The meeting will start after a meal served by Church Council.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mennonite Church Canada: You're invited to join a Zoom-based book study of "Walking Together" as part of the reconciliation journey. Authors Neill and Edith von Gunten bring a wealth of wisdom to the work of reconciliation, having connected and collaborated with Indigenous communities in Manitoba and beyond for almost fifty years. Open to participation across Canada. Hosted by MCEC. Begins on Feb. 15. Details and registration via link at <https://mcec.ca/event/21748-2023-02-15-walking-together-book-study-feb-15>

MCC: MCC is accepting donations to support people affected by the Feb. 6 earthquake in Türkiye and Syria. MCC is working with long-term partners in Aleppo and surrounding areas to provide emergency food, shelter, hygiene, sanitation supplies and trauma counselling. In a country already vulnerable from years of conflict, this was a devastating blow. You can share God's love and compassion with our global neighbours by providing a gift online at mccmb.ca/earthquake, by calling 204-261-6381 or by sending a cheque earmarked for "Syria and Türkiye earthquake" to your local MCC at 134 Plaza Drive, Winnipeg, R3T 5K9.

CMU: Xplore: At the Intersection of Faith and Life – Xplore offers life-long learning courses investigating dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it—all without any assignments or exams! Join one or more of our six courses in-person or online Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, beginning February 21. For information and to register visit cmu.ca/xplore.

MCI: After nearly 2 decades, **Youth Orbit** is back! YO is a youth conference for gr. 8-12, at MCI, from April 14-15th. We have invited a team of powerful guest speakers and worship bands, planned amazing games, late night activities, and delicious snacks for the relaunch of Youth Orbit. This year's theme is *Never Forget Who You Are* centered on 1 Peter 2:9. For more details or to register, contact youthorbit@mciblues.net for more details.

Tickets for MCI's production of ***Little Women: the Musical*** are on sale now! Performances are March 9th, 10th, and 11th at 7:30pm and a matinee on March 11th at 2:00pm. Buy your tickets today at <https://mciblues.net/performing-arts/musical-theatre/> or by calling the school at 204-327-5891 during school hours.

Join us for an **MCI Open House**, open 1 hour before show times on Friday, March 10th and before the matinee performance on Saturday, March 11th. Students attending an Open House in grades 5-11 receive a FREE musical ticket and backstage pass! Please email info@mciblues.net or call (204) 327-5891 to register.

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

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,
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Janna and Terrell Wiebe have called Gretna home since 2016. They moved to Gretna to co-pastor the Gretna Bergthaler Mennonite Church, after pastoring together at the Springfield Heights Mennonite Church in Winnipeg for 6 years. Janna comes from Strathclair Manitoba, and Terrell came to Winnipeg from Leamington, Ontario. The two met on Canadian Mennonite University's Outatown discipleship program. They married in 2010 and have 2 sons, Rowan (8) and Ivan (2).

Janna loves movies, birds, small towns, and refurbishing old garden gnomes. Terrell loves disc golf, curling, the Lord of the Rings, boardgames, and playing video games with the boys. Rowan loves video games, music, drawing, and Lego. Ivan loves music, reading, exploring, and playing with his brother.

Janna and Terrell are excited to become members of this congregation and are hopeful for the possibilities this community holds for their family.

