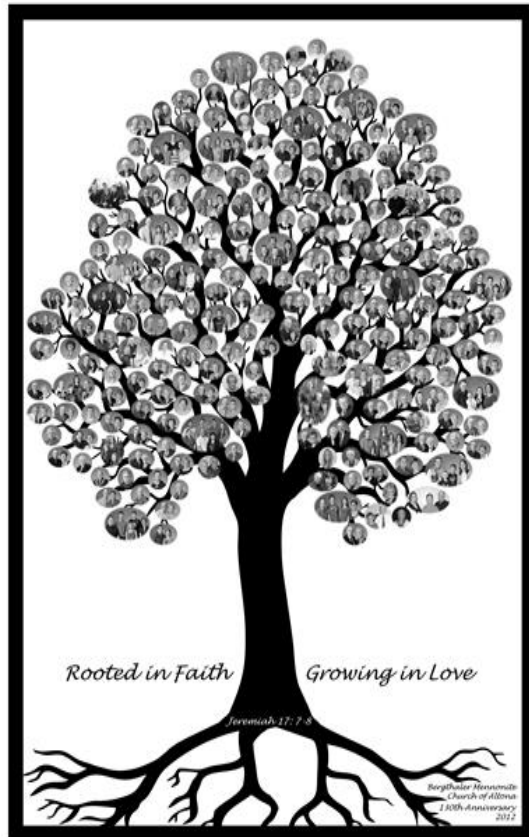


*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona
Worship Service*

February 19 2023, 10:30 am

*"God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble." ~Psalm 46:1*

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
Of Altona*



Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Music O God Our Help In Ages Past HWB 328

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music Be Still, My Soul VT 664

Offering

Hearing God's Word

Children's story

Scripture Text: Ruth 2:1-12

Sermon Refuge in the Storm, Refuge in the Stillness

Responding to God's Word

Music Be Still and Know VT 37

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Music Lead Me Lord HWB 538

Sunday, February 19, 2023

Sermon: Terrell Wiebe

Worship Leader: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Children's story: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Music: Flying Free

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Shirley Toews is at the Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **Glenn Friesen** of our church family passed away Tuesday, February 14. We are invited to join in gratitude for his life and pray for his wife Phyllis and her family, and brothers Ronn and Anne Friesen, Larry and Martha Friesen and Bill and Margaret Friesen and their families. Funeral service will be held at ABC on Tuesday February 21 at 2 pm.
- ~ **International witness:** Pray for Palestinian Christian brothers and sisters who seek to be faithful witnesses to God's peace amid heightened conflict, and an end to the injustices at the root of the violence. During the last month, tensions in Palestine and Israel have risen as Israel's new extremist government threatens to accelerate the confiscation of land for more settlements in the occupied territories. So far this year, at least 50 people have been killed and many more injured. At least three quarters of the victims are Palestinian - some of them militants and others innocent civilians - and the rest are Israeli soldiers and settlers.
-Mennonite Church Canada Palestine-Israel Network
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**
Elvera Peters February 18
Betty Heinrichs February 18
Dorothy Friesen February 22
Hilda (Jacob) Klassen February 23

WORSHIP CALENDAR

This week we conclude our 4 week series on characteristics of God

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.

February 26: Ash Wednesday themed service.

FROM THE PASTOR: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

This week Wednesday Feb 22 begins the season of Lent in the Christian calendar. Lent is the 40-day season of preparation for the celebration of Easter and Jesus' resurrection. Lent has not traditionally been observed in Mennonite churches, but as we have learned from our more liturgical brothers and sisters we have come to see the value and importance that this season can serve for our faith. In these traditions Lent would begin with an Ash Wednesday service and the imposition of ashes to remind us of our mortality and need for renewal.

Some years our church held an Ash Wednesday service, to mark the beginning of lent. But as schedules shifted and attendance dwindled, we adapted.

This year we are going to bring this practice back into the worship life of our congregation. Instead of a Wednesday evening, though, we are planning our Sunday morning worship like an Ash Wednesday service.

So, next Sunday, Feb 26, we are going to include a time of confession, repentance, and preparation in our service. We are going to be inviting people to receive the mark of ashes on their forehead. And we are going to acknowledge our own frailty as humans and our need for God's love and care in our lives. As would all be typical of any Ash Wednesday service.

If this sounds very solemn, it can be, but does not have to be joyless, because within every service we also include the hope we have in God's grace and desire to cleanse and forgive us. And after the service we will gather for lunch and fellowship and our AGM to discuss and dream together where God is leading this congregation.

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Worship Services available online at: abchurchcommunity.ca

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

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,

C 204.417.8200, terrellw@abchurch.ca

THIS WEEK AT ABC

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

Wednesday, February 22: Ventures from 7:00-8:15 pm

Wednesday 7:00-9:00, Youth (gr. 7-12): Janet Peters, Program Director for Camps with Meaning joins us to help with a conversation on serving like Jesus. Parents of youth are invited to a conversation with Terrell from 8:30-9:00 in the South wing building to discuss the youth program and give some feedback.

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

Sunday, February 26: Lunch and annual general meeting

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pastor Mark is taking the weekend off. He will be back in the office on Tuesday.

Calling all artists: we are need of art for the front cover of our bulletins. During lent we are looking for images of Jesus or the cross. Or other images could be used for a later date. Please do them in black and white (pencil or pen) on plain white paper with nothing on the back. Half of an 8.5x11 works best but other sizes hopefully could be adapted. Be in touch with Ang or Virginia if you have any questions.

Don't forget to contribute to the "I Love My Church" bulletin board in the foyer.

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. The annual report book are available on the usher's table in the foyer (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:

MCM: MCM Gathering 2023 Worship Service. All are invited. March 3, 7:00pm. Douglas Mennonite Church 1517 Rothesay Ave., Winnipeg. Music will be led by the Faith and Life Male Choir and Camps with Meaning Summer Staff. Learn more about the Gathering at www.mennochurch.mb.ca/gathering2023

Mennonite Church Canada: Thank God for the swell of interest among 150 people from several congregations attending the "Land, People and Covenant (Treaty!)" workshop led by Derek Suderman of Conrad Grebel College.

MCC: MCC is accepting donations to support people affected by the 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. You can share a gift online at mcccmb.ca/earthquake, or 204-261-6381.

CMU: Face to Face | Polarization: Get over it! Stories that lead the way – Jayme Menzies of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and Manitoba MLAs Kelvin Goertzen, Dougald Lamont, and Jamie Moses will share examples and stories of how they've overcome polarization in big and small ways in their various contexts. Join in person or via livestream on Monday, February 27 at 7:00 PM CST. More information and livestream at cmu.ca/face2face.

All are invited to the Douglas Kuhl School of Music Spring Concert: Famous Songs You Never Knew, on Saturday, March 4th, 2023, 7:00pm at Winkler EMMC (600 Southview Drive, Winkler). Our string orchestras and vocal ensembles will surprise you, presenting familiar tunes you didn't know you knew by Grieg, Bach, Vivaldi, Sibelius, and more! A free will offering will be taken in support of our programs."

YFC is starting our breakfast program at W.C. Miller back up and we looking for bakers! Either monthly, bi-weekly, or even just one-time, whatever works for you! Muffins, breakfast squares, and cookies are all great. You are welcome to drop any baking off at the station (don't worry about it getting old, we have lots of freezer space) and usually we are open 9:00-4:00 during the day. Or if you would like to make something fresh like cinnamon buns, we definitely wouldn't say no. Feel free to contact kendra.fehr@yfc.ca to arrange details or if you have any questions. Thank you!"

The Gideons fundraising banquet is back, and you're invited. Now known as ShareWord Global; come hear how God's word is changing lives around the world. Contact Linda (204 325-8521) for individual tickets or book a table of 8. Happening on Friday, March 10 at 6:30 pm at Winkler EMMC Church. No cost for tickets, all proceeds going to spreading God's word. (No Altona banquet this year.)

