

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona
Worship Service*

February 5, 2023, 10:30 am

*“O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our
salvation!”*

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Music Summoned by the God Who Made Us VT 1

Call to Worship and Prayer

Listening

Offering Praise God (Doxology) VT 71-73

Children's story

Music Be a Sower VT 789

Scripture Reading Psalm 47: 1-7, 95:1

Sermon Voices Together: While we change, God stays
the same

Responding

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Music We, Your People, Sing Your Praises VT 849

Darryl Neustaeter Barg will lead us in music and story as we sing from the new Voices Together hymnal and learn some of the stories and meanings behind the songs that were included. Darryl was a part of the song committee that created the hymnal.

Speaker: Darryl Neustaeter Barg
Worship Leader: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert
Children's story: Kristin Falk
Music: Darryl Neustaeter Barg and Hilda Franz

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Shirley Toews is at the Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **Dayna Wahl** and her team are in Timmins, Ontario this week for the Under 18 National Curling Championships. We praise God for this opportunity and wish Dayna a wonderful week of competing. We also pray for Rachel, Ryan, and Gavin as they spend the week cheering and supporting the team.
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** are extended to Bill and Carol Bergman at the passing of Bill's sister Anne Giesbrecht who died on January 25. The funeral was held on January 31 in Winkler.
- ~ **International witness:** Amos Chin of the Bible Missionary Church asks you to pray for the people of Myanmar who face extreme challenges in teaching peace amid food shortages and violent injustice.
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**
 - Wayne Loepky February 5
 - Anne Friesen February 6
 - Edna Stoesz February 6
 - Elmer Heinrichs February 7

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

Mark Tiessen-Dyck and Glenys Voth are leading worship at Eastview and Gardens on Tenth this morning.

FROM THE PASTOR – Mark Tiessen-Dyck

A while back, Al Friesen saw our caretaker mowing the grass beyond the parking lot across from the church building. This raised the question, why do we maintain, or even own, this land that we do not use and could be used for other purposes? Our church possesses surplus land and, as previously reported by the Finance Commission, the process to have the land subdivided is underway.

This situation has led Church Council to return to conversations about Treaties and land acknowledgements. When we initially begun doing land acknowledgments a couple years ago, we insisted that we did not want land acknowledgments to be empty words or merely performative statements void of real action or change. This is sometimes how land acknowledgements feel, according to feedback I have heard. At council, we hoped that land acknowledgements were the beginning, not the completion of our work at reconciliation; a sign of our commitment not a 'box to check'.

The situation we are now in, as owners of surplus land, is a blessing in that it provides an opportunity to reflect, and possibly act, on our increasing awareness that we are Treaty people. And so, on behalf of Church Council, as pastors we will be facilitating a couple adult Sunday school classes to explore this situation. Please note that these classes will not be a time to make decisions about what to do with the land, nor will our primary focus be on generating ideas about what to do with the land. It is not church council's intent to approach this situation with any pre-determined outcome. These adult Sunday school classes are an opportunity to discuss the situation together, explore the history and significance of Treaties, and cultivate an awareness and openness to the Holy Spirit's leading in how we might be faithful stewards of surplus land. Everyone is invited to these times of discussion and engagement in the church basement the next two Sunday mornings (Feb 12 and 19) at 9:15.

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

- ***Sunday, February 5 - TODAY after the service:** Potluck lunch. Bring a dish to share.
- ***Sunday, February 5 – TODAY: The Ventures club** will be hosting a cookie sale **in the foyer after the service.** Cost is by donation and all funds raised will go towards MCC school kits.
- ***Sunday school** for ages 3-18 is on Sunday's from 9:15-10:15 am in the basement of the education wing, youth are in the south wing.
- ***Adult Sunday School:** 9:15 in the church basement. (February 12 and 19).
- ***Tuesday noon:** Sermon discussion time.
- ***Ventures:** Wednesdays from 7:00-8:15 pm in the church basement.
- ***Youth Grades 7-12:** Wednesday 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Without a recipe! Who is the best improviser in the kitchen?
- ***Book Study** Thursdays at 2:00 pm at Gardens on Tenth.
- ***Church Council** meeting Thursday Feb 9 at 7pm in the library.

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.

Save the date: Annual general meeting Sunday, February 26.

LOST: A delicate chain with a small teardrop pendant (October birthstone). Lost on Sunday, January 22. Please call the church office if found.

The donation receipts for 2022 will be in the mailboxes as of Sunday, Jan. 29 morning.

On Sunday February 12 our worship service will have a time of commissioning for Pastor Terrell. Terrell will also be licensed on this day, receiving the credential "License toward Ordination." Church Council requested licensing for Terrell in light of his previous ministry experience, believing that this will empower him for his ministry among us. A representative from Mennonite Church Manitoba will be joining on this day to participate in Terrell's covenanting and licensing.

On February 12, we will be welcoming Terrell and Janna Wiebe as members of our congregation.

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: You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of Altona MCC Thrift Shop on February 27 at 2:00pm at Altona EMMC. The agenda includes various reports, election of board members, guest speaker Darryl Loewen, Executive Director MCC Manitoba with soup and pie to follow.

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.

Eden Health Care Services: Invites you to join in a peer support group for those who have a loved one experiencing a mental health concern. For more information see the poster in the lobby.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona: 117 2 Street NW Altona, MB, R0G 0B1

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

E-mail: office@abchurch.ca **Facebook:** ABC community

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, C 304-6119 virginiagr@abchurch.ca

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,

C 204.417.8200, terrellw@abchurch.ca