

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of
ALTONA

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024 10:30 am

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Luke 16:13

Welcome & Announcements

Praising God

Hymn Here In This Place VT 10

Call to worship and Prayer

Hymn God Is Here Among Us VT 62

Seeking the Imagination of Christ

Offering

Children's story

Hymn Will You Let Me Be Your Servant? (vs. 1,2,3,5) VT 778

Scripture Luke 18:18-30, Luke 19:1-9

Sermon What Did Zacchaeus Imagine When He Gave It All Away?

Hymn My Love Colours Outside The Lines VT 582

Living in Faith

ABC Conversation with Bill Stoesz

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn May the Lord Bless You and Keep You

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leading:** Grace Harms

Music: ABC Ensemble **Children's Story:** Laurie Enns

Pastor Terrell and Glenys Voth are leading worship at Eastview and Gardens on Tenth.

We are in the midst of a sermon series called "Jesus and our Imagination". This series will explore the role of imagination in discipleship and how Jesus enhances our imagination.

January 7. Speaker: Mark. Jesus preaches so we can re-imagine the world.

January 14. Speaker: Mark. Re-imagining wealth with Jesus and Zacchaeus.

January 21. Speaker: Mark. Parables to help us imagine.

January 28. Speaker: Terrell. Who really sees? Jesus gives imagination to a man born blind.

February 4: Speaker: Janna Wiebe. Imagining God as a shepherd.

FROM THE PASTOR: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

A Community Meal update:

We will be having a Community Meal each month from January to June on the last Saturday of the month (with the exception of March in which the meal is a week early due to the Easter weekend).

In the last couple weeks, I've been reaching out to businesses and churches to see if they are open to sending a volunteer crew to serve and clean up the meal. This helps to expand the number of people involved and shift the work of filling all the individual roles. In November, Altona Mennonite Church supplied a crew. Access Credit Union Altona office is taking January. And the Altona town council has committed for February. I hope to hear from others in the coming weeks. I am pleased to see that involvement in the Community Meal is growing beyond ABC and Seeds. The ending (or pausing, hopefully) of the Altona Christmas dinner has been a reminder of the importance of having broad involvement in the Community Meal. If Community Meal relies on one church or the same group of volunteers, it is not on good footing for the long term.

A second individual has indicated they are open to doing some cooking which is a very positive step. Ideally, we would have additional people who are willing to be the head cook for some meals so that we can have a rotation of 3 or 4 cooks. If you are open to this or have suggestions, please be in touch with me! Our organizing group would like to expand to twice a month, but we will need to continue building our capacity in order for this to be feasible.

The next meal on January 27 is planned in conjunction with a community music night that some volunteers for The Community Exchange are planning (see poster in our lobby). This means you can stay for some free music after the meal if you wish (you don't have to stay for the music).

Some people involved in TCE are keenly interested in food rescue (diverting food from the garbage). Various conversations led to the remarkable donation of hundreds of pounds of farmer sausage from Pioneer Meats to TCE. Pioneer Meats is not able to sell this sausage but it is perfectly safe to eat. A portion of the farmer sausage has been reserved for the Community Meal. So now you know what is on the menu for January 27.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

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, on sabbatical until April.

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,
C 204.417.8200, terrellw@abchurch.ca

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

Jake Bergen- Jan 15, Trudy Enns- Jan. 15, Clarence Friesen- Jan. 15,
Valentina Vallejos- Jan. 19, Grace Harms- Jan. 19, Jake Enns- Jan. 20,
Dyllann Funk- Jan. 20, Amanda Heinrichs- Jan. 20, Julia Wiens- Jan. 20

Hospitalized: Pete Heinrichs at the Boundary Trails Health Centre.

Anne Kehler has moved to room #109 Evergreen in Eastview place.

Ben Dyck from our church family passed away on January 6. The funeral service will be held in Swift Current, SK on January 20 and a memorial service here at ABC on Saturday, Feb. 24. We are invited to pray in gratitude for his life and for his wife Hilda and their families.

The Wiebe family: Bernard Wiebe's family would like to express their appreciation for all the visits to Dad during his hospital stay. We would also like to sincerely thank the serving group, the ushers, the sound personnel, and Pastor Virginia for the meditation. You all contributed to a special celebration of life. Thank you.

International Witness: Bible Missionary Church – Mennonite congregations in Myanmar started the New Year with foot washing services. They ask for prayers for 65 Mennonite families returning to their homes near the Indian border after spending months in neighbouring areas and further into the mountains. Some peace has been restored to the area but economic hardships are plaguing the region as fighting has meant crops could not be planted or harvested.

This week at ABC:

Sun. Jan. 14, 9:15-10:15- Sunday School for all ages

Tue. Jan. 16, 10:30: Coffee with the church staff

Wed. Jan 17, 7-8:15: Ventures- Tour of Friesens Corp. Meet at the church.

Thur., 6:30 - 9:30 Let's try this again! The 2024 youth group kickoff is bowling and mini golf in Winkler. Cost is \$10 per person. Pick up and drop off at the church.

Thur. Jan. 18, 2 pm: Book study

Thur. Jan 18, 7 pm: Church council meeting

Thank you for the reminder that offering envelopes continue to be relied on by our church congregation. While we no longer order them in bulk, we do have a supply of offering envelopes available. They will be in the church foyer this Sunday. For those who prefer to use an offering envelope please change the number to yours and add the correct date. Thanks again for drawing this to our attention.

We are invited to join in the celebration of the ordination of Josh Janzen, our former pastor, now at First Mennonite Church in Beatrice, Nebraska.

Josh's ordination will take place as part of a worship service on January 21 at 2 pm, livestreamed <http://www.youtube.com/@FMCBearrice>. If anyone from our church is interested in a road trip to Nebraska, it would be great to have an official representative from ABC present. Pastor Mark will also send greetings on our behalf to be shared at the ordination.

Coin Offering - For the next three months, the children's coin offering will be collected for the Mennonite Central Committee Education Fund in Ethiopia where our partners, Werner and Deanne DeJong, serve. These funds are used by MCC to offer school supplies for children, provide essential hygiene and sanitary items for girls that allow them to continue attending school, and offer career training to young women that will help them provide for themselves and their families. Thank you for your generosity!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MCM: MCM Mondays. Jan 15, 7:30pm on Zoom. These sessions are meant for everyone in the congregation who is interested in the topic.

"Children's Ministry: experiments that seem to be working"

Join a panel discussion exploring what congregations are discovering about children's ministry, with panelists: Angela Hildebrand, *Mark Tiessen Dyck* and Tobia Veith. Hosted by Kathy Giesbrecht.

www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays for more info and the Zoom link.

CMU: Xplore – CMU's Xplore extended ed program that investigates dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it—all without assignments or exams! Join one or more in-person or online courses beginning February 20. Register as an individual or host a church watch party. For more information and to register visit cmu.ca/xplore.

Mennonite Church Manitoba weekly congregational profile:

With a membership of 40-50, the majority Vietnamese, the Vietnamese Mennonite Church in Winnipeg focuses on spiritual growth within the congregation and spreading God's message to the local Vietnamese community. Led by Pastor Hoa Van Chau, in addition to their Sunday worship services they hold weekly music practice, children's Bible classes, and Saturday night Bible studies, as well as providing support visits to those in need. After each worship service, they share a meal prepared by rotating families, building a strong communal bond. Pray for unity among church members, as well as the strengthening of core members enthusiastic about God's teachings and outreach to the Vietnamese community. Pray also for plans to establish cell groups following a Vietnamese and Southeast Asian model.