

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH
of ALTONA

Sunday, January 19, 2025, 10:30 am

Martha said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.

John 11:27

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Music Come, Now Is the Time to Worship VT 29

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music All Who Are Thirsty VT 49

Entering God's Story

Prayer for Offering

Offering and Music Praise

Children's Story

Scripture John 11:17-27

Sermon Martha

Responding in Faith

Music Oceans VT 456

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Music Go in Peace

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Worship Leading: Al Friesen

Music: ABC Youth

Children's Story: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Jan 19. Speaker: Virginia

Jan 26. Speaker: Erin Morash, Mennonite Central Committee, refugee sponsorship program

Feb. 2. Sermon series Anabaptism at 500

FROM THE PASTOR – Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

I find that we are continually learning things, sometimes even without new information. Every time we hear a story learning can happen.

This past Wednesday I joined several other pastors from MCM churches in Portage La Prairie to tour the former Residential School which has been converted into a museum. We had time to look around at the many artifacts and pictures that were on display, watch a few short videos about the Portage school, and meet with two survivors. Afterwards we as pastors shared lunch together and reflected on our experience and what we learned. It was interesting to note that most shared they had not really learned anything new. But as our conversation continued each of us could point out at least one new insight or understanding that the day had given us.

Knowledge Keeper Ernie Daniels openly told us about his experience in four different residential schools. And what he shared reiterated the devastation that these schools caused. We saw several pictures with tipis beside the school and asked about them. Apparently, sometimes parents would decide to travel to the schools to at least see their children. They would camp out and wait for the children to come outside. Not only were the parents not allowed in the schools or near their children, the children were told not to acknowledge them, and sometimes moved to a different school so that they would be further away and harder to find.

The other survivor, Lorraine, shared about the personal work she had to do as a part of her healing journey. She shared graciously about the therapist that had worked with her and helped her, and the tears she needed to cry for the childhood she never had. She will never be able to forget her experience, and sometimes when she talks about it, emotions still come up in her. Yet she works at the museum and tells her story so that Canada does not forget.

Listening to stories is an important part of the Truth and Reconciliation process. Allowing survivors to share their experiences and believing them, is allowing the truth to come out.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona 117-2nd St NW/R0G 0B1

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Worship Services available online at: abchurchcommunity.ca

Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck – on sabbatical

Assoc. Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, C 304.6119 virginiagr@abchurch.ca

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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PRAYER AND PRAISE -

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

Grace Harms- Jan. 19, Jake Enns- Jan. 20, Dylann Funk- Jan. 20,
Amanda Heinrichs- Jan. 20, Julia Wiens- Jan. 20,
Peter Hildebrand- Jan. 24, Ruth Kroeker- Jan. 24

Hospitalized: Henry Klassen, Art Dyck and Shirley Schellenberg are in the Altona Health Centre.

International Witness: Beatrice Kulutwe was one of seventeen students who received Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission educational assistance this year to study in the fields of pastoral training, medicine, conflict resolution, environmental sciences, and nursing. Providing this opportunity to young people in the church helps those who do not have adequate resources to complete their education. It also strengthens the church by increasing the capacity of future leaders. Praise God for the way that AIMM works together to strengthen the church. You are part of this rich partnership through Mennonite Church Canada.

<https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/AIMM>

- THIS WEEK AT ABC -

Sun. Jan. 19, 9:15-10:15 am: Sunday school for age 3-gr. 12

Sun. Jan. 19, 10:30 am: Worship service

Tues. Jan. 21, 10:30 am: Coffee with the Church staff

Wed. Jan. 22, 7-9 pm: Combined Youth - Winter Olympics! Snow diving, office chair curling, cardboard box bobsled, and much more. Come join in or just come watch.

Wed. Jan. 22, 7-8:15 pm: Ventures

Sun. Jan 26, 9:30 am: Informal conversations with MCC guest Erin Morash and Wesley Ncube in the church library.

We are created to enjoy fellowship with one another. There are people in our congregation that live in apartments, either in assisted living or independent living or in care homes that are lonely. We need more people who would be regular visitors to them. If you are willing to be a visitor or know of someone who would appreciate a visit, please contact pastor Virginia or Irene Kehler, coordinator of church visitations (324-6248)

MCM Gathering February 28 - March 1 which will be held at Grace Mennonite Church in Steinbach, including a Friday evening worship service and Saturday plenary sessions. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ang at the office

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Alicia Buhler, M. Div is a spiritual care provider located in Morden, MB. She has availability to meet both online and in-person with those interested in spiritual direction, *an awareness-based and spiritually integrated approach to inner growth and wholeness*. More information may be found at aliciabuhler.com

Employment opportunity – Canadian Mennonite Magazine

Publisher 0.8 time, remote. Canadian Mennonite Publishing Service (CMPS) is searching for its next Publisher to work in collaboration with staff and publishing partners to “educate, inspire, inform and foster dialogue on issues facing Mennonites in Canada, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ from an Anabaptist perspective.” Read more at canadianmennonite.org/employment.

MCM: Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem: Stories of Lament and Hope. Several members of the MC Canada Palestine-Israel Network joined a solidarity pilgrimage in East Jerusalem. MCM will host an online gathering of reporting and Q&A with participants Joanna Hiebert Bergen, Dan Epp-Tiessen, Chloe Bergen, Kathy Bergen, and Byron Rempel-Burkholder on Wednesday, January 29, 7:00 pm central time. Please register at: www.mennochurch.mb.ca/pin

2025 John and Margaret Friesen Lecture Series – A two-part lecture series titled, *“Anabaptist Peace Witness – Historical Significance and Today's Mission,”* with Dr. Astrid von Schlachta, Head of the Mennonite Research Center and lecturer at the University of Regensburg, takes place on Thursday, January 23 at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM at CMU. Visit cmu.ca/friesenlectures for more information and livestream feeds.

Summer Camp 2025, at Camps with Meaning, registration opens January 13. Schedule is already on the website. www.campswithmeaning.org/registration