

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH
of ALTONA

Sunday, January 26, 2025, 10:30 am

*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some
have entertained angels without knowing it.
Hebrews 13:2*

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Music What is this Place VT 22

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music Sing a New World VT 809

Entering God's Story

Prayer for Offering

Offering and Music Let There Be Light VT 714

Children's Story

Scripture 1 Kings 17:1-16; Leviticus 19:33-34

Sermon Reflecting the Welcome of God

Responding in Faith

Music How Can I Be Silent VT 790

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Music Help Us to Help Each Other VT 722

Sermon: Erin Morash

Worship Leading: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Music: Glenys Voth & Andrew Richert

Children's Story: Grace Harms

*This morning, we welcome Erin Morash and Wesley Ncube from MCC
Manitoba*

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PRAYER AND PRAISE -

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

Valentina Arias- Jan. 19, Nettie Neufeld- Jan. 29, Shelby Penner- Feb. 1

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

Pray for our congregations: Pray for Jubilee Mennonite Church as they approach their AGM (February 9) and planning for the future. Pray for continued guidance of the Spirit as they listen to where God is taking them. Pray also for their continued connections in the surrounding community as they partner with Community Roots Resource Centre and host an emergency food pantry, community programming, and more.

- THIS WEEK AT ABC -

Today: Ventures bake sale in the foyer after the service. Funds raised go towards MCC School Kits being compiled next month.

Sun. Jan. 26, 9:15-10:15 am: Sunday school for age 3-gr. 12

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

Sun. Jan. 26, 10:30 am: Worship service

Tues. Jan. 28, 10:30 am: Coffee with the Church staff

Wed. Jan. 29, 7-8:15 pm: Ventures

Wed. Jan. 29, 7-8:30 pm: Junior Youth – Giant games night!!

Fri Jan 31, 1:00-3:30 pm: Senior Youth – Exams are done Pizza Party!! Drop in at South Wing for pizza, movies, games and a ping pong tournament.

Next week we will begin a worship series on **Anabaptism at 500**. This is in part to commemorate the five hundredth anniversary of the Anabaptist movement that began in 1525. In this series we will share stories and explore our current connections to this movement. The goal is not the past but the future, we will be invited to "look back as we strive to live wholeheartedly into God's future."

Feb 2 - Origins and Baptism - speaker Virginia

Feb 9 - Knowing Jesus is Following Jesus - speaker Mark

Feb 16 - Non-violence - speaker Terrell

Feb 23 - Separation from the World - speaker Mark

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.

International Witness: Pray for Nancy Epp, Rosthern, Saskatchewan, working with Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers in Thailand [www.mennonitechurch.ca/Thailand] as a short-term resource person in education. Phim and Joseph Poovong need to be home-schooled in the next few years as parents Tom and Christine serve with Thai colleagues forming a community of faith supported by sustainable agriculture in northeastern Thailand. Nancy will help to set up the home schooling as well as contribute to the foundations of English teaching ministry.

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.

FROM THE PASTOR – Terrell Wiebe

January 21st, 2025 marked the 500th anniversary of the birth of Anabaptism, where, at a home in Zurich, Switzerland, George Blaurock was re-baptized by Conrad Grebel, and then Blaurock re-baptized the others present. Today there are over 2 million Anabaptists around the world including Mennonites, Amish, Hutterites, and Church of the Brethren. For these groups, the events of January 21st, 1525 are an inspiring example of true faith and Gospel freedom. They represent a conviction that the church should look for its authority in Christ, and not in human authorities.

Other Christian groups, such as Catholics and Anglicans, have seen these same events as doing harm to the witness of the Church in the world due to the division they created. One need only look around the many churches and denominations of Altona to realize that an ugly result of the Reformation are the many splits and schisms that have fractured the church.

How can we grapple with an occasion that gives us meaning and inspiration while also taking seriously some of the repercussions of that event? Two messages I saw this week have helped me to do this grappling.

American author and peace scholar, Drew Hart, wrote, “Today marks the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism. We honor those who resisted church and state violence, rejecting corruption to embody Jesus’ radical way. They built communities of mutual care, economic sharing, and discipleship from below. May we learn from their courage today. #Anabaptism 500”

Members of the Anglican – Mennonite Dialogue in Canada expressed that they honour Anabaptism at 500 by “looking at where the communities who descended from these traditions find themselves now, giving thanks for the distinctive gifts of each tradition in the present, and imagining how sharing these gifts might bring needed balance and healing to all churches, in order to join together in common mission in the future.”

Together these two messages help us recognize and honour the past gifts of Anabaptism while pointing us to our present and future as we learn once again how to live out a Jesus-shaped witness in a complicated age of challenge and change.

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

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