

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024 10:30 am

*"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38*

Welcome & Announcements

**Praising God**

Hymn God is Here Among Us VT 62

Call to worship and Prayer

Hymn For the Beauty of the Earth VT 120

**Celebrating God's Gifts**

Offering

Children's story

ABC Conversations with Josh, Alyssa and Oliver Neufeld

Hymn Children of the Heavenly Father VT 517 (vs.1,2,3)

Dedication of Micah Neufeld

Hymn Children of the Heavenly Father VT 517 (vs. 1,4)

**Seeking the Imagination of Christ**

Scripture Luke 6:17-38

Sermon Why We Need Imagination For More Than  
Playing With Dolls And Lego

Hymn God Who Touches Earth With Beauty VT 550

**Living in Faith**

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn When We Walk with the Lord VT 570

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**Sermon:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leading:** Amanda Wiens

**Music:** Tena Giesbrecht **Children's Story:** Terrell Wiebe

Today we begin 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 can re-imagining 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:

**FROM THE PASTOR: Terrell Wiebe**

Amidst the flurry of propaganda on new years resolutions this year, I came across *In Memoriam, [Ring out, wild bells]* a poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. I find it a meaningful way of reframing our hoped-for actions in the year to come. Mostly, I will let the text speak for itself. My only question for us is, "In what ways can we ring in the Christ that is to be, in 2024?" Happy New Year to each of you!

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

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**Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona**

**Web Page Address:** [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) **Office:** 324.6717

**E-mail:** [office@abchurch.ca](mailto:office@abchurch.ca) **Facebook:** ABC community

**Worship Services available online at:** [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca)

**Lead Pastor:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324.5990, C 204.771.3406, [marktd@abchurch.ca](mailto: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](mailto:terrellw@abchurch.ca)

## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE AND COMMITMENT:

**Micah, you are a wonderful gift from God! We celebrate that you are dedicated and entrusted to God. We welcome you as a valuable part of our congregation and promise to be a community where you may learn about God's love for you and Christ's invitation to you.**

**Josh and Alyssa, we thank God for your desire to share your faith with your children. We promise to join you in nurturing your children and sharing our faith in Christ with them. As parents, may you be filled with love, wisdom, and trust in God.**

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Prayer and praise

**We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:** Hilda Franz- Jan. 4, Anna Peters- Jan. 5, Sophia Friesen-Stoesz- Jan. 7, Morley Wahl- Jan. 9

**Hospitalized:** Ben Dyck at the Altona Health Centre and Pete Heinrichs at the Boundary Trails Health Centre

**International Witness:** January 12th and 13th. They are thankful for the security level in the capital city of Ouagadougou and southwestern area of Burkina Faso. Other areas are still experiencing violence and prayers for students traveling from their homes after Christmas holidays are an urgent concern.

### This week at ABC:

Tue. Jan. 9, 10:30: Coffee with the church staff

Wed. Jan 10, 7-8:15: Ventures: Sardines!

Thur. Jan. 11, 2 pm: Book study

Thur. Jan. 11, 6:30 - 9:30: 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.

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

**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 2pm, livestreamed at <http://www.youtube.com/@FMCBeatrice>. 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!

**A heartfelt thanks** from the Finance and Trusteeship Commission for the end of year financial response/contributions to the operation of our Bergthaler Mennonite Church. Although detailed numbers are still being finalized, based on our current financial status, we were able to proceed with final outreach contributions to MCC, Mennonite Church MB, MDS, Eden Mental Health, YFC Altona and the chaplaincy program at Gardens on Tenth. A detailed report is being prepared for the Annual General Meeting at the end of February. God continues to bless the work of our church.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**MCC:** Do you know a young adult who's looking for a holistic international experience? Encourage them to apply for SALT! MCC's Serving and Learning Together (SALT) program is a year-long cross-cultural experience for Canadian and U.S. citizens. It's a chance to immerse yourself in another culture and grow in ways you never imagined. There is no fee to participate and 2024 applications close February 15. Visit [mcc.org/salt](http://mcc.org/salt) for more information and to apply.

**CMU:** The 2024 John and Margaret Friesen Lecture Series, "Revisiting the Mennonite Experience in Ukraine," featuring Dr. Nataliya Venger, Professor of History and Chair of the World History Department at the Dnipropetrovsk University of Ukraine, takes place on Thursday, January 18 at 11 AM and 7 PM CST. Visit [cmu.ca/friesenlectures](http://cmu.ca/friesenlectures) for more information and lecture locations.

**MCM Mondays** start on Jan 8, 7:30pm on Zoom. These sessions are meant for everyone in the congregation who is interested in the topic. We're starting off with: "Pastors, do we need them?" [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays) for more info and the Zoom link.