

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona
Worship Service

January 15, 2023, 10:30 am

"Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering and Praise

Music Praise Him, Praise Him HWB 100

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music For the Beauty of the Earth HWB 89

Offering Wings of an Eagle

Hearing God's Word

Children's Story

Scripture Isaiah 40:27-31

Sermon Hope for Today

Responding to God's Word

Music How Deep the Father's Love

ABC Conversation with Amanda Wiens

Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Music We Praise Thee O God HWB 99

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert Worship Leader: Grace Harms
Children's story: Terrell Wiebe
Music: Glenys Voth and Lorraine Hamm

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

~ **International witness:** Pray for security, peace and wisdom for congregations of the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso. They had planned to gather for annual January meetings in KénéDougou province, but terrorist attacks have increased in recent weeks. Authorities have asked churches to decrease public gatherings.

Witness workers Werner and Joanne De Jong ask you to pray for the safety of students traveling to and from the Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia over their Christmas break (around Jan.7). Pray for Werner as he mentors four graduate students working on final research papers.

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

Jake Bergen Jan. 15

Jake Enns Jan. 20

Trudy Enns Jan. 15

Amanda Heinrichs Jan. 20

Clarence Friesen Jan. 15

WORSHIP CALENDAR

On Jan 22 we begin a 4-week worship series on the **Characteristics of God**. We will explore the question; What is God like? In preparation, you are invited to reflect on what you think about when you hear the word God, who or what comes to mind?

January 15: Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday

January 22: God is Good

January 29: God is Just

February 5: Music Sunday

February 12: God is Holy

February 19: God is ...

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 south wing

Ventures: Wednesdays from 7:00-8:15 pm in the church basement

Youth will begin again this Wednesday at 7:00. For this first event, all youth grades 7-12 are invited. We will be starting the year with a few activities that will help me get to know you, sharing some food, and by answering the very important question, "Who is the stretchiest?"

FROM THE PASTOR – Terrell Wiebe

To minister is to attend to the needs of another.

So, are you a minister?

When we come together as a church family, one of the things we are called to do is minister to one another. As Christ ministers to us, so too are we, filled by the power of the Holy Spirit, to minister to each other. This includes our youth. You are called to attend to the needs of the youth in this church, just as they are called to attend to your needs.

As the youth pastor, it is my desire to help this congregation become a body of believers that attends to the needs of its youth. In other words, I want to help us all become youth ministers.

How might you attend to the needs of our youth?

Did you know that roughly 50% of students walk away from church after they graduate high school? The Fuller Youth Institute has produced a study called "Sticky Faith" that details four important factors that are present in the lives of young adults whose faith has "stuck" with them through their transition from high school into adulthood.

Those four factors are:

- Intergenerational relationships within the congregation
- An understanding of the gospel that integrates faith into all aspects of life
- Parents that nurture faith in their families
- Having a safe place to share doubts and questions about faith and life

Perhaps one of the above might spark in you an idea about how you can attend to the needs of our youth. In my upcoming "From the pastor" segments, I will focus more intentionally on these factors. And, if there is a way that you believe you can minister to the youth of this congregation, then I would love if you would share it with me!

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Finance and Maintenance is pleased to welcome Agustin Alcantara as the new church custodian, replacing Cheryl Harder and Jolene Friesen-Stoesz, effective January 2nd. Agustin and his family live in Altona, where he is employed at Friesens.

Sermon discussion Tuesdays at noon.

Save the Date! Annual general meeting Sunday, February 26.

Mennonite Church Manitoba's annual gathering will be held on March 3-4, 2023, Friday evening and Saturday, at Douglas Mennonite Church in Winnipeg. Our Gathering 2023 theme is "Re-Imagining Church Together." In light of changes in church and society during the past few years, we as congregations and as a regional church are asking questions like, "Who are we?" and "What is God calling us to be and to do now, in this time and place?" At Gathering 2023 we will explore these questions together, drawing on the hopeful promise of Ephesians 3:20-21. You can find more information about Gathering 2023 at www.mennochurch.mb.ca/gatherin. **If you are interested in representing ABC at this event, please be in touch with the church office.**

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CMU: Mathematics for Human Flourishing: A Public Lecture with Dr. Francis Su – How can mathematics connect to our deepest human longings, such as for beauty, truth, or justice? Math is a deeply human enterprise that when properly engaged builds virtues like persistence, creativity, and an expectation of enchantment. Thursday, February 2 at 7:00 PM at CMU. Visit cmu.ca/sir for details and livestream.

Pembina Valley Counselling: There's been so much work done to get our new location finished up in the Altona mall (thank you to our many sponsors and donors). The locals will say... we are in the previous dentist office beside Ten Thousand Villages space.

MCM updates: Upcoming pastoral installations:

- January 29: Jonathan Neufeld at Charleswood Mennonite Church
- February 12: Tobia Veith at Douglas Mennonite Church
- Dates TBD: Liz Brazier at Pinawa Christian Fellowship; Terrell Wiebe at Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church; Erika Enns Rodine at Altona Mennonite Church

MCI: Join our leadership team! MCI is looking to hire a full-time Director of Finance and Administration. Do you enjoy being a part of a collaborative team? Would you like to directly contribute to the decisions of an organization? Do you excel at engaging with prospective donors and stakeholders? Would you thrive in a youthful school environment? If so, we would love to speak with you! To find out more about this position, or to submit a cover letter and resume, please contact jenniferklippenstein@mciblues.net or visit mciblues.net.

We are also looking for volunteers in MCI's library! In the library, volunteers assist teachers by supervising students using that space for spares or classwork. We are in need of occasional library coverage on Wednesday & Thursday afternoons and morning and afternoon on Fridays. If you are willing to be on a contact list for library supervision or would like more information, please contact librarian Janna Wiebe by calling the school or emailing jannawiebe@mciblues.net.

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