

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona
Worship Service
January 1, 2023, 10:30 am

“But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth.” ~ 2 Thessalonians 2:13

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering and Praise

Music Come, thou Almighty King HWB 41
Call to Worship and Prayer
Music Praise the Lord, Sing Hallelujah VT 95
Offering

Hearing God's Word

Children's Story
Music We Praise Thee, O God VT 91
Scripture 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17, 2 Peter 1:3-11
Sermon Faithfulness for a New Year
Music Take My Life, and Let It Be VT 759

Waiting in Hope

Congregational prayer
Benediction
Music God Who Touches Earth with Beauty VT 550

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck
Worship Leader: Melissa Tiessen-Dyck
Children's story: Joe Wiens
Music: Tena Giesbrecht

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Rey Schellenberg at the Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** to Mark and Debbie Heinrichs and extended families at the passing of Mark's brother Myles Heinrichs. The funeral service will be held on January 3 in Winkler.
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** are extended to Henry and Elvira Peters at the passing of Henry's sister-in-law Dora Hildebrand Peters who passed away Dec. 27. The funeral will be Jan. 2 in the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church.
- ~ **International witness:** Join in prayer for Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission churches affected by heavy rains and subsequent flooding in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo. The flooding has resulted in deaths, destroyed roads, and lost homes. Pray for an end to the rains and for God's provision as those affected rebuild.
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**

Katie Krahn Jan. 1	Marilyn Friesen Jan. 5
Sheree Wahl Jan. 1	Anna Peters Jan. 5
Hilda Franz Jan. 4	Ed Martens Jan. 6
Bernie Friesen (Dorothy) Jan. 4	Sophia Friesen-Stoesz Jan. 7
Tena Giesbrecht Jan. 5	

WORSHIP CALENDAR

- January 1:** Welcoming the New Year
- January 8:** Worship with potluck brunch and conversation. Beginning at 9:30 am.

On Sunday January 8 we are integrating worship, fellowship and discernment! We will begin at 9:30 with a potluck brunch (bring brunch food to share such as egg dishes, pancakes, muffins, fruit, etc). Our worship time will include guest speaker Michael Pahl, director of Mennonite Church Manitoba. There will also be a time of conversation together, with our morning together concluding by noon. There will not be Sunday school on this day, children will be included in our worship and conversations.

FROM THE PASTOR – From a former pastor's home:

Beloved ones of ABC, Merry Christmas and Christ's blessings to you all! We wanted to send an update to all of you regarding our transition and to offer blessing for Terrell joining as pastor.

Our transition has overall been a very good experience. We have definitely been learning a lot as first-time homeowners which has been interesting, fun, and sometimes stressful. It has also been so good to be near family. In our short time back there have been some difficult family issues that have come up, and it has been a blessing to be close by.

I (Josh) am greatly enjoying my role as pastor of First Mennonite Church in Beatrice. Like everything, there is a bit of a learning curve but I have felt confident and comfortable in my abilities to lead a congregation and owe that in part to my experience of ministry among you all. I am getting to do a bit of everything from preaching every Sunday, to coffee times with men's and women's group, to regular visits, and even some occasional youth ministry opportunities.

I (Steph) experienced some turbulence with my work here. I started out at the University, but quickly realized the two-hour commute was not enjoyable. I was excited to find an accounting job here in Beatrice just five minutes from our house, which has been such a blessing! I am looking forward to what the future with this company will bring! In my free time, I taught a budgeting class at a ministry for mothers. Josh and I have also been inquiring about joining the local community orchestra!

We also rejoice with you all as you have called Terrell to serve as pastor among you! We want to offer our enthusiastic support in this time of transition, and we are praying for Terrell, Jana, their family, and all of you.

We miss you all and think of you often. We are grateful that you are a part of our story and that we are a part of yours.

May God abundantly bless you all in the coming new year.

Grace and peace,
Josh and Steph

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Church Council is thrilled to announce that Terrell Wiebe has accepted your invitation to join the Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church staff in the position of Youth and Family Pastor. He will begin his ministry with youth in the 2nd week of January.

Sermon discussion resumes this week, Tuesday January 3 at noon.

Pastor Virginia returns from her vacation on Tuesday, Jan 3.

Mitten Tree: You are welcome to donate mittens, toques and scarves to the office. We will send some to "Share the warmth" Altona and others to places of need in Winnipeg.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MCC: Need a last-minute gift? Buy a book for someone else's library and support peace education in Rwanda with MCC. Our Christmas Giving guide is online and you can transform a life this Christmas through the gift of books, chickens, sewing machines, or room at the inn. Check out mccmb.ca/Christmas.

CMU: Find Canadian Mennonite feature articles when searching CommonWord: As part of our work of aggregating important Anabaptist resources in one location, we are pleased to now link to over 200 of Canadian Mennonite's feature articles on topics important to the church. Also find our other partner materials (CMU, Herald Press, CMU Press, Mennonite Heritage Archives, Together in Worship, The MennoCast, Mennonite Central Committee, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Mennonite World Conference, Institute of Mennonite Studies, and others).

Mennonite World Conference: We pray for the MC Canada congregations and pastors who are recovering from the pandemic. Attendance at worship has decreased and many pastors are feeling tired and uncertain about the future, yet we have hope that God is doing a new thing in this time. While new ways of being the church are beginning to emerge, many still grieve what was. Pray that we may have the humility admit our longings to God the courage to follow Jesus to the place where the church in Canada will be renewed.
- submitted by Doug Klassen, executive minister, Mennonite Church Canada

Indigenous Settler Relations: New Blood Play - February 19.

Save the date! A play about reconciliation featuring poetry, music, contemporary and traditional dance at Jubilee Place. 173 Talbot, Winnipeg. Tickets: \$10 (+ fees),
Info: www.mennochurch.mb.ca/newblood

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