

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona  
Worship Service*

*January 29, 2023, 10:30 am*

*“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who ...  
went out around nine in the morning and saw  
others standing around the marketplace doing  
nothing. He said to them, “You also go into the  
vineyard, and I’ll pay you whatever is right.”*

*Matthew 20:1a-3-4*

Welcome and Announcements

**Gathering and Praise**

Music Come Away From Rush and Hurry VT 9

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy HWB 145

Offering

**Hearing God’s Word**

Children’s Story

Music There’s No One In This World Like Jesus VT 68

Scripture Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon God’s Justice of Enough

**Responding to God’s Word**

Music I Sought the Lord HWB 506

ABC Conversation with Lisa Hiebert Penner

Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Music Go, My Friends, In Grace STS 57

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**Sermon:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

**Worship Leader:** Harold Schlegel **Children’s story:** Grace Harms

**Music:** ABC Ensemble

**PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

~ **Hospitalized:** Shirley Toews and Edna Klippensten are at the Altona Health Centre.

~ **Our love and sympathy** are extended to Mary and Art Dyck at the passing of their sister-in-law Faye Suderman who died on Jan. 13. There will be a private funeral in Portage la Prairie Jan. 28.

~ **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.

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

Marilyn Friesen February 2

Ben Hildebrand February 2

Alvin Kehler February 2

Hannah Loepky February 4

**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 ...

Darryl Neustaeter Barg will lead us in music and story as we sing from the new Voices Together hymnal and learn some of the stories and meanings behind the songs that were included. Darryl was a part of the song committee that created the hymnal.

## **FROM THE PASTOR – Virginia Gerbrandt Richert**

February is often thought of as the month of love. It is when many celebrate Valentine's Day, and schools plan "I love to read" month. This year at ABC we are planning ways to express our love and encouragement for our church and the individuals within it.

Part of this idea was inspired by the encouragement walls we see at camp among the staff. And part of this idea came from church council's brain storming. We are going to put up a bulletin board in the foyer on Feb. 4 with a sign that says, "**Why I love this Church.**"

You are invited to pick up little pink heart shaped note papers or make your own and write on them reasons why you love this church, or words of encouragement to people that contribute to the life of the church. They can be notes to specific people, or to groups of people. The idea is to encourage and uplift. And we want everyone to participate! So, look at what the people around you are doing, and the events in our church community, and not just those leading up front, but all people participating, from the first hi when you walk in, to the last handshake and everything in between.

We'll do this for four weeks in February as a way to build up the church.

## **THIS WEEK AT ABC:**

- **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 the south wing.
- **Ventures:** Wednesdays from 7:00-8:15 pm in the church basement.
- **Youth Grades 7-12:** Wednesday from 7:00-9:00. Ultimate Mini Games Battle!
- **Book Study** Thursdays at 2:00 pm at Gardens on Tenth.
- **Tuesday noon:** Sermon discussion time.
- **Sunday, February 5** potluck lunch. Bring a dish to share.

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Save the date:** Annual general meeting Sunday, February 26.

**The Ventures club** will be hosting a cookie sale next Sunday, **February 5th in the foyer after church.** Cost is by donation and all funds raised will go towards MCC school kits.

**LOST:** A delicate chain with a small teardrop pendant (October birthstone). Lost on Sunday, January 22. Please call the church office if found.

**The donation receipts for 2022** will be in the mailboxes as of Sunday, Jan. 29 morning.

**On Sunday February 12** our worship service will have a time of commissioning for Pastor Terrell. Terrell will also be licensed on this day, receiving the credential "License toward Ordination." Church Council requested licensing for Terrell in light of his previous ministry experience, believing that this will empower him for his ministry among us. A representative from Mennonite\_Church Manitoba will be joining on this day to participate in Terrell's covenanting and licensing.

On February 12, we will be welcoming Terrell and Janna Wiebe as members of our congregation.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**MCM:** Singing our Journey: Sangerfest 2023. Sign-up (by February 15) to sing in the mass choirs (adult, youth, treble) celebrating the centenary of the Russlander Mennonite immigration to Canada. All are welcome. The event will take place at the Manitoba Centennial Concert Hall, July 15, 2023. More info at [www.mhsc.ca/soj](http://www.mhsc.ca/soj)

**Mennonite Church Canada:** You're invited to join a Zoom-based book study of "Walking Together" as part of the reconciliation journey. Authors Neill and Edith von Gunten bring a wealth of wisdom to the work of reconciliation, having connected and collaborated with Indigenous communities in Manitoba and beyond for almost fifty years. Open to participation across Canada. Hosted by MCEC. Begins on Feb. 15. Details and registration via link at <https://mcec.ca/event/21748-2023-02-15-walking-together-book-study-feb-15>

**MCC:** The acclaimed theatre show, New Blood, is coming to Winnipeg/Treaty 1 territory on Sunday, February 19 at 7:00pm at Jubilee Place Theatre, 173 Talbot Ave., Winnipeg. Featuring poetry, music, contemporary and traditional dance, the show is inspired by the life of Chief Vincent Yellow Old Woman and his experience as a child in residential school, how he reclaimed his way of life and became chief of his people. For full event information and tickets, visit [mennochurch.mb.ca/newblood](http://mennochurch.mb.ca/newblood) or see the event on [Facebook](#).

**CMU:** Vivace Voices – A choir for people living with Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia and their caregivers. Learn to sing new and familiar music while making connections with those around you. Mondays, 6:30–7:30 pm until April 5, cost \$145/pair. Visit [cmu.ca/csma](http://cmu.ca/csma).

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