

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA

Sunday, July 14, 2024, 10:30 am

This is what God the Lord says - the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: "I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness, I am the Lord; that is my name. I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols."

Gathering and Praise

Announcements

Hymn I Sing the Mighty Power of God HWB 46

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn Comfort, Comfort, Oh My People HWB 176
Fear Not (words in bulletin)

Entering God's Story

Offering Be At Rest (VT 532 words in bulletin)

Scripture Isaiah 40:1-2; 41:8-10; 42:5-7; 43:4,15-19;
48:20-22; 49:6, 8-10

Sermon God's Light to the Nations

Responding in Faith

Hymn For the Healing HWB 367

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn You are Salt for the Earth HWB 226

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert **Worship Leading:** Sharon Friesen

Music: Andrew Richert

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Hymns will not be projected. You can find songs in the hymnbook or the bulletin. Children's bulletins are available in the foyer.

We are in the midst of sermon series on the biblical prophets called, "God's Spokespeople". In this series we'll be exploring the message of the prophets in their contexts and seek a prophetic imagination for our present time.

July 7: Babylon and the announcement of judgement: Speaker: Terrell
July 14: 2nd Isaiah and the announcement of comfort: Speaker: Virginia
July 21: Prophets after exile. Speaker: Mark

FROM THE PASTOR: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

I know some people loved the heat that we experienced this last week, while others might have been less than enthusiastic about it. I go back and forth on it; I love the way it helps our garden and flowers flourish, but don't always like going for walks in the middle of the day. When I heard the heat warnings, I was reminded of the risks that this weather poses especially to the most vulnerable; the very young and the very old, and others with health complications.

Currently, I am aware of 20 individuals from our congregation that are living in personal care homes or assisted living facilities. They are vulnerable to more than just extreme heat and weather, but for assistance with their everyday tasks. I invite you to join me in prayer for these individuals, as well as their families and healthcare professionals that care for them on a daily basis.

At Eastview Personal Care Home: Tina Braun, Katherine Friesen, Alvin Kehler, Anne Kehler, Gladys Hildebrand, Hilda Klassen, Katie Krahn, Nettie Neufeld, Carol Sawatzky, Helen Schulz, Sara Stoesz, Jake Rempel, Hilda Wiebe

At The Gardens Apartments: Elsie Heide, Clara Kehler, Ken Penner.

At Red River Valley in Morris: Mary Sawatzky

At Salem in Winkler: Helen Thiessen

At Heritage in Niverville: Rey Schellenberg

At Lindenwood Terrace in Winnipeg: Gert Kehler

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

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Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324.5990, C 1.204.771.3406, marktd@abchurch.ca

Assoc. Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, C 304.6119 viriniagr@abchurch.ca

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,
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FEAR NOT

Fear not, for I have redeemed you
 I've called you by name, and you are mine
 When you pass through the waters,
 I will be with you
 When you pass through the fires,
 You will not be burned.

Oh God, I want to serve you
 To do your will, to trust, to obey
 Still sometimes I wonder,
 Where you are leading
 And when I listen, I hear you say ...

BE AT REST

Be at rest once more, O my soul.
 Be at rest once more, O my soul,
 For the Lord has been good,
 Oh, the Lord has been good,
 Oh, the Lord has been good to you.



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER AND PRAISE:

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

Dave Harms- July 18

We wish Virginia Gerbrandt Richert and Andrew Richert a happy 10-year wedding anniversary on July 19!

Hospitalized: Shirley Shellenberg is at the Altona Health Centre.

Indigenous Relations: Mennonite Church Canada partner Community Peacemaker Team's Turtle Island Solidarity Network is offering a Summer 2024 delegation to Grassy Narrows, ON. Through this delegation we will explore themes such as environmental racism, class oppression, police and prison abolition movements, Indigenous solidarity, and allyship. More information: <https://cpt.org/delegations/tisn>

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Sun. July 14, 10:30: Church service.

Tue. July 16, 10:30 am: Coffee with the church staff.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS:

Sun, July 28, 9-10 am: Informal gathering with coffee in the church library (and possibly some sharing about Matheson Island by Mark and Terrell). *Sunflower festival worship service at 10:30 in the park.*

Sun. Sept. 8: Baptism.

Fri-Sat. Sept. 28-29: Church retreat at Camp Assiniboia.

Sun. Oct. 27: Brunch Church with David Scott.

Pastor Mark is on vacation and will return July 16. **Pastor Terrell** is on vacation and will return on July 17.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunflower Festival Community Worship service is taking place Sunday July 28th 10:30 am at the festival main stage in the park. A freewill offering in support of Union Gospel Mission Winnipeg and Youth for Christ Altona will be taken. Cheques can be written out to Altona EMMC. *Before worship you're welcome to come to ABC for coffee from 9 – 10 am.*

MCM: Pastoral transitions:

- * Paul Dueck concluded a 6-month term as an Interim Pastor at Steinbach Mennonite at the end of June 2024.
- * Michelle Stoesz has resigned from her position as Associate Pastor at Steinbach Mennonite effective the end of July 2024.
- * Dale Friesen concluded 7 years as Associate Pastor at Douglas Mennonite at the end of June 2024.
- * Marvin Thiessen is retiring from his role as Lead Pastor of North Kildonan Mennonite in July 2024.
- * We join with the rest of MCM in thanking these individuals for their care, leadership and commitment to serving God by serving the congregation. God be with you all as you move onto other roles.
- * We join Steinbach Mennonite in thanking God for the willingness of Rick Neufeld who will begin a 6-month Intentional Interim Role at Steinbach Mennonite at the beginning of September 2024.