

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER AND PRAISE:

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

Doreen Sawatzky- July 28, Lily Niemczak- July 31,
Alfred Klippenstein- Aug. 2, Lloyd Loewen- Aug. 3

Congratulations to Henry and Tina Klassen who are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on August 2!

Our love and sympathy are extended to Amanda and Elmer Heinrichs and Rod and Susan Heinrichs for the passing of their brother-in-law, Doug Adams from Vernon BC. on July 18.

Hospitalized: Shirley Shellenberg is at the Altona Health Centre.

We want to continue to remember and pray for our members that are living in personal care and assisted living facilities:

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.

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

Red River Valley in Morris: Mary Sawatzky

Salem in Winkler: Helen Thiessen

Heritage in Niverville: Rey Schellenberg

Lindenwood Terrace in Winnipeg: Gert Kehler

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Sun. July 28, 9-10 am: Pre-Church coffee in the library. No service at ABC. You are invited to attend the festival service in the park.

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

Next Sunday we begin a 5-week series called: Identity, Purpose, Baptism: Finding Our Place in God's Story. We will explore various call and identity forming passages from the Bible in preparation for our Baptism service on Sept 8.

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.

Staff summer vacations: Terrell will be on vacation from July 29-Aug. 11 and Aug. 19-25. Virginia will be on vacation from Aug. 24-31.

FROM THE PASTOR: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

I recently listened to a podcast where the host was interviewing a famous actor, that I was not familiar with (Nick Offerman). The host said she begins all her interviews by asking for her guest's perspective on choices. From there the two went on to discuss a wide variety of life decisions, both big and small, and what guided them.

The guest on the podcast named 2 guiding principles he uses when debating what to decide. He did not rank them, but the first one he mentioned was the impact a decision would have on his family. Would a job or opportunity take him away from his household for too long? Some shows he auditioned for would have required him to relocate for 6 months, but he had to consider how that would impact his family life. Or would a particular project be received negatively by his extended family. His goal in acting is to bring joy and laughter to the world, but not at the expense of others.

His second guiding principle was that of service. He grew up in a rural farming community, where everyone around him pitched in. He sees his life as a miracle gift, his body, his mind, and his heart. He said he tried being lazy and self-indulgent as an adult and that lasted about 5 minutes until he realized that he has received so much; he strives to give back in whatever way he can.

I found this to be an inspiring way of approaching choices in our lives. Though this was not a faith-based podcast, I found myself adapting this approach into a faith-based framework. We are called into relationships with others, and need to be mindful of these as we make choices in our lives, and as Christians we have been called to love others as Christ has loved us, which is also a call to service.

Though the guest admitted this framework came out of a place of privilege and not necessity it is a good reminder to acknowledge and name what is truly guiding our decision making process.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

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