

Welcome to the Bergthaler Mennonite  
Church of Altona  
Sunday, July 9, 2023  
10:30 am

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*"What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is  
proclaimed in every way, whether out of false  
motives or true, and in that I rejoice."  
Philippians 1:18 a*

**Gathering and Praise**

Welcome and Announcements

Music God of the earth, the sky, the sea HWB 53

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music For the beauty of the earth HWB 89 (vs 1,2,4,5)

Offering

**Hearing God's Word**

Scripture Philippians 1:12-20

Sermon The motivation we share

**Responding in Trust**

Music God of grace and God of glory HWB 366

Prayer of the Church and the World

Benediction

Music In Christ there is no east or west HWB 306

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Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert  
Worship Leading: Terrell Wiebe  
Music: Margaret Klassen and Milly Klassen

**PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

**Hospitalized:** Helen Voth at the Altona Health Centre.

**In partnership** with the Living Word Church in Cross Lake, Sterling, Douglas, and Fort Garry Fellowship will be sending 38 volunteers to Pimicikamak Cree Nation to offer children's activities, leadership and sports programs. Please pray for the group as they travel, learn together, and make connections, July 8-15.

**We extend our congratulations** to Bill and Margaret Friesen on a momentous wedding anniversary of 60 years on July 7!

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

Erna Loeppky July 9

**WORSHIP CALENDAR**

Today we begin a four-week sermon series preaching through Paul's letter to the Philippians.

**July 9:** Thanksgiving. Speaker: Virginia

**July 16:** The Imitation of Christ. Speaker: Mark

**July 23:** What Matters. Speaker: Terrell

**July 30:** Sunflower Festival community worship service.

**August 6:** Endurance: Virginia

**Over the summer months** the pastors will be taking some vacation time. During the times when pastors are on vacation they will not be at the church, checking emails, or attending to church matters. There will always be at least one of the pastors around in case you need to be in touch.

**Pastors vacation time:**

Mark: July 3 – July 10 and July 29 – August 7

Virginia: August 7-13

Terrell: July 10-16, 23-26, August 2-15

For July and August the **administrative office** will be open Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

## FROM THE PASTOR: Terrell Wiebe

Hear me quickly, Lord,  
for my mind soon wanders to other things

I am more familiar with  
and more concerned about  
than I am with you.

*Guerillas of Grace: Prayer for the Battle* – By Ted Loder

I admire this prayer for its brutal honesty. How many of us, like Ted Loder, struggle with remaining focused on God, even in times we have specially dedicated for the purpose of prayer? My own mind whirls ahead to the coming events of the week or fly's backwards to review what has been said and done. Worries, excitements, ideas, and a host of other emotions and thoughts tear my attention away from God and place it back firmly on myself.

A spiritual guide once talked about what to do in times of distraction. Take the thought that has caused your attention to wander, hold it in your mind, name it as important, and then either imagine laying it aside to refocus attention on God, or bring it to God in prayer.

For me, this helps. But it is not a cure all. The struggle remains.

I remember being shocked at some point in my late teen years that adults did not have prayer all figured out. Growing up, I don't ever remember hearing anything like Ted's honesty in the prayer above. However, it's possible my mind had wandered. 😊. Ted's words show honesty to God, honesty to himself, and honesty to others.

Young people today value in their elder's authenticity over answers. Perhaps, in a similar way, honesty is more important for our faith and the faith of the community than pretending to have it all figured out. Can we speak this prayer and embrace honesty to God, to ourselves, and to our community?

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**Assoc. Pastor:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, C 304-6119 virginia@abchurch.ca

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## THIS WEEK AT ABC:

**Sunday, July 9, 9:15 am,** Discipleship class.

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Children's bulletins are back for the summer!** Starting this Sunday until after Labour Day there will *not* be a children's story, rather kids are invited to pick up a children's bulletin in the foyer before the service begins. Kids will still be invited to participate in the coin collection offering each Sunday.

**ABC goes to camp! September 16-17.** We need to start getting a sense of how many people we will be. The cost for overnight and meals is \$86 per adult and \$52 per child. This also includes the use of most of the camp activities and facilities. People can also come out for worship and the day on Sunday. We are asking people to let the church office know your plans by the end of July about overnight, with payment due at the beginning of September. Having a retreat costs money—some people can cover it and it is not a burden, for others it impacts their decision more. We are looking at ways of cost sharing. If you are interested in helping reduce the cost for others, be in touch with one of the pastors.

**SPECIAL NOTE: The A.B.C. audio-visual technician team** is unable to coordinate livestreaming of Sunday morning worship services during the summer months. This is due to only having 5 members on our team and summer holiday schedules. Since there will only be 1 technician scheduled each Sunday, there will also be no visuals ( music and lyrics, slideshows, ... ) during the Sunday morning worship service. Throughout the summer, we plan to record the audio and post that onto our YouTube channel during the following week. We apologize for any inconvenience. We also welcome conversations about what we do as audio-visual technicians and how you might be able to join our team as we work to support & share our worship services at A.B.C. - Submitted by Jason Driedger ( Mark Penner, Gord Sawatzky, Trevor Friesen-Stoesz,, Andrew Rempel and Ben Dueck).

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Common Word:** Recommended titles, to buy or borrow, for the lawn chair, hammock or beach blanket during the summer months  
– <https://www.commonword.ca/go/3480>

**Mennonite Church Canada:** Strategic planning and budget shifts, both in some regions and at the nationwide church level, have contributed to the decision to postpone the MC Canada in-person Gathering to the summer of 2025. This decision was confirmed at the MC Canada AGM on June 24, 2023.