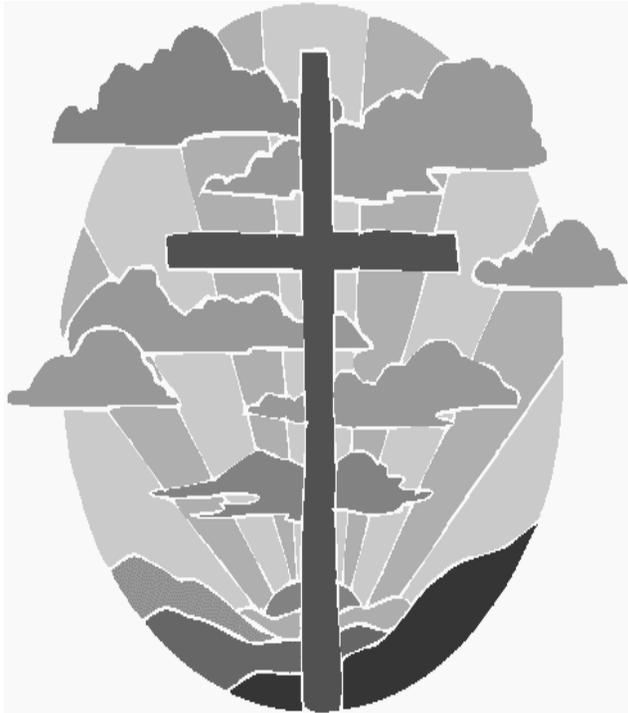


# Welcome to the Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona



**“For the fate of humans and the fate of animals is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and humans have no advantage over the animals, for all is vanity. All go to one place, all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again.” Ecclesiastes 3:19-20**

## **Gathering and Praise**

Welcome and Announcements

Music Beautiful Saviour VT 130

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music What a Fellowship VT 160

Offering In Thy Holy Place We Bow VT 40

Turn, Turn, Turn (Ecclesiastes)

## **Hearing God's Word**

Children's Story

Scripture Ecclesiastes 3:16-22, 8:14-17

Sermon Wisdom For a World That Doesn't  
Make Sense

## **Responding in Trust**

Music When Pain or Sorrow/Hold On VT 612

Prayer of the Church and the World

Benediction

Music My Life Flows On VT 605

**Sunday, June 18, 2023**  
Worship Service 10:30 am

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Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck  
Worship Leading: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert  
Music: Hilda Franz and Andrew Richert  
Children's Story: Amanda Wiens

## FROM THE PASTOR – Pastor Terrell

Division or love?

Monday, we vote for a new member of parliament to represent our area. If you are like me, you are ready for it to be over and done with. A common strategy that we have seen from most parties in the last number of elections is to name an enemy that somehow represents the primary problem or threatens those who are part of their camp. This leads to an increase in fear, suspicion, judgement, self righteousness, and even hatred. All of which have been on display in our riding these past few weeks.

How is the church to respond in such times? In the May 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Canadian Mennonite*, columnist Troy Watson wrote, “One thing that makes the movement of Christ different is that it’s not a rally against a common enemy group. It’s a movement of allowing the power of love to break through the illusion of division and separation.” If the church is in the business of seeing God’s “kingdom of justice, love and peace” brought about in our world, then we cannot rely on conventional power politics to make it happen. We must instead rely on the power of love. This power is at its most prominent when relationships are formed across those divides.

Commenting on the story of the Good Samaritan, philosopher Ivan Illich writes, “Jesus disrupted the frame that limited the conditions under which friendship could appear.” Barriers that had previously prevented relationships to form between the people of God and others were broken down by Jesus’ parable.

What barriers are in place today that limit those with whom we can reach out in friendship? In this election season, can we put aside fear, suspicion, judgement, and self righteousness, and reach out in love?

“...either we are going to love each other, or we are going to die ... either we are going to follow the rules of the Kingdom of God, or the situation is going to get infinitely worse.” – René Girard

## PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

**Hospitalized:** Helen Voth at the Altona Health Centre and Bill Bergman at the Boundary Trails Health Centre.

**Saturday, June 24,** there will be a memorial service for Don and Chris Penner at ABC beginning at 3 pm.

**Menonite Church Canada Climate Action:** Pray for inspiration and motivation to build the skills and knowledge base needed to advocate for policy changes that will limit greenhouse gas emissions where you live, and across the country. And pray for open pathways as your church seeks to practice these skills locally, regionally, and nationally!

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

Freida Sawatzky June 18 Brenda Braun June 22  
Helen Kuhl June 18 Elaine Friesen June 22  
Rowan Wiebe June 20

## WORSHIP CALENDAR

We are in the midst of a sermon series called “Living Well, Living Wise” based on the Bible’s Wisdom Literature.

**May 14.** Speaker: Mark. Proverbs: “The search for knowledge” part 1.

**May 21.** Speaker: Mark. Proverbs: “The search for knowledge” part 2.

**May 28.** Speaker: Virginia. Pentecost celebration with Communion.

**June 4.** Speaker: Virginia. Ecclesiastes: “The search for meaning” part 1

**June 11.** Church picnic & POTLUCK. Sharing about beauty

**June 18.** Speaker: Mark. Ecclesiastes: “The search for Meaning” part 2

**June 25.** Speaker: Terrell. Job: “The search for justice” part 1

**July 2.** Speaker: Mark. Job: “The search for justice” Part 2.

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**Worship Services available online at:** [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca)

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**Assoc. Pastor:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, C 304-6119 [viriniagr@abchurch.ca](mailto:viriniagr@abchurch.ca)

**Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries:** Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,

C 204.417.8200, [terrellw@abchurch.ca](mailto:terrellw@abchurch.ca)

## THIS WEEK AT ABC

**Thursday, June 22**, Church Council meeting at 7 pm.

**Saturday, June 24**, 3 pm, Memorial service for Don and Chris Penner.

### CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Discipleship classes** will occur over the summer months, Sunday morning at 9:15, beginning next **Sunday June 25**.

Discipleship classes are for people of all ages interested in exploring what it means to follow Jesus today. Topics include (but are not limited to): understanding the biblical story, what is Anabaptism, Christian convictions and church history, the significance of Jesus, and growing in our journey with him. Classes will include teaching by the pastors and also dialogue and conversation.

If you are intrigued by the thought of being baptised, you are warmly invited to participate!

Be in touch with one of the pastors if you are interested.

**SAVE. THE. DATE. ABC goes to camp!** September 16-17 at Camp Assiniboia. Saturday we will explore the camp and do some group activities. Overnight we will stay in the cabins and Sunday we will move our worship service to camp, have lunch and enjoy the beautiful setting together. More details to come.

**Randy Klassen** former pastor of our congregation and currently pastoring at St. Catharines United Mennonite church, is retiring after 45 years of pastoral service. St. Catharines church in Ontario are collecting notes and well wishes from communities and former congregants and we are invited to share as well! Any notes for Randy can be emailed to Ang at the church office, by Wednesday June 21. We will collectively send them as a church.

**Camp sponsorship** from ABC is available. Forms are available at the church office and are due back June 26.

**If you would like to be on a funeral serving group**, please call or text Marilyn Friesen at 204.304.3814.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**MCC:** Crisis in East Africa – your donation will be matched. In East Africa, extreme hunger is a growing threat. Conflict, climate change and economic shocks are driving hunger to increasingly high levels. MCC is responding in countries like Ethiopia, South Sudan, DR Congo, and Kenya. Donate to food projects today and you can double your impact. Donations made by individual Canadians until June 30 are eligible to be matched by the Government of Canada, up to \$5 million. Visit [mccmb.ca/crisis-east-africa](http://mccmb.ca/crisis-east-africa) to donate today.

**CMU:** Let's Call CMU Forward Together on June 21 – The CMU Board invites all friends of CMU to support the mission of CMU through "Faspa on the Lawn", a family friendly event that includes a light supper and short program of music and interviews on the north side lawn. Come hear what's going on, what's new, and why our world needs CMU! There will be a bouncy castle and other activities for children. Wednesday, June 21 at 6:30 PM (children's activities begin at 6:00 PM). For more information and to register visit, [cmu.ca/faspa](http://cmu.ca/faspa).

**Eastview Personal Care Home** is asking for volunteers for gardening work, taking care of the planters in the courtyards, and for interactions with the residents. Covid restrictions are gone. If you would like to help with games and meals, interacting with residents, a criminal record check is needed. If you would like to be a plant person, bringing or tending to flowers and other plants, no checks needed. (As before, if you have a cold or other respiratory symptoms, please stay home.) For information, contact Barb Dupuis, Recreation Coordinator, at 204 324 2375 or [ldupuis2@southernhealth.ca](mailto:ldupuis2@southernhealth.ca)

**Eden Foundation** invites antique tractor owners to join the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Tractor Trek for July 8. Register in person at EHCS, or online at <http://give.edenhealthcare.ca/wtt2023> See the poster on the lobby bulletin board.