

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
Of Altona*



Sunday, March 19, 2023

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona
Worship Service*

March 19, 2023, 10:30 am

“And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.” ~ Colossians 2:13-15

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Music All People That On Earth Do Dwell VT 5

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music My Soul Cries Out VT 412

Offering This Little Light Of Mine

Hearing God's Word

Children's story

Scripture Hebrews 2:10-18

Sermon Victory Through the Cross

Confessing and Reconciling

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Music Lord Jesus You Shall Be My Song VT 581

Responding in Trust

Prayer of the Church and the World

Benediction

Music There's a Wild Hope in the Wind VT 828

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck
Worship Leader: James Friesen
Children's story: Jason Driedger
Music: Andrew Richert

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Thank you** to those who have reached out in prayer, support and care as Hannah begins a new journey with her second home and new day program in Winnipeg through DASCH agencies. Hannah will begin an exciting new life this week. We are all filled with emotions and know that through God's love we can all thrive together - Ang, Byron and Hannah Loeppky.
- ~ **Last week the ventures** clubs made 60 school kits for Mennonite Central Committee! These school kits will help kids around the world go to school. We are grateful for the kid's enthusiasm in making the kits and for the extra volunteers who helped with the sewing.
- ~ **International witness:** Pray for Witness workers Werner and Joanne De Jong as they teach and mentor students in the Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia. See Joanne's Lent reflections on fear: <https://mcab.ca/article/11301-what-are-you-afraid-of>
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**
Hannah Tiessen-Dyck March 22

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Our worship series for Lent is called "Why did Jesus die?" We will be exploring the resistance Jesus experienced which led to his crucifixion and theological understandings of the saving significant of Jesus' death.

Feb 26: A service of confession and ashes. Speaker: Virginia

March 5: Exploring the atonement part 1. Penal substitutionary theology. Speaker: Mark

March 12: Exploring the atonement part 2. Moral influence theology. Speaker: Mark

March 19: Exploring the atonement part 3: Christus Victor theology. Speaker: Mark

March 26: Jesus and religious authorities. Speaker: Terrell

April 2: Jesus and Rome. Speaker: Virginia

April 7: Good Friday service with Communion.

April 9 Easter.

FROM THE PASTOR: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

I just returned to the office this week after a week of holidays. Some people have asked me if we got away, or we went to Saskatchewan. We went away as a family for one weekend. But the main goal of my holidays was to take time to rest, slow down and catch up with myself.

This is a hard thing to do sometimes and even harder to talk about. The culture around us values hard work and productivity. And we as Mennonites have embraced and sometimes exceeded these values. Years ago when a friend of mine, from a different culture, started a new job in Canada she was unsure how to respond when people asked her if she was working hard? It made her question how hard she needed to work before people would be satisfied.

Now, there is a growing awareness of the value, benefits and even calling for us as Christians to make sure to take time to rest. There are books and websites dedicated to encouraging and supporting these pursuits. There are breath prayers to help guide us to take short breaks through out the day, and there are mindfulness practices to help us disconnect from the activities and inputs around us.

And these ideas and practices are all deeply rooted and grounded in the words and teachings from our scriptures. In the story of creation, God rested on the seventh day. And then in the Ten Commandments God instituted this practice of Sabbath rest for the Israelites. When the prophet Elisha was feeling discouraged and alone God told him to rest and he would be renewed. Jesus himself took time to be alone and was even found sleeping in a boat when the disciples were fearing the worst when a storm came up.

So, I encourage you to find time this week to rest, rest from being productive, and rest in the presence of God. This might mean taking a nap, or reading a book, it might mean snuggling a little one or watching the snow fall. Enjoy the beauty that is around you and try not to worry about what else you could be doing.

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THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Sunday, March 19: Sunday school for ages 3-18 from 9:15-10:15 am in the basement of the education wing, youth are in the south wing.

Tuesdays lunch sermon discussion time

Ventures is done for the year!

Wednesday, March 22: 7:00 - 9:00, Youth (Gr. 7-12) Erika Enns Rodine joins us to lead one of her famous church wide night games!

Wednesday, March 22: 7 pm – Rescheduled Church Council meeting.

Thursday, March 23: Book study at Gardens on Tenth

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Terrell Wiebe is representing ABC at the covenanting service for Erika Enns Rodine at Altona Mennonite Church this morning.

Kids Coins: The coins collected since January will be going to the MCC Manitoba program called Grow Hope. This program sponsors farmland. Once the harvest is complete the proceeds of the crop are donated to MCC's account at Canadian Foodgrains Bank. You can find out more info here: <https://donate.mcccana.ca/cause/manitoba-grow-hope>
To date we have raised **over \$2,200**. \$1,426 went to MCC hygiene kits in fall and we have already raised \$800 for Grow Hope. This enabled us to support 2 acres of farmland.

The printer in the administrative office that has served us so well – you might know it as “11111” - will be going to electronics recycling. It has printed its last copy and crunched out its last copy. The parts for “11111” are obsolete. We rejoice that the second printer in office is working fine and you are welcome to use that for your copying needs!

Save the Date: Church wedding shower Thursday April 20.

Calling all artists: we are need of art for the front cover of our bulletins. During lent we are looking for images of Jesus or the cross. Or other images could be used for a later date. Please do them in black and white (pencil or pen) on plain white paper with nothing on the back. Half of an 8.5x11 works best but other sizes hopefully could be adapted. Be in touch with Ang or Virginia if you have any questions.

Anabaptist at Five Hundred Bible Study. We are coming upon the 500th anniversary of the start of the Anabaptist movement in 2025 and plans are in the works to create an Anabaptist study Bible. This will include reflections from 500 Anabaptist Bible study groups. Our church is planning to participate by hosting a 4 week Bible study on Thursday afternoons. If you are interested or have questions please be in touch with Pastor Virginia.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MCC: Tonight at 7 pm! A fundraising concert featuring Steve Bell in support of Turkiye and Syria. Free general admission with 100% of the proceeds will go to Turkey and Syria relief in partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank at Buhler Hall in Gretna. Donate at: foodgrainsbank.ca/earthquake.

Mennonite Church Manitoba: 21st Annual Manitoba Birding Retreat at Camp Arnes, June 2-4, 2023. This is a great event to experience God's creation with others who love bird watching. No experience required - special invitation to young birders, students, and novice birders of all ages. Children under 12 are FREE. Students of all ages 50% off registration. For more information, go to: www.campswithmeaning.org/birding-retreat

CMU: The Mennonite Community Orchestra presents, “The Power of Conversation” on Sunday, March 19 at 3:00 PM at the Lutheran Church of the Cross (560 Arlington Street). Visit cmu.ca/events for details and ticket information.

Blood donor clinic: Thursday, March 23 at the Altona Rhineland Pioneer Centre from **2:00 – 7:00 pm**. Please register to donate at Blood.ca

Southern Manitoba Choral Society presents “Give Us Peace” Sunday March 26 at 3 pm at ABC. Ben Kroeker is the conductor and Loren Hiebert is the pianist. A freewill offering will be taken.

Winkler Bible Camp: Drive Thru Fundraiser Meal on March 21 from 4:30-6:00 pm. Details on the Winkler Bible Camp website.

YFC Altona: You are invited to join us for the grand opening of YFC Altona's new facility (35 6th St SE, Altona). The grand opening event will take place Friday March 24th, the ribbon cutting ceremony will begin at 3pm, with an open house taking place immediately following and will be open until 8pm. This is a public event and everyone is welcome to join us. We hope to have you join us, as your support for this project has played an important role in making this entire project a reality. In addition to joining us for our grand opening ceremony, we look forward to the opportunity to show you the entire YFC Altona facility. Our staff and volunteers will be available to give tours of the facility and program areas, and answer any questions you may have. For more information please contact us or visit our website at yfcaltona.com