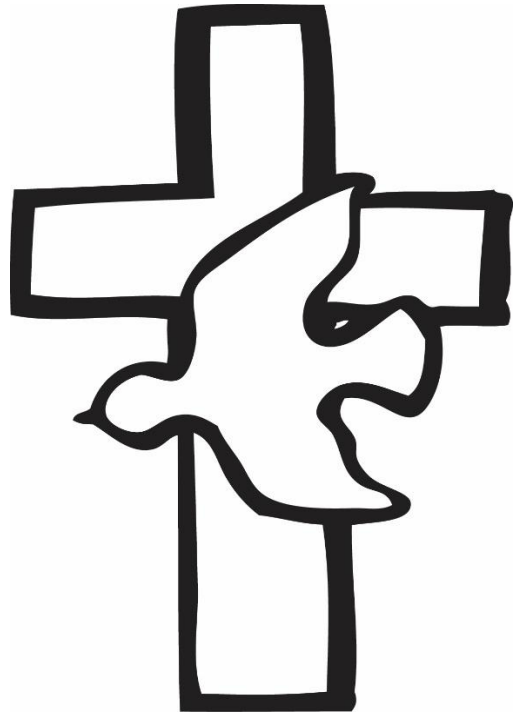


*Welcome to the  
Bergthaler Mennonite  
Church  
Of Altona*



*Sunday, March 26, 2023*

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona  
Worship Service*

*March 26, 2023, 10:30 am*

*“Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate.  
And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found  
this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of  
taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.”*

*Luke 23 1-2*

**Gathering and Praise**

Welcome and Announcements

Music Here in this Place VT 10

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music View the Present VT 407

Offering

**Hearing God’s Word**

Children’s story

Scripture Luke 6:1-10

Sermon Breaking Law or Breaking Chains?

**Confessing and Reconciling**

Music Praise, I Will Praise You Lord HWB 76

Sharing Time

Prayer of the Church and the World

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

**Responding in Trust**

Benediction

Music The Lord Lift You Up STJ 73

---

**Sermon:** Terrell Wiebe  
**Worship Leader:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert  
**Children’s story:** Joanna Ginter  
**Music:** ABC Ensemble

**PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

- ~ If you or your family would like a pastoral visit please let the church office know.
- ~ Pray for peace in Mindanao, Philippines, as Witness workers Dann and Joji Pantoja, continue to bring people together. Praise God for that the local military is listening to their perspective on justice-based peacebuilding, as reported in their latest newsletter: <https://www.waves.ca/reports/2023/02.2023.DannJoiNewsletter.pdf>
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**  
Jacob Friesen-Stoesz March 20    Ed Doell    March 31  
Irene Janz    March 29                    Stephanie Friesen    March 31  
Larry Tryon    March 30                    Maida Richert    March 31

**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.

Next Sunday, **April 2**, is the first Sunday of the month. We are planning an **Easter themes potluck breakfast at 9:15 am**. A simple potluck of paska, muffins or cheese.

**Save the date: Brunch church returns May 7**

I'm going to be using my next few pastors' desks to reflect on some issues related to funerals. I've been involved in leading about 50 funerals in my time as a pastor and have started to observe trends and issues that I feel are worth naming and reflecting upon.

First up...**Be careful what you wish for!**

I've experienced situations where people's funeral wishes are helpful to family and myself in planning a funeral that celebrates the person's life and God's faithfulness. I've also been in situations where an individual's funeral wishes cause guilt or awkwardness for their family or deprives others of proper grieving. Your funeral is not for you. You will be dead. Your funeral is for the people who remain. It is good to talk with your loved ones about matters such as burial location (or cremation), memorial donations, and your last will and testament, so that they are aware of your desires and can honour them. It can also be helpful to discuss scriptures, hymns, and tributes with family as well. However, these are matters it is best to hold lightly and grant your family the freedom to honour your life in the way that they need to. In one funeral I did, the deceased's wish was that there not be a sermon at the funeral. This individual did not consider how loved ones might grieve her death; she considered her funeral an opportunity to reflect her desires. Such a funeral wish would deprive mourners of hearing words of comfort (I did a shorter "meditation" instead of a "sermon"). One trend (accelerated by the pandemic) that many pastors are experiencing is smaller funerals, sometimes for only the family or by invitation only. These can be beautiful funerals as they tend to be intimate with more family sharing. However this also means that some people, including the church, are not given the opportunity to attend the funeral and receive this gift of time and space to grieve. I don't believe that there is a right way or a wrong way to do funerals, but it is important to remember that our funeral is not ours.

More to come in future pastors' desks.

### THIS WEEK AT ABC:

**Sunday, March 26:** 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

**Wednesday:** No youth this week. See you after spring break!

**Thursday, March 30: 2 pm,** Anabaptism at 500 bible study at Gardens on Tenth *beginning this week.*

**Sunday, April 2: 9:15 am,** Easter paska potluck breakfast

### CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**It's spring break** and pastor Mark and pastor Terrell will be taking vacation this week. Please be in touch with pastor Virginia for any pastoral concerns. Mark and Terrell will return to the office on April 4.

**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.

**Save the Date:** Church wedding shower Thursday April 20.

**Anabaptist at 500 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.

**Photographs and stories needed: Anabaptism at 500** invites photographers of all levels to submit inspiring photos and stories capturing Anabaptist Christians living out their faith. Selected photos and stories will be featured in a stunning full-colour photo book. Contributors will receive a complimentary copy. For more details see the poster in the lobby.

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**MCC: Spring has come – will you help us Grow Hope?** Global hunger is an ongoing crisis, and we need you to join with MCC and Manitoba farmers to help provide food where it's most needed. Through sponsoring acres on a local farm a \$1 donation can grow and through government matching could become as much as \$5!

Visit [mccmb.ca/GrowHope](http://mccmb.ca/GrowHope) for more information and to donate!

**Mennonite Church Manitoba: MCM Mondays** - March 27, 8:00pm online. **Indigenous Solidarity.** Our Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity (MCIS) is wanting to collaborate across the province to support each other on important actions. As we introduce our group, we also want to hear what your congregations are working on! Join the conversation as we build a movement of reconciliation in Manitoba. Find the Zoom link and future topics at:

[www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcmmondays)

**CMU: Canadian School of Peacebuilding** – Registration is now open for courses taught by local, national, and international peacebuilders to serve practitioners, professionals, activists, students, non-governmental organizations, and faith-based groups. June 5-9; 12-16. Visit [csop.cmu.ca](http://csop.cmu.ca).

**Southern Manitoba Choral Society** presents "Give Us Peace" **today**, 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.

**Eden Foundation fundraiser:** Sunday, April 2 at the Winkler Mennonite church at 2:30 pm. "Songs of Renewal" featuring the Winkler Community Male Choir with conductor Ray Giesbrecht, New Covenant Quartet and Jayme Giesbrecht and Linda Dueck. Donations gratefully accepted.

**Navigating Care Options Expo**– Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup>. Hosted by WSC Services for Seniors, Buhler Active Living Centre and Alzheimer's Society. Learn about the Care Options available in the Pembina Valley as care needs increase for you or your family member. Presentations by Home Care, Salem Home and Silver Lining Care 9am – 12pm Registration required by Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup> (cost \$10 includes lunch). Information Booths are free to attend from 12 to 2pm. For more information or to register, call Winkler Senior Centre at 204-325-8964.