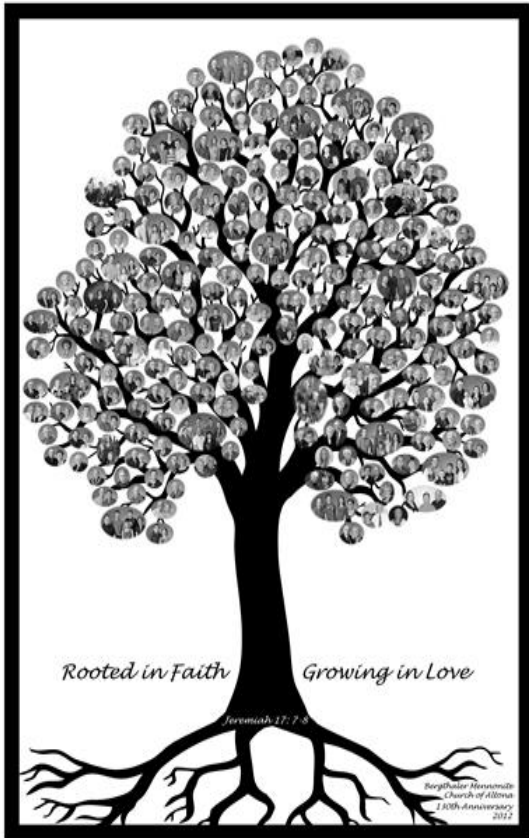


Welcome to the Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona



"As water reflects the face,
so the heart reflects one person to another."
~ Proverbs 27:19

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements
Music God of our Strength HWB 36
Call to Worship and Prayer
Music I Know Not Why HWB 338
Offering

Hearing God's Word

Children's Story
Scripture Proverbs 11:1-3, 15:28-16:3
Sermon Seeking Wisdom for our Time

Responding in Trust

Music Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom
VT 196
Prayer of the Church and World
Benediction
Music The Blessing

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck
Worship Leading: James Friesen
Music: Joyce Falk
Children's Story: Caroline Neufeld

Sunday, May 21, 2023

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona: 117 2 Street NW
Altona, MB, R0G 0B1

Web Page Address: abchurchcommunity.ca **Office:** 324.6717

E-mail: office@abchurch.ca **Facebook:** ABC community

Worship Services available online at: abchurchcommunity.ca

Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324.5990, C 204.771.3406, marktd@abchurch.ca

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

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,
C 204.417.8200, terrellw@abchurch.ca

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

Hospitalized: Linda Braun and Helen Voth at the Altona Health Centre.

Congratulations to Great Grandparents Hilda Franz and Ben Dyck. Emmett Lewis Martin was born to Liam and Asheligh Martin on May 8.

Thank you to all that were able to attend our Wedding Shower, and to the entire ABC family for the incredible support as we plan for our wedding. The gifts and donations were above and beyond anything we could have asked for, and to celebrate our wedding alongside two other couples made it even more special. We share our deepest thanks! – Craig and Courtney

Please pray that the woods, waters and open spaces of our summer campgrounds are filled with God's glory and that those who enter into them will understand their interconnectedness with creation in new ways!

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

Caroline Neufeld May 14 Kathy Dyck May 27

Grace Fehr May 23 Elva Loeppky May 27

Irene Kehler May 24

WORSHIP CALENDAR

We are beginning 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.

June 18. Speaker: Terrell. Job: "The search for justice" part 1

June 25. Speaker: Mark. Job: "The search for justice" part 2.

Occasionally, I would like to give the congregation a glimpse into what is happening over at South Wing during our youth events. If you arrived early to the service today, you will have had the pleasure of seeing a slideshow of photos from our photo scavenger hunt a few weeks ago. Teams were tasked to accomplish as many photos as possible in the time given. A few of the highlights were photos of the teams singing on a stage, "I can't believe we all fit in here!", acting terrified of something normal, doing exactly what the sign says, and re-enacting a statue in front of it. The groups gathered back in South Wing to look at each others' pictures, laugh, and argue endlessly over whether the instructions had been followed perfectly.

This past week our junior youth event was focused on asking questions. After a question-based line up game, we turned to the prophet Habakkuk, who had many difficult and pointed questions for God. We let Habakkuk be our inspiration as the youth were given time to come up with their own questions about life, faith, God, and the Bible. Each question was written down and placed into the question tub. We had over 40 questions!! I spent the next hour going through the questions one by one, responding where I could, and inviting others to share their own thoughts and responses. It was wonderful to see the variety and depth of the questions asked and even better to have the opportunity to discuss what is on the minds of our young people. They are deep thinkers! Here are a few questions that were asked:

- Is the Bible accurate?
- Why can't God take away all the bad in the world?
- If there is only one God, how is God always with everyone?
- When someone who believes in Jesus dies, do they go to heaven right away or do they wait until Jesus comes again?

At the conclusion of these questions, we returned to Habakkuk and God's response to him. God urges Habakkuk to wait for a coming day when all questions will be answered and all will be put right, and until then, to live by faith. What we can learn from this passage is that God allows and invites our questions but urges us to use those questions to draw us into a deeper relationship with God rather than distance us from God.

If you are ever curious about what is going on at youth feel free to ask me or one of our youth people. Even better, think about becoming a youth leader with me next fall and experience the joy of walking with our young people each week.

THIS WEEK AT ABC

Sunday, May 21, 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.

Friday at 7:00 p.m. - Saturday at 9:30 a.m. - Youth Lock in at the church! Games, late night snacks, video games, movies, and more! Bring everything you need for staying overnight. And for everyone who won't be there, keep us in your prayers!!!

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Sunday we will be pausing our Wisdom series to commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and birth of the Church. As has been the tradition in many churches, we will share communion together. We'll be doing communion differently this time. Instead of being served in our seats, everyone will be invited to come forward and receive communion in small groups at the front of the sanctuary. We will also ensure that people with mobility challenges are able to participate without needing to move to the front of the sanctuary. We encourage everyone to prepare for **communion**, and to experience this gift in a new way.

Pastor Terrell is taking his weekend off. He'll be back in the office on Tuesday May 23. **Pastor Virginia** is on vacation. She will return on Tuesday May 23.

All three pastors will be out of the office on Wednesday May 24 to participate in healthy boundaries training.

Looking for someone who can offer some advice/quick tutorial on printing different styles of word documents. If you have some time for this, please contact Ang at the church office.

A huge thank you to all who donated baked goods for the youth program. They are being thoroughly enjoyed! Containers will be returned as they are emptied. Containers will be returned once they've been used to the table in the foyer.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mennonite Church Manitoba: Good food is key. Camps Assiniboia (CA) and Koinonia (CK) still need kitchen help. CA: May 29-June 2; 5-9; July 2-7; 9-14; 30 - Aug 4; Aug 7-12. CK: July 9-14; 16-21; 23-28; 30 - Aug 4. Please contact the office at camps@mennochurch.mb.ca or 204-895-2267, or apply online at www.campswithmeaning.org/staff.

MCC: Sponsor Manitoba farmland to support farmers across the world! Did you know your sponsorship of Grow Hope acres in Manitoba can help grow [fishponds and kitchen gardens for families in Cambodia](#)? Supporting Grow Hope provides training for small scale farmers around the world to help them feed their families, and emergency food for people in crisis. Visit mccmb.ca/GrowHope. For more information and to donate!

CMU: War Crimes in Ukraine. Join CMU in welcoming Dr. Kjell Anderson and Dr. Orysia Kulick on May 24 for their presentation entitled "War Crimes in the Ukraine." The event takes place at 6:30 PM CDT at the Chapel at 500 Shaftesbury Blvd. and via Zoom. Visit cmu.ca/events for more information.

MCI: On Friday, May 26th, MCI will be hosting a Day in the Life for students in grade 8-11. DITL gives you the opportunity to experience life at MCI, from going to classes, meeting teachers, eating lunch in our dining hall, and going to chapel – all hosted by MCI students! To experience a DITL, contact Sophie at recruitment@mciblues.net or by calling the school (204-327-5891).

Sunday, June 4: **MCI's Saengerfest** in Buhler Hall, Gretna! Join us for a time of worship and a celebration of song. Worship service at 10:30 am, lunch (by donation) to follow, and concert at 2:00 pm. All are welcome to join us for any or all of the day!

Alzheimer's fundraising event on Wednesday, June 7th Starting at the Gardens on Tenth in Altona (140 10th Av NE) 9:30 am: Walker registration, 10:00 am: program, 10:30 am: Walk. BBQ lunch following the walk. Donations welcome!

YFC: Altona YFC's Golf Classic will be happening June 17th. This is a nine hole Texas Scramble tournament. Sign up ASAP to secure your spot. Visit yfcaltona.com for more info.