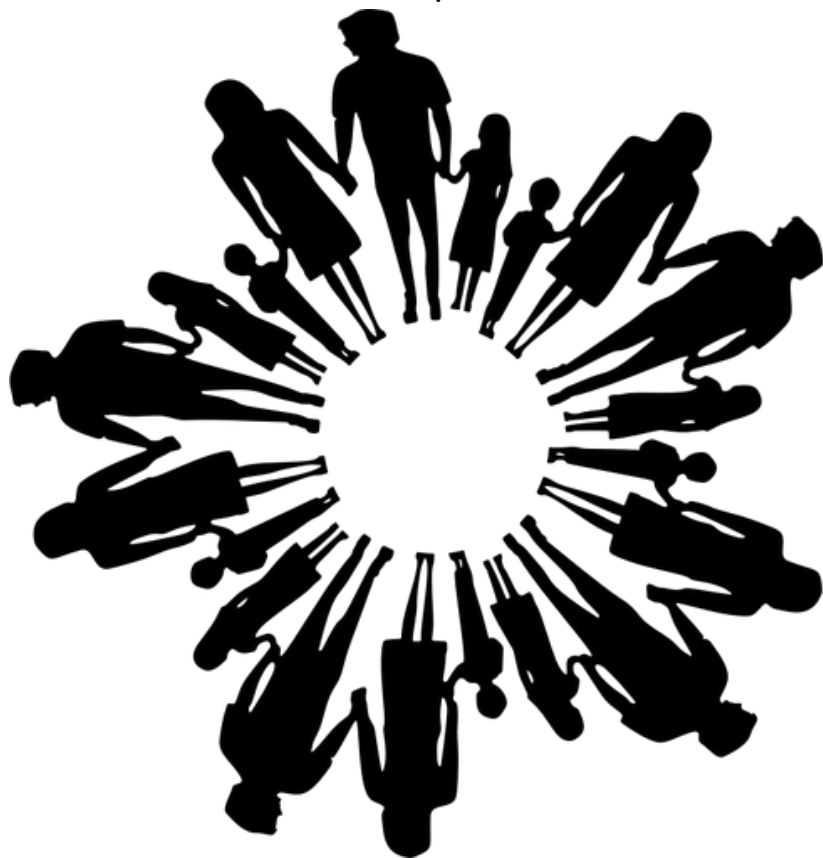


Welcome to the Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona



Sunday, May 28, 2023

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit." Acts ~2:1-2, 4a

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Music There are many Gifts VT 371

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music Breathe On Me Breath of God HWB 356

Prayer for the Offering, and Church and the World
Offering

Hearing God's Word

Children's Story

Scripture Genesis 1:1-2, 2:7 and Acts 2:1-4

Sermon The Promise of the Spirit today

Responding in Trust

Music Spirit of the Living God HWB 349

Celebration of Communion

Benediction

Music New Earth Heavens New VT 377

Everyone is welcome to participate in Communion by sharing the bread and cup. We will share Communion in small groups together at the front of the sanctuary. If you are not able to travel to the front of the sanctuary, we will serve you where you are seated.

Further instructions will be given verbally.

Gluten free bread is available in the paper cups on each plate.

Wine is red. Juice is clear.

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Worship Leading: Terrell Wiebe

Music: Glenys Voth

Children's Story: Delores Enns

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

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

Jonathan Neufeld, Indigenous Relations Coordinator, will be in BC this weekend to participate in the 8th annual Walk in the Spirit of Reconciliation. Participants walk on the beautiful land between Fort Langley and Mission, on the unceded territory of the Stó:lō nation, specifically the Katzie, Kwantlen, Leq'a:mel, Matsqui, Semiahmoo, and Whonnock First Nations. Pray that the walk will honour the people, land, ancestors, and children of the Stó:lō nation. More

info: <https://www.reconciliationwalk.com/>.

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

Elaine Erb	May 28	Henry Klassen	June 1
Dawson Wiens	May 28	Hugo Voth	June 2
Frances Friesen	May 29	Cora Richert	June 3
Erna Doell	May 31	Lyndon Toews	June 3
Albert Friesen	June 1		

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: Virginia. Job: "The search for justice" part 2

This will be the final installment of my pastor's desk series about funerals.

I never promise to do someone's funeral. Why? In keeping with Jesus' teaching, "let your 'yes' be 'yes' and your 'no' be 'no,'" it is not right to make commitments or promises that we cannot keep. I could be away on vacation, be seriously ill, or no longer be a pastor here when you die. (And there is the possibility that I will die before you, an obvious but often overlooked reality). Also, because funerals are a ministry of the church, I believe it is inappropriate for an individual pastor to promise to do someone's funeral because this is placing oneself above the church. Our ministry at a funeral, is a ministry on behalf of the church, it is the church who does the funeral not the pastor. Because of the pastor's public role at a funeral, it is easy to lose sight of this truth.

This is not to say that I don't want to do your funeral. Every funeral I have ever done has been an honour. In the process of leading a funeral, I always wish that I had the chance to get to know the deceased more while they were alive. This will be true of you too if I am granted the honour to lead your funeral. The fact that the church has entrusted the role of leading funerals to me is deeply humbling. Whenever I speak words commending the deceased to God, petition God to welcome the deceased, commit a body to be buried, or preach the gospel in the face of death I know that I have been invited into the most sacred places to speak the most sacred words and for this I am grateful.

As a practical matter, we share the responsibility of leading funerals among the pastors. We appreciate when families are flexible in which pastor(s) are involved in leading the funeral, although we do our best to honour specific requests. We give greatest consideration to which pastor knew the deceased or their family best, who ministered to the deceased before they died, and who has the words or message to speak. But we also consider practical matters like who has the busiest week and who has more time to prepare. And while there have been times when I have missed family gatherings or adjusted vacation plans to lead a funeral, we do seek to honour vacations and other scheduled time off when considering which pastor(s) will lead the funeral.

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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 viriniagr@abchurch.ca

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

THIS WEEK AT ABC

Sunday, May 28, 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 6:00 - 9:00, Youth (Gr. 7-12) We are starting an hour early to do some group building and serve the church with our muscles by doing some manual labour. Pizza supper and games to follow!

Thursday, June 1, 7pm. Spiritual Advisory Committee meeting.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Regarding MCI: We recently shared how a delegation from Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church attended the launch of the MCI 2023-2025 Strategic Plan, Renewed Hope for the Future. Finance and Maintenance would also like to announce that, on your behalf, a contribution of \$11,250.00 has been made towards the \$500,000 fundraising goal. It should be noted that this contribution is not additional funds but does represent the complete 2023 \$15,000.00 contribution (instead of quarterly payments), which was approved in the 2023 ABC budget. Finance was of the opinion that MCI was in significant need of assistance NOW in order to ensure financial viability. If you have any further questions feel free to reach out to Elmer Friesen, Laurie Enns, or Al Friesen or ABC Board member delegate Kristin Falk.

A New Children's Bible called "The Peace Table" has been created by MennoMedia. It is a comprehensive family storybook Bible that tries to make God's presence and peace real to children of all ages. We have ordered some for the church Sunday school program but want to invite others to order them as well for their family or as a gift for grandchildren. The books are on sale at 25% off, for \$34.49 until June 1.

<https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/82/26623>

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.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mennonite Church Manitoba: We are looking for volunteers to help out at our Pedal Dash Paddle Fundraising event @ Camp Assiniboia June 18th (2 pm – 6 pm). There are a variety of volunteer positions to choose from including kitchen help, course patrol, lap tracking, assisting with set up and tear down. For more information or to sign up, contact Dorothy Fontaine dfontaine@mennochurch.mb.ca.

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!

Health Officers are needed to keep camp open! Doctors, nurses, paramedics... we need you. Camp Assiniboia: July 9-14, Aug 7-12, 13-18; Camp Koinonia: June 12-16, July 9-14, 23-28, July 30-Aug 4, 20-26. Please contact the office at camps@mennochurch.mb.ca or 204-895-2267, or apply online at www.campswithmeaning.org/staff.

MCI: Sunday, June 4 **Saengerfest 2023:** *Sing Unto the Lord*, in Buhler Hall, Gretna. 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 as we worship God through music and song! Register today for **MCI's 9th Annual Golf Classic!** Join us for a fun day of golf on June 10th at Minnewasta Golf & Country Club, with a shotgun start at 1pm. Registration is \$150 per player, with a \$35 donation receipt. Early bird registration ends May 19th, for a chance to win back your registration fee. Visit www.mciblues.net for more details. Register online by emailing info@mciblues.net or calling (204)327.5891.

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!