

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH
of ALTONA

November 12, 2023, Faith and Life Men's Choir

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Prelude	
Introit	<i>O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing</i> – V. Leising
Welcome	
Call to Worship	
Congregation	<i>Mountain of God</i> VT 11
Scripture	Ephesians 3:14-19
Choir/Congregation	<i>May You Be Rooted and Grounded</i> VT 396
Reflection #1	Rooted and ...
Choir	<i>Freedom Come</i> Ben Allaway, Tenor, Paul Dueck <i>Give Me Jesus</i> Trad'l African Am. Arr. E. Wiebe <i>O Healing River</i> Helleman/Minkoff/I. Baerg Baritone, Bruce Schultz
Scripture	Revelation 22:1-5
Offering	
Story Time	
Choir	<i>La Paz del Señor</i> from John 20:26, P. Anders Ruuth The peace of the Lord, the peace of the One who has risen. The peace of the Lord, for you, for me, there's enough for everyone. <i>Ore Poriahu/Have mercy, O Lord</i> VT #620 Trad'l Guarani
Reflection #2	... Ready!
Choir	<i>Pacem</i> L. Dengler; Flute, Earl Reimer Grant us peace, and on earth peace and good will to all.
Congregation	<i>Longing for Light</i> VT 715
Sending Words	
Sending Song	<i>Prayers</i> Esther Wiebe

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Worship Leader: Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Art display:** Ken Loewen.

Art exhibit: 1. "Feed the hungry, heal the sick, make peace not war",
2. "Emerging hope", 3. "Guns to plows, make friends not enemies", 4. "Harmony"

Pianist: Loren Hiebert, **Conductor:** Ben Pauls,

Congregational singing: Waldy Ens, **Scripture:** Earl Reimer

Reflections & Story Time: Kathy Giesbrecht

FROM THE PASTOR: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

This is a follow up to my "from the pastor" in last week's bulletin.

What is a pastoral visit?

A pastoral visit is not:

- A substitute for professional counseling. We do not have the qualifications to offer professional counseling for addictions, depression, marital or family challenges and the myriad other issues individuals may seek professional help for. However, just because you seek professional help doesn't mean you shouldn't talk to us about the issue you are living with. We can offer encouragement, biblical or theological perspectives, and prayer.
- A big deal. The jokes still circulate: "ooooohhhh the pastor is coming over, what did you do wrong?" Behind these sorts of comments an uneasiness continues to lurk. If the pastor wants to visit there must be something going on or we must be special in some way. There have been times when I've reached out to people to talk about a specific concern, but these are a small minority, and even then, why should this be threatening as opposed to valuable?

Here is what I see pastoral visits to be about:

It's a chance to talk about life. How are things going? Who are you? How is your spirit? How are you living out your faith? What are the experiences that have shaped you? How are you feeling about your involvements in the church? These can seem like intimidating questions, but I can assure you that our visits are informal and friendly. We may ask questions beyond the things we usually talk about with family and friends, because it is not our role to show up and talk about the weather or the news for an hour. It is also not our role to tell you what to do or how to respond to situations. But we seek God's presence and leading and invite you to do the same in your life and dilemmas.

If we visit people in the hospital or in crisis we share encouragement, prayers, and scripture verses. There is nothing magic about what we do, but in our role as pastors our presence represents our church community.

I always pray for you when I visit and often ask if there are specific things you are praying for or concerns I can pray for on your behalf.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

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

Worship Services available online at: abchurchcommunity.ca

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Assoc. Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, C 304-6119

viriniagr@abchurch.ca

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,
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WORSHIP CALENDAR

Nov. 12: Faith and Life men's choir with Kathy Giesbrecht of Mennonite Church Manitoba speaking.
Nov. 19: Speaker: Virginia
Nov. 26: Memorial Sunday. Speaker: Mark
Dec. 3: First Advent and Communion

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Mark will be away on vacation this coming week, from November 13-20. He will be back in the office on November 21.

Pastor Virginia and Pastor Terrell will be out of the office to participate in some training workshops on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 14-15.

The church office will be closed on November 14 and there will be no coffee time with the church staff on Tuesday this week.

Terrell is asking for baking once again for our youth groups. Baked goods may be given directly to Terrell, to Ang during office hours, or placed in the basement kitchen freezer. Thanks to all for your support!

An invitation from Church Council to join in a conversation and an update on some of the most recent happenings in your church. The Fall meeting will be held *Nov 26th at 1 pm* in the church basement. It's a chance to hear about and share thoughts on a proposed summer camp partnership with Matheson Island youth, the proposed subdivision progress, financial update, including how the various commissions are doing the work of the church. More details will be available in upcoming weeks, and at the get together. Please note, at this point, we are proposing a "bring your own bag lunch" with coffee, tea, and water provided.

The Personnel commission with the support of Church Council has granted Pastor Virginia a 3 month Sabbatical leave from January to March 2024. Sabbatical leaves are a time for pastors to focus on their spiritual, physical and mental needs. This Sabbatical leave is granted with reference to our church policy and we wish Virginia all the best as she takes time for study and renewal."

Mennonite Church Manitoba weekly congregational profile:

Covenant Mennonite Church worships in a small, historic building in the heart of Winkler, drawing members from an area extending from Plum Coulee to Morden and beyond. They desire to keep their Christ-centered, Anabaptist faith and worship meaningfully engaged with current realities in their community and world. Pray for their witness to Jesus in a region where deeply held religious views and ideals both enliven and enflame. Pray that they might embody "the things that make for peace" (Luke 19:42).

THIS WEEK AT ABC

Sun. Nov. 12, 9:15-10:15 am- Sunday school for all ages. *Ages 3-grade 7-* basement of the education wing, *youth-* south wing and *adults-* church basement.

Tues. Nov. 14, Church office closed – no coffee time

Wed. Nov. 15, 7-9 pm Youth grades 7-12. Ventures is away from the church so we must have the return of Erika Enns-Rodine and her infamous church wide night games!

Wed. Nov. 15, 7- 8:15 pm- Ventures game night at Gardens on Tenth.

Thur. Nov. 16, 2 pm- Book study at Gardens on Tenth.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

Hospitalized: Bernard Wiebe, Marge Friesen and Ben Dyck at the Altona Health Centre.

Bernie Friesen from our church family passed away on Nov. 5. We are invited to join in gratitude for his life and pray for his wife, Edith and family. The funeral service was held on Friday at ABC.

International Witness: During the last month of horrific violence in the Middle East, the Mennonite Church Canada Palestine-Israel Network (PIN) has worked to promote prayer, awareness, and advocacy for peace with justice. Pray for God's wisdom, courage, and emotional strength for the Network's area church working groups and individuals. For more about the PIN's recent statement on Gaza, calls to prayer and action, and information about our mandate and regional working groups, please visit the PIN web site at:

<https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/pin>

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

Verna (A.K.) Heinrichs- Nov. 12, Abe Klassen- Nov. 13, Claire Ginter- Nov. 14, Susan (Anton) Dueck- Nov. 16, Tina Heppner- Nov. 18

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check out the posters in the lobby for more extensive information.

MCC: Shop small for a great cause! Check out the [Piece it Together Christmas Quilt & Craft Sale](#) on Sat., Nov, 25 from 9 am – 4 pm at 150 Bayridge Ave., Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship. All proceeds will support MCC's international disaster relief. www.pieceittogether.ca

CommonWord: Christmas Sale is on from Nov. 25 to Dec 1. with gift-giving ideas like fair-trade coffee, Advent/Christmas books, other books to gift, and Indigenous gifts. Visit us at Marpeck Commons (2299 Grant Ave.) or online at commonword.ca.

Southern Manitoba choral society: Presents "Be like a bird" and more selections. Sun., Nov. 19 at 3 pm at ABC.

Cottonwood Drama: "The Tin Woman" - "Reeling in the wake of an unexpected heart transplant, Joy finds herself drawn to contact the donor's family". Nov. 23-25, 7:30 pm at Buhler Hall. Mciblues.net or call 327.5891



Soup & Pie

Thursday, November 16th

4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

at Altona Bergthaler
Mennonite Church

Proceeds to Missions:

- International Witness Ethiopia Ministry

(Werner & Joanne De Jong)

- M.C.C. Urgent Needs

- Camps with Meaning



Faith and Life Male Choir

Conductor: Ben Pauls **Pianist:** Loren Hiebert

Tenor I

Gary Bergen
Henry Braun
Albert Falk
Art Harms
Richard Olfert
Leroy Penner
John Wiens

Tenor II

Ted Barg
Paul Dueck
Waldy Ens
George Heide
Darren Kehler
Ken Loewen
James Schellenberg

Baritone

Willie Enns
Ed Gaeke-Franz
Henry Kliever
John Martens
Ed Neufeld
Erwin Pankratz
Dave Regehr
Bruce Schulz
Joel Wiebe

Bass

Jim Dyck
Don Elias
Al Ens
Wil Epp
Alan Janzen
Bruno Klassen
Robb Nickel
John Poettcker
Earl Reimer
Leo Rempel

The Faith and Life Choir Mission

Our mission is to participate in the mission of the wider church by leading others into worship of God through music.

The choirs accomplish their mission through concerts, church and personal care home visits, CD sales, and recording music for the radio broadcast ministry.

Join the Faith and Life Choirs at our Christmas Carol Sing
Sunday, December 17. 3:30 pm Bethel Mennonite Church

MCM's Climate Action Working Group invites you to an evening of visiting and listening to the voices of three young adults in the church. Alayna Smith, Aria Klassen, and Asher Warkentin will share reflections from recent experiences at "Rooted and Grounded," a climate conference hosted by AMBS in Elkhart, IN.

November 18. 6:00 pm, CMU. www.mennochurch.mb.ca/cawg to register

Mennonite Church Manitoba

Mennonite Church Manitoba is a community of 39 congregations including over 6,000 members.

Our vision is to be a community of congregations, unified in Jesus Christ, living a biblical Anabaptist faith, together presenting Jesus Christ to the world.

For more info: visit the website at
www.mennochurch.mb.ca
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or call 204.896.1616



