

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH

of ALTONA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023, 10:30 AM

"When the Israelites cried out to the Lord, the Lord raised up for them a deliverer" Judges 3:15a

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Music Mountain of God VT 11

Call to worship and prayer

Music The love of God VT 162

Offering

Hearing God's Word

Children's story

Scripture Judges 4:1-10, 17-22

Sermon God's patient commitment to Love

Responding in Trust

Music Longing for light STJ 54

ABC Conversations with Noah and Joanna Ginter

Prayer of the Church and the World

Benediction

Music Christ be all around me VT 848

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Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert **Worship Leading:** James Friesen

Music: ABC Ensemble **Children's Story:** Janna Wiebe

WORSHIP CALENDAR

November 19: Speaker: Virginia

November 26: Memorial Service, Speaker: Mark

December 3: First Advent and Communion

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

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

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FROM THE PASTOR: Terrell Wiebe

Each month our youth groups have an event called youth talk night on our theme for the year, "God loves your...". The purpose of this series is to discuss things about ourselves that we often think are negative (failures, anger, weirdness, etc.) and reframe them in light of how God sees us. This past week we spoke about anger. Here is an hour-long conversation broken down into 350 words.

Terrell: What makes you angry? *Youth: Other kids at school, siblings, rudeness, the state of the world, etc.*

T: Is it okay to be angry? *Y: Sometimes, as long as you don't lose control. It should be a last resort.*

T: Let's look at a few things the Bible has to say about anger: "Refrain from anger and turn from wrath" – Psalm 37:8; "Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding," – Proverbs 14:29; "In your anger do not sin," – Ephesians 4:26

Y: Even though there are differences here, these generally seem to line up with what we said earlier.

T: Can we be angry with God? *Y: Maybe? There seem to be some people in the Bible who are.*

T: Right! There are plenty of examples in scripture. God rarely rebukes those who are angry with God. It seems like anger at God is often an expression of dismay that these biblical characters thought God would act differently. It is a much greater act of faith to be angry with God than to ignore God because anger shows that we still believe God to be present and active in the world.

T: What about when Jesus and God are angry? The anger of Jesus in the temple (Matt 21:12-14) and God's anger in the Old Testament (Amos 5:21-24) have to do with people experiencing injustice. When the widow and the orphan are not taken care of and the poor are not lifted up, God and Jesus display anger.

T: Perhaps anger, when used properly, is a gift from God. Anger is the great motivator towards change. When things are not as they should be, we can match our anger with God's anger to create change and build God's kingdom here on earth.

Youth are invited to rewrite a psalm of anger towards God in their own words or write a letter to God expressing their anger over something in their lives or in the world.

T: Let's pray. Thank you, God, for the gift of anger and that you are a God who listens to our anger. We pray for your help to not engage in anger that destroys, and we ask for courage to express the kind of anger that builds your kingdom. Amen.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Mark will be back in the office this Tuesday Nov 21. He will be out of the office again on Wednesday and Thursday of this week visiting Matheson Island.

Next Sunday, November 26, is Memorial Sunday where we remember loved ones who have died in the past year. During the service, everyone will be invited to light a candle in memory of people in our lives who have died in the past year.

The Fall meeting will also be held Sunday, *Nov 26th at 1 pm* in the church basement. You are welcome to bring your own bag lunch and coffee, tea, and water will be provided.

THIS WEEK AT ABC

Sun. Nov. 19, 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. 21, 10:30 am- Coffee with the church staff

Tues. Nov 21, 7-9 pm Sr. youth- Cooking up worship - Can cooking pizza connect us with God?

Wed. Nov 22, 7-9 pm Jr. youth. The junior youth have requested a switch from baking to pizza so, like the senior youth, we will also see how pizza making can connect us to God.

Wed. Nov. 22, 7- 8:15 pm- Ventures- Woodworking.

Thur. Nov. 23, 2 pm- Book study at Gardens on Tenth.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

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

International Witness: Mennonite siblings in Myanmar call us to pray with them for those who are in danger in Khampat. 65 Mennonite families have fled for the second time as the military bombs their town near the Indian border. This is particularly difficult for the elderly and children. Pray also for Chin Christian Church (Kitchener), Kitchener Emmanuel Church, Grace Christian Church (Ottawa), and Calgary Chin Christian Church who have family and friends in Myanmar. Pray also for Bible Missionary Church (a Mennonite World Conference denomination) as they respond to needs in Khampat. Lord, hear our prayers.

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

Larry Falk- Nov. 19, Susan Heinrichs- Nov. 21,

Carol Rempel- Nov. 23, Alyssa Neufeld- Nov. 24, Celina Toews- Nov. 24

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many of the community announcements have posters in the lobby for more extensive information

MCI: Mennonite Collegiate Institute invites you to join us on Monday, November 20th at 7:00 pm for the AGM. We will meet in MCI's chapel. We hope to see you there!

Cottonwood Drama: *The Tin Woman*, takes the stage in Buhler Hall November 23, 24 & 25! Based on a true story about a heart transplant, this dramedy uses humor and pathos to explore loss, family, and what it means to be given new life. Tickets are available online at mciblues.net or by calling the school at 204-327-5891.

Blood Donor Clinic: Thur, Nov. 30, 1-7 pm at the Pioneer Centre. To register contact Blood.ca There is a great need for blood donors.

MCC: *Choose gifts that change lives.* Sometimes the best gifts are ones that you can't simply pull off a shelf. This Christmas, we invite you to explore all the ways that you can share gifts of comfort and joy for the world. Visit mcc.org/Christmas to see what gifts would delight your loved ones and inspire them to see the change they could spark across the globe.

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.

Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund: *For Referrals- Nov 8-Dec 8, 431.342.0525.* Deliveries will be Dec 16, 9 am-noon (If there are no children then a food gift card will be mailed) or email Rhinelandesf@gmail.com for the link to sign up online. Monetary donations can be sent to Box 2255, Altona, R0G 0B0 or drop off at Pembina Valley Pharmacy or Access Credit Union in Altona, Gretna, Plum Coulee.

Mennonite Church Manitoba weekly congregational profile:

Gretna Bergthaler Mennonite Church is the only church in Gretna, a small community south of Altona, just north of the U.S. border, and home to Mennonite Collegiate Institute. Their Sunday morning attendance is usually 20-30, though they have seen this number climb a bit during this last year. A women's Bible study has just started and, with many young families in town, they hope to get a children's Sunday school going this fall. At this point they are operating without a paid pastor. The bulk of the preaching is covered by two members and a member of the community. Everyone pitches in to keep things running. Pray that they would be a welcoming community to those in Gretna who do not currently have a church to attend.