

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH  
of ALTONA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023, 10:30 AM

*"Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."  
Ephesians 4:15-16*

**Gathering and Praise**

Welcome and Announcements

Music Summons by the God who made us VT 1

Call to worship and prayer

Music One is the body VT 386

Offering

**Hearing God's Word**

Children's story

Scripture Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16

Sermon Playing on the same team

**Responding in Trust**

Music Help us to help each other VT 722

ABC Conversations with Al Friesen

Prayer of the Church and the World

Benediction

Music We, your people sing your praise VT 849

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**Sermon:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert **Worship Leading:** Delores Enns

**Music:** Flying Free **Children's Story:** Lisa Hiebert-Penner

**WORSHIP CALENDAR**

October 29: Speaker: Virginia, International Witness Sunday

November 5: Brunch Church and Blanket Exercise.

November 12: Faith and Life men's choir with Kathy Giesbrecht of Mennonite Church Manitoba speaking.

**FROM THE PASTOR: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert**

I recently attended the funeral of a friend of mine who died of cancer in his 30's. His family was keenly aware of the tendency to make people out to be saints once they have passed away. So, they made sure to note that he was not perfect and definitely had his faults. At the same time, they chose to focus more on his strengths.

One such characteristic was his ability to deal with the many griefs that he experienced in his life and not allow them to overwhelm him or turn him bitter. Instead, he chose to embrace life and seek out the joy that could be found in each day and in each circumstance. One example was his skill with words and humour. He loved to laugh and was especially fond of puns. And in his last weeks, when his communication was limited to one or two words at best, he still found the energy to make jokes or point out the absurd, offering the gift of smiles and laughter to those around him.

This pushed me to reflect on my own life and how I have responded to griefs or tragedies around me. As well as an encouragement to seek out the good, pursue joy, and remember that in all things love can be made visible.

At the funeral we were encouraged to keep his memory alive as we followed his example and embraced the life that is before us. And I couldn't think of a better way to honour his memory.

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**Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona**

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## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**Steps Toward Reconciliation** invites you to view a fictitious full-length film addressing the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada, "Rustic Oracle". This is a FREE screening on Tuesday Nov. 7, 7:00 pm at the Community Exchange in Altona. There will be a sharing circle following the film with representatives from STEPS, Genesis House, Pembina Valley Red Dress Project, and Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation to help facilitate the discussion. Trailer preview:

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt8390134/>.

**Local volunteers needed** for Eastview Personal Care Home and Apartments at Gardens on Tenth for programs or just for company and presence. Children/youth groups, music groups, groups, or individuals for programs, games or visiting.

**MCI:** November 3<sup>rd</sup> - MCI's Soup & Pie and Fall Concert! Come for soup, buns and pie from 5:30-7:00 in the gymnasium, and stay for our fall concert, *What Wonderous Love is This*, at 7:30 in Buhler Hall with performances by MCI's students. Meal is by donation.

**CARE Handivan** is holding a drive-through fundraiser, Monday, November 6 at Altona Senior Centre from 4:00-6:00 pm.

**Gardens on Tenth** is seeking an individual who enjoys cooking and has knowledge of the traditional Mennonite meals that our tenants enjoy.

<https://gardensontenth.ca>.

**Ribs and Matt Falk:** Fundraiser for Gardens on Tenth, Thursday, Nov. 2. Supper at 5:30, show at 6:45 pm.

**MCC:** MCC laments the violence and mourns all lives lost in Palestine and Israel. MCC's response will focus on the humanitarian needs in Gaza, given the vulnerability of the population and lack of resources available to families. MCC's work will build on previous responses to the ongoing conflict, including the distribution of food and bedding. We are also planning to offer trauma healing support and housing reconstruction. If you feel led to give, you can do so at [mcc.org/Palestine-Israel](http://mcc.org/Palestine-Israel).

### Mennonite Church Manitoba weekly congregational profile:

With a practical and rural sensibility, Arnaud Mennonite Church seeks to faithfully worship the Lord and serve in the community where they have been situated for almost 80 years. Arnaud is a hamlet nestled in the midst of farmland between St. Malo, Morris, and Dominion City. Pray for Arnaud Mennonite Church as they seek to continue their legacy of faithfulness to Christ and service to their community.

## THIS WEEK AT ABC

**Sunday, Oct. 29, 9:15-10:15 am-** Sunday school for all ages. Ages 3-grade 7 are in the basement of the education wing, *the youth* are in the south wing, and *the adults* in the church basement.

**Tuesday, Oct. 31, 10:30 am-** Coffee with the church staff.

**Wednesday, Nov. 1, 7:00 – 8:15 pm-** Ventures in the church basement.

**Wednesday, Nov. 1, 7:00 – 9:00 pm-** Youth Gr. 7-12. Glow Games! A mix of indoor and outdoor glow in the dark games. Come dressed for the weather.

**Thursday, Nov. 2, 2:00 pm-** Book study at Gardens on Tenth.

**Thursday, Nov. 2, 7:00 pm-** Personnel meeting.

## PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

**Hospitalized:** Bernard Wiebe, Bernie Friesen (Edith), Marge Friesen and Ben Dyck at the Altona Health Centre.

**International Witness:** As we lament the ongoing hostility between Israelis and Palestinians, let us continue to pray for those working for a future that ends the deep and longstanding injustices that lie at the root of the crisis. The Palestine-Israel Network has provided prayers of lament and intercession: <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/article/16090>

**We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:** Bill Driedger, Oct. 29, Bill Bergman, Oct. 31, Peter Schroeder, Nov. 2

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ABC's Soup and Pie fundraiser will be moved** to Thursday, November 16 from 4:30-6:30 pm.

**We have a lighter preaching schedule** this stretch so we have lots of time in our schedules to visit with people. Please reach out to us if you are interested in connecting. We can drop by your home, meet for coffee, lunch, breakfast, go for a walk, or whatever. We love to hear from people! – Mark, Virginia, Terrell.

**Ventures club** is looking for adults to help out Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:15 pm. No need to plan anything, just show up and have fun. Email [ventures@abchurch.ca](mailto:ventures@abchurch.ca) for more info. Thanks!

**Thank you** to those of you who have inquired about our ABC finances to date. Here are some highlights as of October 25th, prepared by Church Treasurer Laurie Enns. Overall income is currently at \$310,475.02 of which the Sunday morning offering total is \$294,853.00. Unfortunately, this is tracking approximately \$40,000 behind last year. On the positive side, the year to date expenses are currently within 2023 budgeted totals. We also thank all commissions who have successfully maintained expenditures below 2022 figures. On your behalf, Finance and Trusteeship has also completed third quarter outreach contributions (or overall at 62.5 % of our annual budget). We continue to thank you for your financial support of ABC and are hopeful that the current deficit of \$38,889.96 will decrease in this final portion of 2023. If you have any questions re the above, please reach out to Elmer, Laurie or Al.