

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



*Sunday, April 24, 2022
Celebrating Christ's Resurrection
From Certainty to Possibility*

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

Worship Service

April 24, 2022, 10:30 am

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 NIV

GATHERING and PRAISE

Welcome and announcements

Music - **Christ is Alive! Let Christians** HWB 278

Sing with all the saints in glory SS 92

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

Music **To God be the glory** HWB 102

Welcoming new members

Listening

Music **Today Earth Is Singing** VT 510

Children's Story

Scripture **John 20:1-18**

Sermon **Responding to Christ's love**

RESPONDING

Music **For freedom Christ has set us free**

Prayer for the Offering, the Church, and the World

SENDING

Benediction

Music **O God in heaven** SJ 53

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert Worship Leader/Scripture: Josh Janzen
Music: Choir, Laurie Enns, Stephanie Janzen and Angela Loeppky Children's Story: Mark

Our worship service will be live-streamed Sunday morning at 10:30am and is available on the church website at [\[abchurchcommunity.ca\]](http://abchurchcommunity.ca). If using a handheld device [phone/tablet] you may get a message that says "video unavailable", but if you click on the line "watch this video on YouTube" it will reload and play for you.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Susan Toews, Agatha Kehler, Bernard Wiebe, Anne Dueck and Shirley Toews at the Altona Health Centre
- ~ **Thank you for all the prayers** and cards during this difficult time of our son in law's, Shane Fox, sudden passing. We appreciate the support for Treva's family through GoFundMe. A private family service will take place. - Marv and Joyce, Treva, Ella and Xander
- ~ **We as a family of Willie Funk** would like to give a **huge thank you** to all who participated in the "church Tuesday meals" for Willie. Also thank you to the crew who assisted in yard maintenance. He enjoyed this greatly together with the visits. – Irene and LeRoy Friesen
- ~ **Today we are** welcoming several individuals into our congregation through transfer of membership; Bonnie Friesen, Herman and Helen Kuhl, Herold Schlegel and Elaine Erb.
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**
 - Andrew Rempel April 14
 - Tim Fast April 19
 - Anne Doerksen April 19
 - Al Giesbrecht April 23
 - Dora Driedger April 24
 - Elmer Friesen April 24
 - Tom Braun April 26
 - Waldo Schulz April 26

WORSHIP CALENDAR

- April 24:** Celebrating Easter Sunday
- May 1:** ABC Ignite! 9:30 – Church basement
- May 8:** Speaker – Josh Janzen

Next Sunday, May 1 is ABC Ignite! Please join us in the basement for a time of fellowship, food, conversation and worship. The rough schedule is: Gather and activity at 9:30, brunch at 10:00, worship at 10:45, presentation and discussion at 11:15

Congregational Response:

Leader: Bonnie, Harold, Elaine, Herman and Helen, we have witnessed your commitment to Christ, and we recognize you as members in this congregation.

People: We welcome you with joy as companions on the journey of faith. We commit ourselves to fellowship and worship, service and witness, as partners in God's mission. We receive you as Christ received us.

FROM THE PASTOR: Josh Janzen

ABC Ignite is almost here! Come ready on May 1 for worship, big conversations, and for lots of pancakes! Speaking of pancakes.... Our brunch for ABC will actually be a free-will donation fundraiser to help our youth attend Amplify! The MC Canada national youth gathering taking place July 31-August 4 at Camp Valaqua in Alberta. Six youth from ABC are headed to Amplify! this summer and will take the lead on preparing, serving, and cleaning up our brunch. Our ultimate goal is to raise a total of \$5000 to cover the cost of registration and transportation to and from the event.

Amplify! is set to be an awesome gathering with tons of worship, fun, fellowship, and learning. This gathering is about tuning out the background noise and listening for the love of God that is speaking out. The Love that speaks out in loud voices, soft voices, young and old, insider and outsider, the voice of the unpopular, and the voice of those who have been silenced. The goal is for everyone to share in God's love, spreading the goodness even to the edges, listening quietly and shouting with joy. There will be sessions with speakers, worship time, opportunities to explore and use the camp, and special events happening in the evenings. Over 50 youth and sponsors from Mennonite Church Manitoba are set to travel together by charter bus, further extending the fun and craziness that comes with an event like this!

So, come hungry for pancakes, worship, and big conversations at ABC Ignite!

Sr Youth and Jr Youth:

Sr. Youth – Tuesday April 26, 7 pm, Lost and Found bible study
Jr. Youth – Wednesday April 27, 7 pm, Lost and Found bible study

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Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990 cell 1-204-771-3406 marktd@abchurch.ca
Assoc Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 virginiagr@abchurch.ca Assoc Pastor of Youth Min: Josh Janzen, 204-502-1991, cell 1-402-631-3481 joshi@abchurch.ca Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 amandaw@abchurch.ca

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Even though there are currently no government requirements to wear masks at this time, we are going to be taking a gradual approach to removing our masks. We continue to request that if you are experiencing covid symptoms that you worship from home.

We are asking everyone to abide by this timeline:

April: wear a mask for entering, exiting, moving around and singing (masks can be removed once seated)

May and beyond: masks are optional.

Tuesday morning coffee with the pastors and staff is back! Beginning this week everyone is invited to join the staff in the church library on Tuesday mornings at 10.

There is a \$100.00 camp sponsorship available to children attending camp this summer. Applications are in the church office. Please apply as soon as possible.

If anyone is interested in the old fridge in South Wing, please let Cheryl or Jolene know.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Consider CMU: "Where your faith and community matter." Virtual open house on Wednesday, April 27, 6:00 pm-7:00 pm. Receive a virtual tour of CMU's campus, ask questions of our Admissions team, and hear from faculty and current students. Visit cmu.ca/virtual-open-house.

Mennonite Church Manitoba:

We want to wish God's blessings for Dan Kehler as he completes his ministry as Lead Pastor at Altona Mennonite Church at the end of April

Golf for MCC! Join us for a day of golf, prizes and dinner on July 7 and you'll support refugees and displaced people around the world. For more information about the MCC Manitoba Golf Tournament and to register, visit mccmb.ca/golf.

Mennonite Disaster Service:

The April edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Learn how families can volunteer and serve together, read about MDS volunteers and how they've made long-term changes in Marianna, Florida and find about volunteers heading to British Columbia to assist wildfire survivors in British Columbia

Prayer request from MC Canada Palestine-Israel Network – This year in Palestine and Israel, the holy seasons of Passover, Easter and Ramadan converge, making the Old City of Jerusalem a lively place of pilgrimage and prayer for Jews, Christians and Muslims. It is also a time of tension rooted in the ongoing injustices of the Israel occupation. Let us pray for our Palestinian brothers and sisters as they seek to live out and proclaim Jesus' way of peace. See the Holy week in Jerusalem suggestions at <https://mennochurch.mb.ca/get-involved/Palestine-Israel>



Elaine Erb & Harold Schlegel

We moved to Altona, from Morden, a year a half ago and hoped to find a home church in our new community. We are delighted that ABC has become that for us and that today we are officially joining in membership. We both grew up in the Mennonite Church in rural South Western Ontario. I (Elaine) moved to southern Alberta in 1981, where my first husband and I raised our three sons and began our small business *Premium Sausage*. We loved our church and our community. I served for nine years as trustee on our public school board. After my husband's death to ALS, I studied at Regent College in Vancouver and received a graduate diploma in Christian studies and then pursued training in Spiritual Direction. I am honoured to companion others on their faith journey.

I (Harold) prepared for a career in poultry farming but found myself called to pastoral ministry instead. Since 1985 I have held pastoral servant-leader roles in eight congregations, or church related schools, in Ontario, Indiana and Manitoba. Three children were born to my first wife and I in St. Jacobs ON, where I served as pastor for 13 years. Since 2016 I have been part of the leadership team at MCI in Gretna. I continue to be credentialed as an ordained minister in Mennonite Church Manitoba.

We met again, after not seeing each other for 37 years, and will soon be celebrating our third wedding anniversary. Our family now consists of one daughter, five sons, and their wonderful partners, and three grandsons.



Bonnie Friesen

I started attending Altona Bergthaler church last fall (2021) and have enjoyed being here as Covid has allowed. I welcome the fellowship, the way this church functions, as well as the great messages from the pastoral team.

I was born here, however my school years were spent at Hamiota where my parents farmed. I then lived 30 years in Deloraine before moving back here 10 years ago (full circle)

My daughter Jacquie Maynard was thrilled to buy a house in Ninga last fall. She has 2 spoiled cats. As there's a hen house on the property, she's looking forward to having chickens next year. She has many interesting things planned for her raised garden beds. Mother will be helping as Jacquie sees fit. My sister Kim (from Birtle) and I spend many sisterly hours at my cabin close to Killarney doing projects, enjoying the sun and outdoors, evening bonfires.

I enjoy life with my partner Doug Friesen. We live in the SW corner of town. We comfortably share our Neuberghal roots. Along with being my partner, he ensures that my equipment (mowers, generator, power tools) are serviced and running well. He required that I test demo using the various saws so he would feel comfortable with my safety doing projects at the cabin. My new log splitter was thoroughly inspected and demo'd before leaving our garage. I'm safe and extremely well cared for. My faith in my Lord Jesus Christ is what gives me the richness and beauty described above. I have been blessed and cleansed by Him, completely forgiven, completely loved. My cup runneth over.



Herman and Helen Kuhl

We both grew up in the Morden Mennonite (Bergthaler) church. On July 31, 1960 we got married and moved to Rosenfeld because of a teaching position (grade 6,7,8). I (Herman) taught there for eight years plus the last three years I was also the principal. My teaching changed to Altona to West Park school, then to Parkside school and the last nine years to WC Miller. Helen joined me at WC Miller where she worked in the cafeteria for fifteen years.

We got involved very quickly in the Rosenfeld Bergthaler Mennonite church teaching Sunday school. Helen got very involved in the Ladies Fellowship group, sang in the trio, and had the children's choir for many years. We were also very involved in bible studies.

In 1979 I was asked to be the lay-pastor for a three-year term, which turned out to be twenty-one and a half years. Several years later the church began to struggle with the number of people attending.

Finally, the doors closed and we sold the building. It left us without a place to worship. It was a difficult time for us. But here we are and feel that we are most comfortable. We feel welcomed and trust that in our senior years we will still be an encouragement to those around us. That is our prayer. God has been good! To Him be glory and honour!

