

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona
Worship Service
December 4, 2022, 10:30 am

"But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"
~ Matthew 3:7

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering and Praise

Music **Hope is a Candle** VT 211

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music **Wie Soll Ich Dich Empfangen**
Poor of the Earth VT 213

Candle lighting

Offering

Hearing God's Word

Children's Story

Music Every Valley Needs a Lily

Scripture Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon **Brood of vipers?**

Hymn **Now the Heavens Start to Whisper** VT 237

Waiting in Hope

Benediction

Hymn **Between Darkness and Light** VT 808

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Worship Leader: Rick Neufeld **Children's story:** Joe Wiens

Music: Members of Southern MB Choral Society, accompanist Betty Loewen.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

~ **Hospitalized:** Anne Sawatzky, Mary Sawatzky and Joyce Loewen at the Altona Health Centre.

~ **International witness:** As Christmas season approaches, pray for children, grandchildren and families of Witness workers who will not spend Christmas with their family members. Consider reaching out to our Witness workers and their families to thank them and encourage them in their work.

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

Lyndon Friesen December 6

DJ Wahl December 6

Seth Klassen December 7

Denise Fast December 9

Andrew Giesbrecht December 9

WORSHIP CALENDAR

November 27: Advent 1 – Watch: The day is almost here

December 4: Advent 2 – Prepare the way of the Lord

December 11: Advent 3 – Tell what you hear and see

December 18: Advent 4 - Children's Christmas program

December 24: Candlelight service at 6:30 pm

December 25: Sing for Joy: Your God reigns

Candle-lighting liturgy

Leader: John the Baptist proclaimed, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

People: Prepare the way of the Lord, make God's paths straight.

Leader: As we prepare, we light this candle as a sign of peace.

People: Bring your restoration to your people, we pray.

FROM THE PASTOR – Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Ventures kids club wrapped up for the fall session last night. I've been one of the leaders again this year and it has been fun to see the kids interacting and having fun. Each week we begin with a time of worship which includes singing and a devotion. This year we have asked each parent to sign up to help facilitate a couple times throughout the year and as leaders we have been impressed with the enthusiasm and helpfulness of the parents who have come.

Some of our activities have included: pumpkin carving, games that involve running around the church, bean bag baseball, gingerbread house making, and science related fun like balloon rockets, ice cream in a bag, and building toothpick-marshmallow structures.

This year we have combined the boys and girls groups to make things more efficient for planning and leading. We have over 30 kids registered and usually a group of close to 30 present each Wednesday. Most of the kids who come are from other churches, or are not from a church. It is good that we continue to share and live the message of Christ at Ventures club.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mark TD is taking the weekend off. He will return to the office on Tuesday Dec 6.

ABC Youth: Next youth Dec. 14, 7-9pm - Christmas Party with snack/appetizer potluck and Escape Room activity. Bring some food to share. Formal attire? Not exactly. Wear one fancy thing (a tie, a top hat, fancy shoes, ruby necklace from the 17th century), and have a chance to win a prize.

Sermon discussion Tuesday at noon.

Please join us here **December 11** for Terrell's candidating Sunday and to listen and participate in prayerful discernment as he shares with the congregation. On **December 18**, we invite the congregation to a **vote of affirmation** to move forward with this process.

Our December church potluck will happen on the **second** Sunday of the month, **Dec 11**. This way we can combine our potluck with Terrell's candidating weekend.

We are created to enjoy fellowship with one another. The past few years have been a challenging time to connect with people in assisted living apartments or in care facilities. The restrictions have been lifted. We need more people to be visitors for these people. If you are willing to be a visitor, or if you know someone who would appreciate a visit, please contact Pastor Virginia at the church or contact Irene Kehler 204-324-6248.

ABC Custodian position: Here is the ad that will be appearing in various places for the position of ABC custodian. If you or anyone you know is interested contact Al Friesen. "Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church is inviting applications for the position of custodian. The successful candidate will be responsible for the general cleanliness and upkeep of the main church building, and South Education wing. Landscape, mowing and snow clearing responsibilities are also available. This is a part-time position with a flexible schedule. Wages and specific responsibilities to be determined based on the successful applicant's interests and qualifications. Please contact the church office at 204-324-6717 or email Al Friesen - Church Council alfriesen55@gmail.com for more information and complete details."

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mennonite Church Canada: Mennonite Church Canada is pleased to announce the hiring of Jonathan Neufeld as Indigenous Relations coordinator, a role that will seek to coordinate and resource the regional churches in their relationship-building with Indigenous communities. <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/press-release/14529-jonathan-neufeld-welcomed-as-indigenous-relations-coordinator-for-mennonite-church-canada>

MCC: No one imagines Christmas in a war zone – so this year, give the gifts of comfort, joy, and peace through MCC. Send the warmth of your love to children and families to make it through the winter and you can change a life. Browse mccmb.ca/Christmas for gifts that make a difference!

Christmas Day Dinner Committee – Angelika Stoesz: Hello Christmas Day Dinner Sponsors! We are pleased to announce that there will be Christmas Day Dinner again this year. We have appreciated your support all these years, and are hoping for your help again in 2022. The dinner will be on December 25 from 11:30 am till 2 pm at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre. If you would like to volunteer in one of the following areas (Shift one: prep, Shift two: serving, shift three: cleanup), please call Angelika at 204 324-8139. **You can make donations to the meal in the church foyer on December 11 and 18.** You can also bring donations to the church office or you may call 204 324-8139 to make the donation.

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marktd@abchurch.ca
Assoc. Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119
viriniagr@abchurch.ca



My name is Terrell Wiebe, and I live in Gretna with my wife Janna, and our sons Rowan (8) and Ivan (2). Janna and I previously served together as pastors for 4 years at the Gretna Bergthaler Church. Prior to that, we served as youth and associate pastors for 6 years at Springfield Heights Mennonite Church in Winnipeg.

In the spring of 2022, I graduated from Canadian Mennonite University with my Master of Arts in Christian Ministry. During the summer and fall I was interim pastor at the Whitewater Mennonite Church in Boissevain, Manitoba. I also work part time as the ice maker at the Altona Curling Club.

I love disc golf, curling, reading (*The Lord of the Rings* is my favourite book), boardgames, and playing video games with my kids. I love meeting new people, learning new things, and I am excited to get to know your congregation!

From Church Council (as shared by Jolene Friesen-Stoesz on Nov 20)

I am here as the chair of the education commission and as a representative of ABC church council with some exciting and encouraging news regarding our youth ministry program. As you know, church council has been tasked with the responsibility of searching for a youth pastor in the past months. After a series of conversations, interviews, prayer, and discernment from both parties, we are very pleased and excited to announce that Terrell Wiebe will be candidating as youth pastor for ABC. Terrell lives in Gretna with his family, and has pastored at Gretna Bergthaler Church, and did youth ministry at Springfield Heights Mennonite Church in Winnipeg. Terrell speaks from a perspective of Anabaptist values and beliefs, and puts relationship with youth and their families as a major priority. As a council, we have found Terrell to be authentic, empathic, and engaging in our conversations. Both parties have discerned that a part-time position is best in moving forward, and we as council, joyfully and unanimously endorse Terrell as youth pastor candidate.

Please join us here **December 11** for **Terrell's candidating** Sunday and to listen and participate in prayerful discernment as he shares with the congregation.

On **December 18**, we invite the congregation to a **vote of affirmation** to move forward with this process.

As council, we look forward with hopeful and grateful anticipation to Terrell's sharing with all of us and are thrilled to move forward in supporting and nurturing the lives of our youth.

