

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

Worship Service

November 27 2022, 10:30 am

“O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!” ~ Isaiah 2:5

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering and Praise

Hymn **Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus** VT 218

Call to Worship and Prayer

Candle lighting

Hymn **Bless'd Be The God Of Israel** VT 223

Offering

Hearing God's Word

Children's Story

Hymn **Comfort, Comfort, O My People** VT 212

Scripture Isaiah 2:1-5

Sermon Following God's Dream

Hymn **Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming** VT 216

Waiting in Hope

Communion *

Benediction

Hymn **Hope Is A Candle** VT 211

* Everyone is welcome to participate in Communion by sharing the bread and cup. You will be served where you are seated and we invite everyone to hold the bread and cup until everyone has been served so that we may partake in unison. Please raise your hand if you are missed while communion is being served.

If you require gluten free bread, it is available in the paper cups on each tray.

Wine is red. Juice is clear.

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Worship Leader: Grace Harms

Children's story: Joe Wiens

Music: Flying Free

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

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

~ **Our love and sympathy** to Sharon and John Friesen, Heidi, Lyndon, Celina, Liam and Natalie Toews at the passing of father and grandfather and great grandfather Bill Zacharias who passed away November 22. Funeral services were held on Saturday.

~ **Condolences to** Helen and Hugo Voth in the passing of her sister, Susan Giesbrecht Monday Nov 21. Also sister-in-law to Ruth Peters. Funeral services were held on Friday.

~ **International witness:** Pray for the Tokyo Area Fellowship of Mennonite Churches as it makes decisions on what to do with the building that housed the Tokyo Mennonite Centre. Pray that they will be of one heart as they move forward with plans. Pray for MC Canada relationship catalysts, Rie and Gerald Neufeld, as they support TAFMC in this process. For more info, visit www.mennonitechurch.ca/japan.

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

Elsie Heide November 30

Wilma Martens December 1

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

Leader: Watch! You know what time it is,
how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.

People: The night is far gone, the day is near.

Leader: As we watch, we light this candle as a sign of our hope.

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

FROM THE PASTOR – Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

This Sunday begins our journey to Christmas. The four weeks of Advent is the time in which we prepare our hearts and our minds to receive Jesus, the Christ child, Emmanuel, God with us.

This year our theme is “**Restoration is Near.**” Restoration is an act of bringing something back to its original condition, or to an improved condition. It is an acknowledgement that things are not as they should be, and could be better. During Advent we are declaring that God is coming to put things right. We are declaring that God sees the brokenness in our world and that restoration is near.

Throughout the weeks of Advent, you will see some examples of restoration in progress– the main visual is a ripped blanket that will be patched back together each week.

But because restoration is not complete, advent symbolizes this time of waiting that we are in, a time of holy waiting. We are longing for God’s kingdom to break in. We are longing for that which is broken to be mended and made new again. We are longing for that which is in pieces to be made whole again, and we are longing for God’s actions to be made visible, as the Psalmist says in psalm 80 “Restore us, O God: let your face shine, that we may be saved.”

So, join us in this time of holy waiting, as we place our trust in the hope of Christmas.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ABC Youth: Youth Wed. Nov. 30, 7-9pm.

Ventures Club: Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:15 in the church basement

Sermon discussion Tuesday at noon.

Virginia is taking her weekend off. She will be back in the office on Tuesday.

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.

A staffing announcement from your Church Council: Cheryl Harder and Jolene Friesen Stoesz have given notice of their intention to resign effective December 31st as our church custodians. We will begin the search for replacements immediately and it’s our hope that we can fill that vacancy before the end of the year, and allow for training. We are thankful to Jolene and Cheryl for their service, especially with the additional challenges of COVID protocols and the recent basement water incidents. If you would like to know more about the position, Jolene and Cheryl are more than willing to provide more information. If you are interested in the position, or know of someone who might be, please get in touch with Al Friesen, Church Council Chair.

The children’s story coin count has done an amazing thing!

By filling a relief kit or “bucket,” we are helping families in need in Jordan and others who have been displaced due to conflict and disaster. Our bucket will help them navigate life through such difficult circumstances. MCC thanks us for being a part of this crucial, lifesaving and hope-giving project.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Altona MCC is looking for a shop manager. Please contact Corny Fehr at (MCC) 324.8323 or (cell) 324.3862.

Blood Donor Clinic December 1 at the Altona Rhineland Pioneer Centre. Please call 1-888-236-6283, or go on-line to book your appointment. No walk ins please. The mobile donor centre hours are: 2:00 – 7:00 pm.

Share the warmth program is up and running! Any sizes of gently used coats, ski pants, boots, toques, mitts and neck warmers for both children and adults welcome. Donations can also be made out to: The Community Exchange. Your contribution makes a warm and important impact. Drop offs are any Monday or Wednesdays during the winter months. Contact Julia Bergman at *sharethewarmthinfo@gmail.com* or text at 204.470.9481.

CMU: Christmas at CommonWord – Prepare for Advent and Christmas with gift-giving ideas (fair-trade coffee, seasonal books, other books to gift, Indigenous gifts) and church resources (worship, devotionals, group studies, performed dramas). Visit in person (2299 Grant Ave., Winnipeg) or online at commonword.ca. See the online flyer for Christmas sale specials available from November 28 to December 2.

MCM: Mennonite Church Canada is pleased to welcome Sandy Plett as climate action coordinator. Plett will coordinate efforts across the regional churches to build understanding and action around and in response to the climate crisis. Sandy is part of MCM's Pembina Mennonite Fellowship. Visit www.mennonitechurch.ca/article/14531-sandy-plett-hired-as-climate-action-coordinator

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona: 117 2ND Street NW Altona, MB, R0G 0B1 **Web Page Address:** abchurchcommunity.ca

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Worship Services available online at: abchurchcommunity.ca

Facebook: ABC community

Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990, (C) 1-204-771-3406, marktd@abchurch.ca

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



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.

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!

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.

