

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of
ALTONA

Sunday, April 7, 2024 10:30 am

"Have you believed because you have seen? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." John 20:29

Gathering and Praise

Announcements

Hymn All Who Are Thirsty VT 49

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn The Risen Christ VT 345

Entering God's Story

Offering

Children's Story

Scripture John 20:19-31; Acts 4:32-5:11

Sermon Embracing Doubt!

Responding in Faith

Hymn The Love of God VT 162

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn Christ Be All Around Me VT 848

Sermon: Rick Neufeld **Worship Leading:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert
Music: ABC Ensemble **Children's Story:** Heidi Toews
Sanctuary art: by Jolene Friesen-Stoesz

Over the next few weeks our worship series will explore the question: Christ is Risen, so what? This is an opportunity to delve into what the resurrection of Jesus means for our lives, for the church, and for the world.

April 7. Speaker: Rick Neufeld

April 14. Speaker: Virginia

April 21: Speaker: Mark

April 28: Speaker: Terrell

FROM THE PASTOR: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Sabbatical reflection #1

My three month Sabbatical has come and gone. And it is good to be back, and also good to reflect on how it went.

A few weeks ago, a recently retired pastor asked me what *kind* of a Sabbatical it was. I said that I had thought it would be a study one, where I would read lots and learn tons... but I hadn't really created any sort of structure or course work to facilitate that. Then when my Sabbatical actually began, I realized that I needed rest. I needed a Sabbath and I needed to give myself permission to let go and learn how to do that.

One of the reasons behind God's command for Sabbath rest is to remember God's creation and that we are living in God's world. Sometimes I can forget that and be lured into thinking that everything is up to me, that I am in control. This can make me feel good, like I am in charge of something. But it can also become an unnecessary burden and cause stress, worrying about every detail as if I can control them.

For my Sabbatical I took a rest from my own self-importance, and I let go of trying to pay attention to everyone and everything. It felt like I gave a part of my brain a break. I tried not to make "to-do" lists, I tried not to make too many plans and I tried not to think about the goings on at church. I slowed down and tried to pay attention to the moments at hand.

It was hard at times, I got frustrated with my lack of direction, and I missed my church community, but in stepping away and letting go I feel like I am better able to intentionally step back in. And hopefully this process will help me hold everything a little less tightly.

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 1.204.771.3406, marktd@abchurch.ca

Assoc. Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, C 304.6119 viriniagr@abchurch.ca

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,
C 204.417.8200, terrellw@abchurch.ca

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer and Praise:

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

Anne Friesen- Apr. 8, Oliver Neufeld- Apr. 8, Milly Klassen- Apr. 10,
Margaret Friesen- Apr. 12, Lisa Hiebert-Penner- Apr. 12,
Sarah Dueck- Apr. 12, Hilda Wiebe- Apr. 12, Larry D. Friesen- Apr. 13,
Hazel Ginter- Apr. 13

Hospitalized: Pete Heinrichs at the Altona Health Centre.

A big thank you from Ventures! Together we raised nearly \$400 in bookmark sales that went to providing school kits through MCC.

Indigenous Relations: Still calling for a landfill search. In September 2023, the regional church leaders within Mennonite Church Canada, joined the voices of our siblings in Christ calling for justice for Morgan Harris and Mercedes Myran and for an end to the violence against Indigenous women, children, and Two-Spirit people. The Harris and Myran families continue to call all levels of government to search the landfill. On March 29th (1pm PST), a virtual 'prayer as action' hour will be held with updates on how to support Camp Morgan and hold MMIWG families in the Light. Register to attend: (<https://tinyurl.com/yux9e98k>).

This week at ABC:

Sun. Apr. 7, Sunday School for all ages.

Sun. Apr. 7, Short congregational meeting after the worship service

Tue. Apr. 9, 10:30 am: Coffee with the church staff.

Wed. Apr. 10, 7-9: Combined youth event (Gr. 7-12). Taskmaster! Based on the popular British gameshow. The first task is to bring your idea of the worst Mother's Day gift. Check out the show on YouTube if you want an idea of what we will be doing.

Thur. Apr. 11, 7: Spiritual Advisory Committee meeting.

Pastor Mark and Pastor Terrell are taking the weekend off. They will be back in the office on Tuesday April 9.

Our Good Friday service, including the monologues, were written by Susanne Guenther Loewen for Nutana Park Mennonite Church. It was adapted by Terrell Wiebe for our Good Friday service.

The church is placing a Voices Together order. If you would like to order a copy for yourself, please let Delores Enns know by Tue., Apr. 9.

Brunch Church on May 5! Start time: 9:15. End time: noon-ish. Our meal is a fundraiser in support of the kid's camp at Matheson Island which our youth will be leading this summer. Breakfast will be provided by the youth involved.

Our speaker will be *David Scott, who is an Ojibwe Traditional Knowledge Keeper and Indigenous environmental expert from Swan Lake First Nation.* David will be speaking to us about the significance of our land for Indigenous people, the historic relationships between Mennonites and Indigenous people, and how we can take steps toward reconciliation. It is our hope that David's sharing will guide us on the learning journey we began with the blanket exercise at our last brunch church. This Brunch Church will be a joint event with Altona Mennonite Church. Since AMC is also a partner in the relationship with Matheson Island and has some youth involved in the summer camp, they have accepted the invitation to join us!

Camp sponsorship for campers or staff application deadline April 30, 2024.

At our recent AGM, we committed that prior to the acceptance of an offer related to the sale of the surplus land, the details would be shared at a special congregational meeting. An offer has been presented by our realtor, that we feel confident in bringing forward to you. **There will be a congregational meeting today immediately following the morning worship service in the church basement.**

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MCC: What would it look like to do a month of Climate Actions for Peace? [Sign up to get your free calendar](#) with a different climate action you can take each day in April. From learning, to praying to advocating, this month of activities will help you take action to address climate change. Visit mcc.org/climate-action-peace for more information.

Community Orchard Project: Concert in support of the Community Orchard Sat. April 13, 6-10 pm at the Community Exchange.

Mennonite Church Manitoba weekly congregational profile: Bethel Mennonite Church is an established congregation in Winnipeg near the intersection of Grant Ave and Stafford St. They worship on Sunday mornings, but through the week their building is in constant use by community groups and ministries including the Carter Early Learning Centre, Mosaic Newcomer language programs, Harvest Manitoba food bank and weekly Kids and Youth clubs. They also have a close relationship with Bethel Place next door, which offers affordable community living for seniors. They welcome prayer for the ongoing vision and capacity that sustains these community partnerships, as well as for the vitality of their worshipping congregation. Like many others, they still find themselves discerning the landscape of our changing "post-pandemic" times, and asking important questions about who God is calling them to be.