

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH OF ALTONA

Sunday, December 29, 2024, 10:30 am

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet
Matthew 1:22*

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Music Joy to the World VT 240

Call to Worship, Prayer and Candle Lighting

Music Oh, How Joyfully VT 254

Entering God's Story

Prayer for Offering

Offering

Children's Story

Theme Song We Come VT 225

Scripture Matthew 1:18-25; 2:13-23

Sermon Christmas According to the Gospel of Matthew

Responding in Faith

Music O Come, O Come Immanuel VT 210

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Music Go Tell It on the Mountain VT 252

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Worship Leading: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Music: Joyce Falk and Andrew Richert

Children's Story: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona 117-2nd St NW/ROG 0B1

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E-mail: office@abchurch.ca **Facebook:** ABC community

Worship Services available online at: abchurchcommunity.ca

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

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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PRAYER AND PRAISE -

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

Edgar Loeppky- Dec. 31, Katie Krahn- Jan. 1, Sheree Wahl- Jan 2,
Hilda Franz- Jan. 4

Hospitalized: Henry Klassen, Art Dyck are in the Altona Health Centre.

Katherine Friesen from our congregation passed away on Dec. 20. The funeral service for Katherine will be on Dec. 30 at 11 am at EMMC. We are invited to join in gratitude for her life and pray for her family.

Our condolences are extended to Colin and Laura Reimer on the death of Colin's uncle, David Reimer who passed away on Dec. 23 from Boissevain Manitoba.

- THIS WEEK AT ABC -

Sun. Dec. 29, 10:30 am: Worship service

Tues. Dec. 31, 10:30 am: Coffee with the Church staff

There will be no children's Sunday school on Dec. 29 and Jan. 5.

International Witness: Pray for People in South Korea. Mennonite Church Canada liaison workers, Cheryl Woelk and Scott Kim ask that you pray with them: Late in the evening on Dec. 3, the South Korean president declared martial law and then lifted it a few hours later after a strong response from people and leaders. In addition to considerable political instability while leaders decide how to respond to the president's action and what steps to take next, large crowds of people are participating in nonviolent protests to remove the president and there is uncertainty in some of South Korea's international relationships as the situation continues. People in South Korea are working through the numerous economic, social and emotional impact of this event. It especially brings to the forefront pain from the last time of martial law 44 years ago which resulted in a massacre of demonstrators in the city of Gwangju. Please pray for people in South Korea to continue to respond to this situation in ways that build peace, and for sisters and brothers in Mennonite circles here finding ways to support peacebuilding efforts.

The church office will be closed on *December 25, 26, 27 and January 1.*

Dec. 31: Tuesday coffee *will go ahead*

Virginia will be on vacation from December 30 to January 6.

Terrell will be on vacation from December 26 to January 2.

Mark will be on sabbatical from January 1 – January 31.

Year end donations can be dropped off at the church office or with Laurie *before noon on Tuesday December 31.*

- Ang is in the office Dec. 31 9 am-12 noon or use the locked "mail drop box" beside the office.
- Laurie Enns' home (168 Elmcrest) or Keystone Kat
- Call/text Laurie for arrangements at 204.981.4248

Thank you for your comments and suggestions at our recent fall congregational meeting. As you may recall, there was some discussion regarding the offering. The kids coin collection is very well received by the children (and the adults!) It's helped connect the children with the efforts of international organizations like Canadian Food Grains Bank, and others closer to home. Also, following a suggestion from the congregation, and initial discussion at our AGM, we committed to some changes with the adult offering. Beginning in 2025 (Jan. 5th) a clearly marked secure offering box will be placed in the foyer (at the double doors entering the sanctuary) to insert cheques, cash and envelopes. This will take the place of the ushers receiving the offering, although for the month of January, the ushers will still be present for those of us who have not yet made the transition to the offering box. If you prefer, you can also hand your offering to an usher on your way into the worship service or drop off your offering at the office Tues. through Fri., 9 - noon. We thank you for your willingness to proceed on this suggestion from the congregation. Merry Christmas from your Church Council.