

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH
of ALTONA

Sunday, February 2, 2025, 10:30 am

*For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid,
which is Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:11*

Gathering

Hymn Here in This Place VT 10
Opening and Prayer
Hymn Holy God, We Praise Thy Name VT 126
Offering True Evangelical Faith

Listening

Children's Story
Scripture Acts 2:22-24, 33, 7-38, Mark 16:14-18
Sermon Part 1 Anabaptist Beginnings
Skit
Scripture 1 Corinthians 3:10-11
Sermon Part 2 Foundation on Christ

Responding

Hymn Together VT 389
Prayer with the Anabaptists
Benediction
Music For We Are Strangers No More VT 409

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Worship Leading: Terrell Wiebe

Music: ABC Ensemble **Children's Story:** Laurie Enns

Today we begin a worship series on **Anabaptism at 500**. This is in part to commemorate the five hundredth anniversary of the Anabaptist movement that began in 1525. In this series we will share stories and explore our current connections to this movement. The goal is not the past but the future, we will be invited to "look back as we strive to live wholeheartedly into God's future."

Feb 2. Origins and Baptism: Speaker Virginia

Feb 9. Knowing Jesus is Following Jesus: Speaker Mark

Feb 16. Non-violence: Speaker Terrell

Feb 23. Separation from the World: Speaker Mark

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PRAYER AND PRAISE -

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

Marilyn Friesen- Feb. 2, Ben Hildebrand- Feb. 2, Alvin Kehler- Feb. 2,
Hannah Loeppky- Feb. 4, Wayne Loeppky- Feb. 5, Edna Stoesz- Feb. 6,
Elmer Hildebrand- Feb. 7, Noah Ginter- Feb. 7

Hospitalized: Herman Kuhl, Henry Klassen, Art Dyck and Shirley Schellenberg are in the Altona Health Centre.

International Witness: During the past 3 years, the Mennonite Church in Burkina Faso has sent mission workers as Christian witnesses in the neighbouring country of Mali. This is a wonderful example how the Mennonite church in Burkina is not only thriving in their own context but reaching out to share God's love beyond themselves. More details: <https://preview.mailerlite.io/emails/webview/460682/142148829717726612>. In a similar vein, the Burkinabé leaders support the small, newer Mennonite congregations in Sierra Leone through theological training, and have been instrumental in connecting the Ghana Mennonite church to other Mennonites in Africa through the AIMM family [www.mennonitechurch.ca/AIMM]. Praise God for the way the Burkina Mennonite church is letting their light shine before others and supporting other Mennonite churches in Africa.

- THIS WEEK AT ABC -

Sun. Feb. 2, 9:15-10:15 am: Sunday school for age 3-gr. 12

Sun. Feb. 2, 10:30 am: Worship service

Tues. Feb. 4, 10:30 am: Coffee with the Church staff

Wed. Feb. 5, 7-8:15 pm: Ventures

Wed. Feb. 5, 7-9 pm: Combined Youth - Winter Olympics!
(Take 2)

Save the Date: ABC's Annual General Meeting is set for March 2. Potluck lunch begins after the worship service, followed by the AGM at approximately 12:30 pm.

A BIG thank you from the Ventures program for your generosity from our cookie sales last Sunday. \$675 was made and will be put to our MCC school kit project.

From the Finance and Maintenance: Here's an update on some of the suggestions that were discussed/affirmed at our recent fall meeting in December. *Traffic signs* to create a safer entry/exit flow at the canopy/entrance at our North Entrance have been ordered and will soon be installed. *Safety* will also be enhanced with the installation of another railing at the main eastern entrance. This is expected to occur by spring. *An additional young family space* will also be created adjacent to the existing space. As previously noted, young families are welcome to sit throughout the sanctuary, but based on the recommendation, this provides a bit more "breathing" space for young children. Rubberized flooring has arrived, and the space will be created shortly. We also received a working plan to freshen up the *choir loft side and back walls*, which shows a lot of promise. Our goal is to proceed, or have final details, by the Annual General Meeting in early March. Thank you for your suggestions, and concern for our sanctuary. We welcome your questions.

MCM Gathering February 28 - March 1 which will be held at Grace Mennonite Church in Steinbach, including a Friday evening worship service and Saturday plenary sessions. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ang at the office.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MCC: Join us for a dignity kit-packing event at MCC Manitoba (100-140 Bannatyne Ave., Winnipeg) on Friday, Feb. 14 or Tuesday, Feb. 18. MCC's dignity kits provide essential hygiene items, including reusable menstrual pads, to support women and girls around the world. Help us reach our goal of packing 700 kits! Everyone is welcome (minors must be 10 years or older and accompanied by an adult). Spots are limited. Learn more and register at mcc.org/kit-packing-bannatyne

Pray for our congregations: Please pray for **Pinawa Christian Fellowship** as we adjust to the changes, in individual lives and our congregation, that come with aging. We also pray that we will find ways to reach out to the many new people who are choosing to call Pinawa home. We have young families moving here, and hope they can find a spiritual home at our church. We are looking for creative ways to invite newcomers, and to be active participants in Pinawa life.

FROM THE PASTOR – Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Mennonite Church Manitoba recently began a visioning process called **Hope and Courage**. As part of this process, they are inviting individuals and asking people to volunteer to participate in focus group discussions. Last week, I had the pleasure of participating in a pastors focus group discussion. It was a fairly straight forward conversation. We were all asked to respond to the same 4 questions.

*What do you like about your church? What are your challenges
What do you like about MCM? What are our challenges?*

With 7 pastors in the room there was no end to the things that could be shared. All of us found praises for our churches and challenges or desires of where we could do better. Nothing seemed terribly new. But then our conversation shifted when we began to talk about our appreciations and challenges around MCM. I started to realize how many pastors around the table came from non-Mennonite backgrounds, or at least not Mennonite Church Manitoba backgrounds. They were talking about being welcomed and cared for and supported as they navigated the waters for the first time. Some of them even compared MCM to their previous conference affiliations and praised MCM. Their appreciations made me smile and feel good about MCM and my role within it. But then their challenges challenged me in return. They pointed out that our tendency to idealize our cultural identity around food and family connections creates barriers for newcomers, in big and small ways. And they named the need for us to find our identity as MCM in connection with our faith as opposed to our heritage.

There were many other insights and more will be discussed at our MCM gathering on March 1. But I wanted to invite you to join me in seeking out our connections within our church and conference that go beyond culture and family, that include those who are new, and that place faith above other identifiers.

If you are interested in participating in MCM's visioning process, and sharing your perspective there is a short-form survey available on the MCM website: www.mennochurch.mb.ca/hopeandcourage

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