

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
Of Altona*



Sunday, February 26, 2023

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona
Worship Service
February 26, 2023, 10:30 am*

“then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” Genesis 2:7

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Music Here I Am To Worship

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music Holy Lord VT 314

Offering Lord, I Need You VT 155

Hearing God’s Word

Children’s story

Scripture Genesis 2:4b-7, Joel 1, 12-13, 16

Sermon God’s Creativity With Dust

Receiving ashes *

Responding to God’s Word

Music Create In Me

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Music Blessed Be Your Name VT 637

*Everyone will be invited to come forward and receive ashes as a sign of our brokenness and need for God.

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Worship Leader: Terrell Wiebe

Children’s story: Janna Wiebe

Music: Worship Team

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Shirley Toews is at the Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **This week, Nick Rempel and Ben Rempel** are performing in *Clue: On Stage* presented by W.C. Miller. We wish them a wonderful week of performances and praise God for this opportunity.
- ~ **Dayna Wahl and her family** are returning from the Canada Winter Games in Charlottetown, PEI. Congratulations to Dayna and her team on making the playoffs! We celebrate all the success they have had this season and are grateful to God for safety in their many travels.
- ~ **International witness:** Pray for the Mennonite Community of the Congo (CMCo) and the Bitu parish as they help care for 320 people displaced by violent clashes in the last six months. Thousands have fled. Basic necessities are scarce for the hosts and the guests. Pray that negotiations will return peace to affected people.
- ~ **Our church's delegates** for the Mennonite Church Manitoba gathering are Trevor Friesen-Stoesz, Harold Schlegel, Elaine Erb, Grace Harms, and Mark Tiessen-Dyck. The gathering is next weekend, March 3-4 at Douglas Mennonite Church in Winnipeg.
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**
Matthew Giesbrecht Feb. 28 Lynda Hiebert Mar. 3
Sally Funk Mar. 1 Stephanie Rempel Mar. 3
Marvin Falk Mar. 1 Ruth Peters Mar. 4

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Our worship series for Lent is called "Why did Jesus die?" We will be exploring the resistance Jesus experienced which led to his crucifixion and theological understandings of the saving significance of Jesus' death.

Feb 26: A service of confession and ashes. Speaker: Virginia

March 5: Exploring the atonement part 1. The penal substitutionary model. Speaker: Mark

March 12: Exploring the atonement part 2. The moral influence model. Speaker: Mark

March 19: Exploring the atonement part 3: The Christus Victor model. Speaker: Mark

March 26: Jesus and religious authorities. Speaker: Terrell

April 2: Jesus and Rome. Speaker: Virginia

April 7: Good Friday service with Communion.

April 9: Easter.

Over the next three Sundays, I'll be exploring the major ways that Christians have understood the atonement (the saving significance of Christ's death) including some tangents and territory beyond the three classical "theories".

Why this series? Because I believe that our theology of Christ's death is impoverished because we accept clichés or oversimplified explanations such as "Christ died for our sins" without understanding or exploring what such statements mean. In much of the contemporary church, what is called "satisfaction atonement" or "substitutionary atonement" has become the default and unquestioned understanding of the atonement with little room for the breadth of how scripture speaks of Jesus' death. Substitutionary atonement sees the death of Jesus as a substitution for our punishment which satisfies the wrath of God so that we are saved from the punishment we deserve for our sins (This is what the words, "Jesus died for our sins," are often assumed to mean). I do not dismiss this atonement theology outright, but I believe it raises significant questions that must be explored and that it cannot comprise the entirety of our atonement theology.

As I have warned sometimes in the past, these sermons will not be for the faint of heart! Particularly next Sunday, as I explore substitutionary atonement, it may seem that I am dismissing what has always been taught. It is not my intent to strip anyone of their faith. My hope is that by the end of Lent, we will have grown in our theological imagination and have a richer and more biblical understanding of the crucifixion of Jesus and what it means for us and the world.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona: 117 2 Street NW Altona, MB, R0G 0B1
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 204.771.3406, marktd@abchurch.ca
Assoc. Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, C 304-6119 virginiaagr@abchurch.ca
Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,
C 204.417.8200, terrellw@abchurch.ca

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Sunday, February 26: Sunday school for ages 3-18 from 9:15-10:15 am in the basement of the education wing, youth are in the south wing.

Sunday, February 26: Lunch and annual general meeting in the church basement.

Wednesday, March 1: Ventures from 7:00-8:15 pm

Wednesday, March 1: 7:00 - 9:00 **Junior Youth** (gr. 7-12) Giant sized game night!

Thursdays, Book Study at 2:00 pm at Gardens on Tenth.

Friday March 3: 11:30 am - 1:30 pm **Senior Youth** (gr. 9-12). Drop in at South Wing. You have no school! Invite a friend and come for a pizza lunch and games.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The A.B.C. tech team are excited to announce an update to our YouTube service for A.B.C.! We will be transitioning to a new YouTube channel beginning this Sunday, February 26th! If you join the service via our A.B.C. website homepage, there won't be any changes for you. However, if you view the service by going to YouTube and then connecting via your "subscription", that will need to be updated. The link below will take you to our new A.B.C. YouTube channel and we'd invite you to subscribe to this new channel. Please contact Jason Driedger for more info!

<https://www.youtube.com/@abchurchcommunity>

Calling all artists: we are need of art for the front cover of our bulletins. During lent we are looking for images of Jesus or the cross. Or other images could be used for a later date. Please do them in black and white (pencil or pen) on plain white paper with nothing on the back. Half of an 8.5x11 works best but other sizes hopefully could be adapted. Be in touch with Ang or Virginia if you have any questions.

Don't forget to contribute to the "I Love My Church" bulletin board in the foyer.

Everyone is invited to a fellowship lunch provided by church council after the service and to our annual meeting this afternoon.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MCM: MCM Gathering 2023 Worship Service. All are invited. March 3, 7:00pm. Douglas Mennonite Church 1517 Rothesay Ave., Winnipeg. Music will be led by the Faith and Life Male Choir and Camps with Meaning Summer Staff. Learn more about the Gathering at www.mennochurch.mb.ca/gathering2023

Mennonite Church Canada: Pray for deep engagement by the 45+ registrants in Neill and Edith von Gunten's 4-session online study of their book Walking Together being presented by MCEC Truth and Reconciliation Working Group.

MCC: MCC is accepting donations to support people affected by the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria. MCC is working with long-term partners in Aleppo and surrounding areas to provide emergency food, shelter, hygiene, sanitation supplies and trauma counselling. You can share a gift online at mcccmb.ca/earthquake, or 204-261-6381.

Altona MCC: You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of Altona MCC Thrift Shop on February 27 at 2:00pm at Altona EMMC. The agenda includes various reports, election of board members, guest speaker Darryl Loewen, Executive Director MCC Manitoba with soup and pie to follow.

CMU: Face to Face | Polarization: Get over it! Stories that lead the way – Jayme Menzies of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and Manitoba MLAs Kelvin Goertzen, Dougald Lamont, and Jamie Moses will share examples and stories of how they've overcome polarization in big and small ways in their various contexts. Join in person or via livestream on Monday, February 27 at 7:00 PM CST. More information and livestream at cmu.ca/face2face.

YFC is starting our breakfast program at W.C. Miller back up and we looking for bakers! Either monthly, bi-weekly, or even just one-time, whatever works for you! Muffins, breakfast squares, and cookies are all great. You are welcome to drop any baking off at the station (don't worry about it getting old, we have lots of freezer space) and usually we are open 9:00-4:00 during the day. Or if you would like to make something fresh like cinnamon buns, we definitely wouldn't say no. Feel free to contact kendra.fehr@yfc.ca to arrange details or if you have any questions. Thank you!

W.C. Miller's drama troupe is excited to present Clue, a farcical murder mystery March 1-4. This is our first drama since late 2019, and we are very excited to put this on for our community. Tickets can be purchased through the school office: 203-324-6416. On a note specific to ABC: *you will recognize a number of the leads on stage as our church's youth!*