

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024 10:30 AM

*"His disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, 'The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.'" Luke 8:9-10*

Welcome & Announcements

**Praising God**

Hymn What is This Place? HWB 1

Call to worship and Prayer

Hymn In Christ There is No East or West HWB 306

**Seeking the Imagination of Christ**

Offering

Hymn I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table VT 801

Scripture Luke 14:15-24

Meditation

Scripture Matthew 13:44-45

Mediation

Scripture Luke 16:1-13

Mediation

Hymn Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service HWB 369

**Living in Faith**

ABC Conversation with Abby Rempel, Esme Ginter, and Shelby Penner

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us HWB 355

There will not be a children's story today. Instead, the mediations will include words for all ages.

---

**Sermon:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leading:** Jolene Friesen-Stoesz

**Music:** Glenys Voth and Lorraine Hamm

We are in the midst of a sermon series called "Jesus and our Imagination". This series will explore the role of imagination in discipleship and how Jesus enhances our imagination.

January 7. Speaker: Mark. Jesus preaches so we can re-imagine the world.

January 14. Speaker: Mark. Re-imagining wealth with Jesus and Zacchaeus.

January 21. Speaker: Mark. Parables to help us imagine.

January 28. Speaker: Terrell. Who really sees? Jesus gives imagination to a man born blind.

February 4: Speaker: Janna Wiebe. Imagining God as a shepherd.

**FROM THE YOUTH: ESME GINTER**

Over the next few months, we will be using this space to help us get to know the youth of our congregation. Members of the youth council have been asked to be the first ones to answer some questions about themselves. We begin this week with Esme Ginter.

**What is a favourite youth group memory?**

The Lock-in. It was so great to spend time with friends for more than just a few hours.

**Why is the church important to you?**

Church has always been a safe and welcoming place.

**Tell us about one thing that you really enjoy doing, and why?**

Singing worship. It connects me and makes me feel so close to God.

**Is there someone you really look up to?**

My friends and my cousins, but mostly, my mom. She is such a big influence on me.

**What is something you have accomplished that you are proud of?**

Getting better mental health. God and my family and friends have really helped with that.

**What are your hopes for our church?**

For our church to expand our music and worship and to encourage baptism in our young people.

**What are your hopes for yourself?**

To grow in Christ. To read my Bible more. To submit myself to God. And to try to show others God and Christ.

---

**Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona**

**Web Page Address:** [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) **Office:** 324.6717

**E-mail:** [office@abchurch.ca](mailto:office@abchurch.ca) **Facebook:** ABC community

**Worship Services available online at:** [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca)

**Lead Pastor:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324.5990, C 204.771.3406, [marktd@abchurch.ca](mailto:marktd@abchurch.ca)

**Assoc. Pastor:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, on sabbatical until April.

**Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries:** Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,

C 204.417.8200, [terrellw@abchurch.ca](mailto:terrellw@abchurch.ca)

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRAYER AND PRAISE**

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

Peter Hildebrand- Jan. 24, Ruth Kroeker- Jan. 24,

Andrew Heinrichs III- Jan. 27

**Hospitalized:** Pete Heinrichs at the Altona Hospital.

**Pastor Mark** will be on vacation from January 27 to February 12. If you need to be in touch with a pastor during this time, you are welcome to reach out to pastor Terrell.

**Josh Janzen's ordination** service is on Sunday January 21 at 2pm. <http://www.youtube.com/@FMCBearice>.

**Save the date:** Our church AGM will be February 25.

**International Witness:** Join Friends of Grace church network and Witness workers in Thailand, Tom and Christine Poovong, in praising God for the opening of a Bible school in Roi Et. Pray for the pastors and teachers that are teaching courses as well as developing and refining curriculum to meet the needs of lay leaders and pastors in the more than one hundred Friends of Grace congregations and house churches.

#### **This week at ABC:**

Sun. Jan. 21, 9:15-10:15: Sunday School for all ages.

Tue. Jan. 23, 10:30: Coffee with the church staff.

Tue. Jan. 23, 7-9: Senior Youth - God loves your emotions.

Wed. Jan. 24, 7-9: Junior Youth - God loves your emotions.

Wed. Jan 24, 7-8:15: Ventures.

Thur. Jan. 19, 2 pm: Book study.

Thur. Jan. 25, 7 pm: Personnel meeting.

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**Community Meal:** Saturday, Jan. 27- 5-6:30 pm Community Meal at the Community Exchange. Immediately after dinner you're welcome to stay for a "Bands Night – Live bands playing classic hits".

**MCM: Voices Together in Worship - Save the Date** - May 10/11, 2024. A gathering to resource worship planners, leaders, pastors and musicians. Hosted by MCM, sponsored by CMU. [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/events](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/events) for more info.

**CMU: Xplore** – CMU's Xplore extended ed program that investigates dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it—all without assignments or exams! Join one or more in-person or online courses beginning February 20. Register as an individual or host a church watch party. For more information and to register visit [cmu.ca/xplore](http://cmu.ca/xplore).

**MCC:** Thank you for your trust, thank you for your faith. "And thanks to every little coin, every little seed, peacebuilding is becoming a reality," says Ricardo Esquivia, the founder of MCC's partner SembrandoPaz in Colombia.

A long-term partner of MCC, SembrandoPaz uses a peacebuilding lens to approach food security work in rural areas of the Montes de Maria region.

Watch Ricardo's message of gratitude and reflection on partnership with MCC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSAYuaj0y64>

**Gardens on Tenth:** Healthy Living Forum, Wed. Jan 24. For more information and registration call 204.324.8945 or [le@gardensontenth.ca](mailto:le@gardensontenth.ca). Spots are limited! Additionally on this day GOT is offering free hearing screenings. Contact Deandra to book your appointment.

#### **Mennonite Church Manitoba weekly congregational profile:**

The Pinawa Christian Fellowship is a unique multi-denominational congregation recognized by the Anglican Church of Canada, Mennonite Church Manitoba, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and the United Church of Canada. They welcome all people in worship and service and encourage people to retain their denominational identity within their worshipping community. They have been called together as God's people ever since the community of Pinawa was established in 1963. They are an aging congregation in a town that is currently experiencing a demographic renewal of sorts, with new young families moving to Pinawa. Please pray for them as they endeavour to find ways to remain relevant and serve their community in practical ways that point to God as their Inspiration and Guide.