

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024 10:30 AM

*He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" John 9:25*

Welcome & Announcements

**Praising God**

Hymn Wonderful Grace of Jesus VT 170

Call to worship and Prayer

Hymn Just a Closer Walk VT 743

**Seeking the Imagination of Christ**

Offering

Children's Story

Scripture John 9:1-7

Meditation A Blindness of Imagination: The Disciples

Scripture John 9:8-12

Meditation A Blindness of Imagination: The Crowd

Scripture John 9:13-17, 24-25

Meditation A Blindness of Imagination: The Pharisees

Scripture John 9:28-29

Meditation The Blind Who Can See

Hymn Open My Eyes

**Living in Faith**

ABC Conversation with Marilyn Martens

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn Use Us God VT 811

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**Sermon:** Terrell Wiebe **Worship Leading:** James Friesen

**Music:** Flying Free **Children's Story:** Andrew and Stephanie Rempel

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.

*Check out the earlier sermons from our "Jesus and our imagination" series on the church website.*

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.

February 11: We will welcome Ron Falk and Jayme Giesbrecht from Eden Health Care services. Ron will share the message and Jayme will share the music.

**FROM THE YOUTH: Jacob Friesen-Stoesz**

This week we are continuing to use 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 continue this week by getting to know Jacob Friesen-Stoesz.

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

My favorite youth group memory was definitely the lock-in. Being able to spend time with friends and have a blast in the church was so fun.

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

Church is so important to me because it gives me lots of different perspectives about the Bible and God and it allows me to worship with others.

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

I really enjoy exercising and being active because God says our body is the temple for the holy Spirit and we need to keep that temple strong.

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

I got my lifeguard certification last year which I'm really proud about and I'm looking forward to helping others.

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**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:**

Shelby Penner- Feb. 1, Marilyn Friesen- Feb. 2,

Ben Hildebrand- Feb. 2, Alvin Kehler- Feb. 2

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

#### **Indigenous Relations:**

The Jubilee Fund

(<https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/jubilee-fund>) is a project of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Central Committee Canada that attempts to address in a small way the imbalance of wealth and power between people of Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit) descent and Canada's settler population. The grant aims to directly benefit grassroots or non-profit Indigenous movements addressing injustice specifically to land. Grant applications are welcomed until Feb. 15, 2024. Financial Contributions can be sent to Abundance Canada. Please contact: [winnipeg@abundance.ca](mailto:winnipeg@abundance.ca) or 1-800-795-2037.

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

**Sun. Jan. 28**, 9:15-10:15: Sunday School for all ages.

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

**Wed. Jan. 31**, 6:30 - 8:00: Junior Youth - We are playing games and visiting with the residents of the Gardens Apartments. Drop off and pick up will be at the apartments (entrance on 5th St NE).

**Wed. Jan 31**, 7-8:15, Ventures: Bookmarks with Jolene and mini-sticks.

**Thur. Feb. 1**, 2 pm: Book study.

**Fri. Feb. 2**, 2:00-2:30, Senior Youth: Drop in to celebrate the end of exams with a pizza party!

**Pastor** Mark is on vacation until February 13. Pastor Terrell is available if you need to be in touch with a pastor.

**There will be no adult Sunday school** on February 4 and February 11.

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

**Our church is part of Recovery of Hope's Care program.** This means that anyone from our church can contact Recovery of Hope and receive counselling without cost. The church will cover the cost of up to six sessions each year per person/couple/family. This is one way that we care for each other as a church family. The process is completely confidential (your name is not shared with anybody in the church).

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**MCM: Bring back billeting!** As we plan for Gathering 2024 March 1-2 at Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Winkler, we are compiling a list of hosts for delegates travelling from further away that want to stay Friday night. Please pass this along to prospective or confirmed delegates who can contact Naomi Ewert ([office@mennochurch.mb.ca](mailto:office@mennochurch.mb.ca)) directly to be connected to a host. More Gathering 2024 info [at the MCM website](#).

**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:** Do you know a young adult who's looking for a holistic international experience? Encourage them to apply for SALT! MCC's Serving and Learning Together (SALT) program is a year-long cross-cultural experience for Canadian and U.S. citizens. It's a chance to immerse yourself in another culture and grow in ways you never imagined. There is no fee to participate and 2024 applications close February 15. Visit [mcc.org/salt](http://mcc.org/salt) for more information and to apply.

**Pembina Valley Bible Camp presents, "Valley-Tines".** A fundraising banquet held on Feb 14th at 6pm at Pembina Valley Bible Camp filled with amazing food, lots of laughs, and guest speaker, Jeff Banman. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at Winkler and Morden Coop food stores or by calling the camp office, 204-246-2008. Free will offering will be taken.

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

Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church is settling into new rhythms after some significant changes in the last couple of years. In October, Janet Peters joined the pastoral staff which had been functioning at a reduced capacity. Regular attendance is also less than it once was, so they are learning what it means to be a church of 100-150 instead of 200+. SAMC has been blessed with a musical tradition that continues to this day, including both adult and junior choirs. In 2024, SAMC is celebrating their 75th anniversary and they will be looking for ways to share their musical gifts with the community. As they continue to settle into the changes they have experienced, SAMC will be doing some visioning to discern who they are and where God is leading them. Prayers for wisdom and the Spirit's guidance are appreciated.