

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA

Sunday, June 16, 2024 10:30 am

"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." Matthew 24:36

Gathering and Praise

Announcements

Hymn Christ Is Our Cornerstone VT 4

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee VT 103

Entering God's Story

Offering Oh How Wondrous The Grace HWB 147

Children's Story

Scripture 1 Kings 22:1-38

Sermon The Prophetic Word: Mercy or Judgement

Responding in Faith

Hymn In the Bulb There Is A Flower VT 670

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn Go, My Children HWB 433

A warm welcome to Celina and her family from Honduras. Celina was Heidi Toews' host mom when she did SALT over 25 years ago. Celina will share a bit in our worship service with help from Valentina Arias.

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Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert **Worship Leading:** Janna Wiebe

Music: Glenys Voth and Lorraine Hamm

Children's Story: Delores Enns

Today we start a sermon series on the biblical prophets called, "God's Spokespeople". In this series we'll be exploring the message of the prophets in their contexts and seek a prophetic imagination for our present time.

June 16. Micaiah son of Imlah and the role of prophets. Speaker: Virginia

June 23: Amos and the call to justice. Speaker: Mark

June 30: Hosea and the call to fidelity: Speaker: Mark

July 7: Babylon and the announcement of judgement: Speaker: Terrell

July 14: 2 Isaiah and the announcement of comfort: Speaker: Virginia

July 21: Prophets after exile. Speaker: Mark

FROM THE PASTOR: Terrell Wiebe

A look inside a youth event. "Youth Talk Night: God is Love" A 45-minute conversation summed up in 400 words.

Terrell: What kinds of things do you love? **Youth:** Food, sleep, books, video games, volleyball, being outside, weekends.

T: What about love for other people? Is that the same kind of feeling or a different one? **Y:** It's different. Deeper than the love we have for things.

Y: Aren't there different names for love? Like agape and philia?

T: Yes! Wow! Who taught you that?!? Those are Greek words for love. One of them is *philia* – which is like the love of a friend or sibling. Another is *eros*, which is a romantic love. And *agape* is unconditional love, like the love God has for us, God's children.

T: This year we have talked about how God loves our anger, flaws, emotions, and weirdness. And the reason that God loves those things about us that we often think are negative is because God is love.

The group reads 1 John 4:7-12 (sample) "Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God...because God is love."

T: If God is love, it means that God loves us no matter what. We don't have to earn God's love. We don't have to be a Christian or say the right things or act a certain way to be loved by God. We already have God's love.

T: There is a belief that love is a need. What are other needs that we have?

Y: Sleep, food, water, clothing, a home. **T:** Yes, those are our basic needs.

There are also psychological needs like friendship, a feeling of accomplishment, and love!

T: Love is a need. Which is why God's love is a gift to us and why we seek love from others. It is also why our lives are better when we are loved and when we have love for others.

T: The thing about love, though, is that we don't always succeed. There are things that get in the way of love. Can you think of any? **Y:** Greed, selfishness, anger, others being annoying.

T: Right! It's hard to love sometimes, and we often fail. But there is one who has mastered love and for whom nothing can get in the way. And that is God.

The group reads Romans 8:38-39 (sample) "nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Youth spend a few minutes reading through the two scripture texts again. Then they choose a word or phrase that sticks out to them about God's love, write it on a heart shaped piece of paper and tape it up around the youth room. (See bottom of "Church Announcements")

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER AND PRAISE:

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

Freida Sawatzky- June 18, Helen Kuhl- June 18, Mark Penner- June 20, Rowan Wiebe- June 20, Brenda Braun- June 22, Elaine Friesen- June 22

Hospitalized: Jake Sawatzky and Shirley Schellenberg are at the Altona Health Centre.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Jake Bergen at the passing of his daughter, Lori Fehr, on June 10. The funeral service for Lori was held on Saturday, June 15 in Winkler.

Indigenous Relations: Curious about attending a pow-wow? Not sure if you should? Uncertain about what to expect? Mennonite Church Canada Indigenous Relations encourages you to participate in MC Alberta's Pow-wow Prep 101 Zoom workshop on June 13. More info: <https://mcab.ca/powwowprep101>

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Sun. June 16, 10:30: Church service

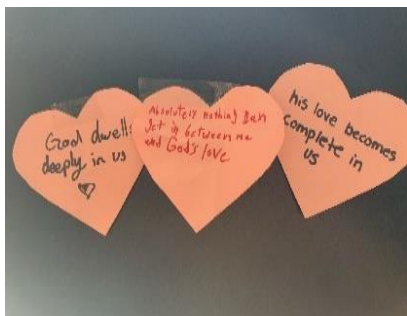
Tue. June 18, 10:30 am: Coffee with the church staff.

Thur. June 20, 7 pm: Church Council meeting

Pastor Mark is taking the weekend off. He will be back in the office on Tuesday June 18.

Save the Date: September 28-29. ABC retreat at Camp Assiniboia.

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Youth hearts:

"God dwells deeply in us"

"Absolutely nothing can get in between me and God's love"

"His love becomes complete in us"

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Blood Donor Clinic: Thursday, June 20 at the Pioneer Centre. Contact blood.ca to book an appointment.

MCC: Cycle Clear Lake and pedal with purpose in support of MCC's international food projects. Join us on Saturday, July 6 for a scenic 34 km trail ride through Riding Mountain National Park. Come for the day or camp for the weekend. For full event details and to register today, check out mcc.org/manitoba/cycleclearlake

Mennonite Church Canada: After a one-year delay, plan to attend the Mennonite Church Canada Gathering 2025 in Kitchener, ON, July 2-5, 2025.

Camps with Meaning needs you! Specific asks include 17+ yr old lifeguards (July 7-12, July 21-26 and August 18-23 at Koinonia) and Kitchen Help (July 7-12 and July 28-August 2 at Koinonia, June 30-July 4, August 5-9 and August 11-16 at Camp Assiniboia). Please tap those you know to consider these opportunities or come as a group for extra fun! All volunteer needs are posted on the website, so take a look and sign up- www.campswithmeaning.org/staff. We are grateful to our community for the way you support camping ministry!

Mennonite Church Manitoba weekly congregational profile: Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Winkler strives to be an inviting, Christ-centered community in which people are being transformed to live like Jesus. They intentionally focus on being an intergenerational community that impacts those around them through hospitality, stewardship, and missional living. Their activities, whether worship or daily living, align with that focus. Although they may come with different experiences and perspectives, they are united in their desire to serve others and demonstrate Christ's love to one another. They ask for prayers as they seek to embrace God's calling.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

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

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