

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
Of Altona*



*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona
Worship Service*

March 12, 2023, 10:30 am

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.” ~ 1 John 3:16

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Music Holy Spirit, Come With Power HWB 26

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music I Sing the Mighty Power of God HWB 46

Offering

Hearing God's Word

Children's story

Scripture Mark 10:35-45

Sermon Does Jesus' Death Change Your Heart?

Confessing and Reconciling

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Music When I Survey The Wondrous Cross
HWB 259

Responding in Trust

Prayer of the Church and the World

Benediction

Music He Who Watches Over You

Sunday, March 12, 2023

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck
Worship Leader: Harold Schlegel and Elaine Erb
Children's story: Sharon Friesen
Music: Glenys Voth

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Bernie (Edith) Friesen is at the Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **Please join in prayer** for Edgar and Marge Loeppky as Marge Recovers from a fall and broken arm. May God's healing mercies come!
- ~ **A GREAT BIG THANK YOU** to Alfred, Lyndon, and Joe, for their help at church and the hospital when I fell and broke my arm. May God bless you. - Marge & Edgar Loeppky
- ~ **International witness:** Pray for Sarah Wood, Mennonite Church Canada Witness intern, as she concludes her term of service in Thailand on March 10. Pray that these final days connecting with the school and church community in Loei will be rich, and that her transition back to life in Canada will be enriched by the experience.
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**
Mary Anne Loeppky March 12 Marie Schmidt March 15
Rose Tryon March 12 Bill Stoesz March 17
Bob Friesen March 15

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. Penal substitutionary theology. Speaker: Mark

March 12: Exploring the atonement part 2. Moral influence theology. Speaker: Mark

March 19: Exploring the atonement part 3: Christus Victor theology. 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.

FROM THE PASTOR: Terrell Wiebe

One important factor in the lives of young adults whose faith has stuck with them through their transition from high school into young adulthood is having had a *safe place to express doubts* throughout their teenage years. Young people today are asking many of life's most difficult and important questions. What they are seeking are not just answers but conversations. Studies have shown that while the majority of students in church have doubts about faith and life, only a small percentage have had conversations about those doubts with anyone. In other words, a lot of kids are wrestling with tough questions alone and in silence.

Questions that are foremost on the minds of young people are:

1. Does God exist?
2. Does God love me?
3. Am I living the life God wants?
4. Is Christianity true/the only way to God?

Adults will likely notice that these questions are not all that different than what they themselves are asking. Perhaps when adults are silent about our own faith questions, our kids don't know they can ask them out loud. Is there an opportunity for us to model the sharing of doubts and struggles? Can we also model the role of the faith community in caring for and carrying those who are sharing?

Our responsibility to the kids of our congregation includes creating safe places and times for questions that emerge along the faith journey. Where are those safe times and places at ABC? What about in our homes? When doubts and struggles are expressed in your home or at ABC, how are they received? Adults may want to ask themselves something like, "How do I tend to respond when a student asks a hard question about God? What do I think my first response does to open up space for more questioning or shut that space down?"

Doubts are not toxic to faith; silence is.

Studies show that when young people are struggling with belief and have no safe place to share, it can lead to a weakening of faith. However, the opposite is true for those who find safe places to process what they are thinking. When those opportunities are made available, struggles can result in the strengthening of faith.

Keep an eye out for ways that you can foster safe places for sharing in your life and in your involvement at ABC.

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, March 12: 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.

Tuesdays lunch sermon discussion time

Wednesday, March 15: Ventures windup from 6:30-8:15.

Wednesday, March 15: 7:00 - 9:00 Junior Youth (gr. 7-8) - Games and discussion, "Does God still create stuff today?"

Thursday, March 16: Book study at Gardens on Tenth

Thursday, March 16: Church council meeting at 7 pm.

Friday, March 17: 7:00 - 9:00 Senior Youth (gr. 9-12) - Games and discussion, "Creating with God"

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.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Southern Manitoba Choral Society presents "Give Us Peace" Sunday March 26 at 3 pm at ABC. Ben Kroeker is the conductor and Loren Hiebert is the pianist. A freewill offering will be taken.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS continued:

MCC: Spring is around the corner – will you help us Grow

Hope? Global hunger is an ongoing crisis, and we need you to join with MCC and Manitoba farmers to help provide food where it's most needed. Through sponsoring acres on a local farm a \$1 donation can grow, and then through government matching, could become as much as \$5! Visit mccmb.ca/GrowHope for more information and to donate!

Mennonite Church Manitoba: Steve Bell fundraising concert for Jamie and Kim Arpin-Ricci and their ministry with MCM congregation Little Flowers and Peace and Justice Initiatives. MCM's Kathy G will MC. March 17, 7:30pm. Douglas Mennonite Church. No tickets: donations welcome. Visit their website for more info: <http://peacejustice.ca/steve-bell/>

CMU: MHC Gallery presents two new exhibitions: "Ukraine: Close to Home" and "Leaving Canada: The Mennonite Migration to Mexico". Exhibitions run until April 29, visit cmu.ca/gallery for more information.

MCI Day in the Life – March 17th. Students grades 8-11 are invited to join us on campus for a "Day in the Life" on Friday March 17th. Come and experience life at MCI, from going to classes, meeting teachers, eating lunch in our dining hall, and going to chapel; all hosted by current MCI students. Call (204-327-5891) or email info@mciblues.net to register. We are excited to welcome you into our halls! There's still time to purchase tickets for MCI's musical production of *Little Women: the Musical*. Shows are March 9,10 and 11 at 7:30pm and a matinee on March 11th at 2:00pm. Buy your tickets today at <https://mciblues.net/performing-arts/musical-theatre/> or by calling the school at 204-327-5891 during school hours.

Blood donor clinic: Thursday, March 23 at the Altona Rhineland Pioneer Centre from **2:00 – 7:00 pm**. Please register to donate at Blood.ca

A fundraising concert featuring Steve Bell in support of Turkiye and Syria. Free general admission with 100% of the proceeds will go to Turkey and Syria relief in partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Sunday March 19 at 7 pm at Buhler Hall, Gretna. Donate at: foodgrainsbank.ca/earthquake.

Reinland Sommerfeld Mission Supper happening on Thursday March 16 from 5-7 at the Reinland Community Centre. Come and enjoy Italian chicken and sweet and sour sausage, served with baked potatoes, coleslaw and buns, topped off with a delicious slice of cream pie. Funds are distributed to mission work, both locally and abroad. Payment is by donation with tax receipts available for amounts given above the per-plate minimum. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Lynessa Penner at 204-362-0054.

Prairie Singers will be presenting a choir concert, "A World in Motion", on Saturday, March 18, at 7:30 pm at the Winkler Emmanuel Mennonite Church (750 - 15th Street) with choir conductor Rick Heppner Mueller. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased at the church the night of the concert.