-BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA-
Sunday, November 16, 2025, 10:30 am

"What shall I return to the Lord
for all his goodness to me?" – Psalm 116:12

Praising God

Hymn All Who Are Thirsty VT 49
Call to Worship and Prayer
Hymn Here I Am to Worship VT 227
Offering We Are Marching VT 793

Hearing God's Story

Children's Story
Scripture Psalm 116:1-19
Sermon Returning Praise

Living in Hope

Hymn Help Us to Help Each Other VT 722
Congregational Prayer
Benediction
Hymn You Shall Go Out with Joy VT 847

Sermon: Terrell Wiebe
Worship Leading: James Friesen
Music: ABC Ensemble
Children's Story: Laurie Enns

November 16. Speaker: Terrell
November 23. Memorial Sunday
November 30. First Advent
December 7. Second Advent
December 14. Third Advent
December 21. Children's program

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PRAYER AND PRAISE –

Hospitalized: Shirley Schellenberg is in the Altona Health Centre.

We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:
Claire Ginter- Nov. 14, Susan (Anton) Dueck- Nov. 16,
Tina Heppner- Nov. 18, Larry Falk- Nov. 19, Susan Heinrichs- Nov. 21

International Witness: Global Companion – Vietnam: In the fast-growing Evangelical Mennonite Church Vietnam (EMCV), leadership development is a high priority, as is establishing a common vision and an Anabaptist identity. Nhien Pham and Garry Janzen are Mennonite Church Canada Liaison Workers connecting with EMCV. Read more: https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/article/45693.

- THIS WEEK AT ABC –

Sun. Nov. 16, 9:15 am: Sunday school for all ages
Sun. Nov. 16, 10:30 am: Worship service
Tue. Nov. 18, 10:30 am: Coffee with the church staff
Wed. Nov. 19, 7-9: Worship night for all youth! Singing and prayer with a youth band. If you want to be part of the band let me know!
Wed. Nov. 19, 7-8:15 pm: Ventures

From the Finance and Maintenance: Many of you were in church last Sunday as Jacob, Nicholas, and Martin shared about their summer at Camp Assiniboia and Koinonia. This was partially possible with ABC financial support from our budget, and a fundraising luncheon. Supporting counsellors and campers is just one way your offering is used as part of our outreach programs. Ventures along with senior and junior youth programs are also funded by your contributions. Other organizations supported by ABC include Mennonite Church Manitoba, MCC, YFC, Gardens on Tenth chaplaincy program, Eden Mental Health services, along with the monthly Altona Community Meal. This is all possible due to your generosity. We continue to closely scrutinize our expenditures which are approximately $4000 ahead of last year, with income lagging behind last year by approximately $7000. It's also our experience that many of us make higher contributions prior to year end, and we prayerfully thank you for continuing to financially support your church.

Pastor Mark will be on vacation from November 10-17. You are welcome to reach out to Pastor Terrell with any pastoral concerns during this time.

November 23 [next Sunday] is Memorial Sunday. We will be remembering individuals from our congregation and beyond who have died in the past year. During the worship service, everyone will have the opportunity to light a candle in memory of loved ones who have died.

Save the Date: November 30th - a celebration of appreciation for Virginia's ministry is being planned. This will include a litany of release and blessing during the service followed by a potluck lunch and program.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are posters on the foyer bulletin board for more information and additional community announcements.

Empty Stocking Fund: If you or someone you know would like to receive food vouchers and gifts from the Empty Stocking Fund this Christmas. please register by calling 431-342-0525 or email rhinelandesf@gmail.com. Please leave a name and phone number if you get voicemail. Deadline for registration: Nov 30. Delivery date: Dec 13, Someone must be home to accept gifts. Would you consider helping out? To donate to the Empty Stocking Fund go to Access Credit Union in Plum Coulee, Gretna or Altona.

The Southern MB Choral Society will be performing their fall concert on Sunday, November 16, 3 pm at the Altona Bergthaler Church.

Join us at Eden Foundation's "Light Up the Night" Sunday, Nov. 30, Eden Mental Health Centre Grounds, 1500 Pembina Avenue, Winkler Join us for a festive and meaningful day in support of mental health! Activities: Skating, Christmas carnival, hay rides, snow sculptures, market vendors. Tree Lighting Ceremony begins at 5:30 pm. Bring socks, gloves, or toiletries to help those at Eden Mental Health Centre. Or donate $25 and receive an honorary ornament in memory of someone special, Free admission.

FROM THE PASTOR – Terrell Wiebe

The letter in last weeks bulletin from the Spiritual Advisory Committee highlighted a special worship series, starting in January, that will guide our congregation through a process of spiritual healing. John Klassen, retired pastor from Winkler, will guide us on a healing journey of lament and rebuilding trust that will end in communion. This week and next, first I and then Pastor Mark, will share personally about our desire for healing, both for ourselves and for the congregation.

When I said 'yes!' to joining this congregation as pastor, one of the main reasons was that I was excited to be part of a wonderful pastoral team. That excitement was well placed. Together, the three of us inspired one another to be better pastors and were a support to one another in difficult times. We balanced each others' strengths and weaknesses, and we were able to serve both this congregation and the community well. When I think of what I will be lamenting, much of it is the loss of this team that I so appreciated.

While the past months have been difficult, one of the ways in which I have been inspired is by seeing firsthand how committed our volunteers are to this congregation. So much time, effort, energy, and emotion have been spent seeking to faithfully follow where God is leading us. It has not all gone as we thought it might, and yet my sense is that the commitment to our church and to serving God as the body of Christ has not wavered among those in volunteer roles. It is my strong desire to see our trust in each other and our community restored. A prayer for myself and for all of us is that we will be able to find healing for the past and hope for the future amongst each other and in the presence of our saviour.

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