

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH

of ALTONA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023, 10:30 AM

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people..." Ephesians 1:18

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Call to worship and prayer

Music A wonderful Saviour is Jesus VT 626
I am weak and I need thy strength HWB 553

Offering

Remembering with Hope

Children's story

Time of remembering and candle lighting

Tributes
Candle lighting
Prayer

Music When pain or sorrow/Hold on VT 612

Scripture Ephesians 1:15-23

Sermon The questions we ask in the face of death

Living for God's Kingdom

Music My life flows on VT 605

Benediction

Music My hope is built VT 621

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Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leading:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Music: Sean Goerzen and Hilda Franz **Children's Story:** Delores Enns

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Nov. 26 Memorial Service, Speaker: Mark

Advent: Our theme for Advent this year is **How will we know?** Each week we will ask this question and expand on it as we watch, wait, discern and trust that we will know when we know.

Dec. 3 Advent 1 – How will we know . . . how long?, Communion

Dec. 10 Advent 2 – How will we know . . . what now?

Dec. 17 Advent 3 – How will we know . . . what's next?

Dec. 24 Children's Christmas program at 10:30 am

Dec. 25 Christmas Day worship 10:30 am

FROM THE PASTOR: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

If you are anything like me, you have been inundated with advertisements for Black Friday. Some places started their "Black Friday" deals already at the beginning of November. Black Friday used to be just an American thing, it started as the day after American Thanksgiving to kick start the Christmas shopping season and help stores finally get into the black. But it seems to be fully present in Canada now.

In response to the over consumption encouraged by Black Friday, Buy Nothing Day was created. It too falls on the Friday after American Thanksgiving, and it called people to "participate by not participating,"

More recently, in 2012, Giving Tuesday was created as a day to encourage people to do good by giving, collaborating, and celebrating generosity. It is the Tuesday after Black Friday.

These days are all connected and all at the beginning of what is commonly known as the Christmas season. We ourselves are moving into this time of year. It is meant to be a time when we focus our attention on the gift that God gave the world on Christmas. But too often we allow the busyness and consumerism of the world around us to dominate.

This year, instead of focusing on tasks or things, let us find ways to be generous with what we have. This can mean our finances, our time, or our things. We all have something that can be shared. In the spirit of Giving Tuesday "everyone has something to share... whether it's making someone smile, helping a neighbour or stranger out, or giving some of what we have to those who need our help." May our actions be guided by the love and generosity of God's kingdom.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

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E-mail: office@abchurch.ca **Facebook:** ABC community

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Assoc. Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, C 304-6119 virginiagr@abchurch.ca

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,
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MEMORIAL SUNDAY

We remember and honour people from our church community who have died in the past year:

Joyce Loewen	Glenn Friesen	Shirley Toews	Anne Sawatzky
Don Penner	Linda Braun	Lydia Klassen	Menno Braun
Bernie Friesen			

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

This week at ABC:

Sun. Nov. 26, 9:15-10:15 am- Sunday school for all ages.

Sun. Nov. 26, 1 pm- Fall meeting in church basement

Mon. Nov. 27, 7- 8:45 pm- Junior and senior youth meet at West Park School gymnasium to join the Altona Special Olympics group. Pick up at the youth building.

Tues. Nov. 28, 10:30 am- Coffee with the church staff

Wed. Nov. 29, 7- 8:15 pm- Ventures- Woodworking.

Thur. Nov. 30, 2 pm- Book study at Gardens on Tenth

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

Heidi Toews- Nov. 26, Josh Neufeld- Nov. 28, Elsie Heide- Nov. 30,
James Friesen- Dec. 2, Wilma Martens- Dec. 1

Thank-you to everyone who helped to make the Soup & Pie Fundraiser a huge success. Donations of \$6125.00 will be donated to MC Canada Witness in Ethiopia, MCC disaster relief and Camps with Meaning. Thanks to IGA for donating noodles and to Sun Valley Coop for donating all the buns. Thank you to those who attended and those who donated pies and meat for the soup. Also, thanks to all who served and cleaned up after the meal. Thanks be to God for these gifts of generosity.

Prayer and Praise

Hospitalized: Bernard Wiebe, Marge Friesen and Ben Dyck at the Altona Health Centre and Art Dyck at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

Edith Friesen would like to thank her church family for their support during Bernie's stay in hospital. Your prayers, visits and cards were such a blessing! She also wishes to acknowledge her appreciation to all those involved in Bernie's memorial service- Pastor Mark, Ang, ushers, sound technicians and serving group. Thank you!

International Witness: Join Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park, Witness workers in South Korea, in praising God for volunteers who spend time in training and volunteer facilitating circle process in Restorative Justice in school and community settings through the Chuncheon Community Peace Centre, South Korea.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Blood Donor Clinic: Thur, Nov. 30, 1-7 pm at the Pioneer Centre. To register contact Blood.ca There is a great need for blood donors.

MCI is seeking a host family for a male student in gr. 12 from Hong Kong. Hosting dates are Dec. 15-17th and Dec. 22-Jan. 7th. There is a \$600 stipend available for hosting over the Christmas break to help take care of our students. For more information, please reach out to mci@mciblues.net or call 204-327-5891.

MCI's PAC invites you to a FREE event for the whole family on Dec. 2! A double feature in Buhler Hall, starting with *The Grinch* at 1:00 and *The Star* at 3:00. There will also be a scavenger hunt (with prize draw!), volleyball and playtime in the gym, pool and foosball, yard games and face painting! There will be a cash only concession with snacks and specialty coffees, lemonades and iced tea. See you there!

MCM: Faith and Life Choirs Christmas Carol sing "My Soul Magnifies the Lord". Sun. Dec. 17, 3:30pm at Bethel Mennonite Church. Featuring poetry by Sue Sorensen and monologues by Arlyn Friesen Epp.

Canadian Mennonite presents, "Answering the Call: Three Young Pastors Reflect on Ministry," an online discussion on Wednesday, November 29 at 7 pm. Guests Curtis Wiens, Kennedy Froese and Elshaday Baraki will discuss their call to ministry and what they enjoy about being leaders in the church. Register today at: www.canadianmennonite.org/events

Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund: *For Referrals- Nov 8-Dec 8, 431.342.0525.* Deliveries will be Dec 16, 9 am-noon (If there are no children then a food gift card will be mailed) or email Rhinelandesf@gmail.com for the link to sign up online. Monetary donations can be sent to Box 2255, Altona, R0G 0B0 or drop off at Pembina Valley Pharmacy or Access Credit Union in Altona, Gretna, Plum Coulee.

Mennonite Church Manitoba weekly congregational profile:

Springstein Mennonite Church recently celebrated 85 years of ministry in Springstein, a small community 7 km south of Camp Assiniboia. In addition to strong support for the Camp, they reach out to their neighbours through kids club, youth group, pickleball, floor hockey, blanket making, Canadian Foodgrains Bank support, and furniture drives for newcomers from Ukraine (www.bridgeofhopeukraine.com). Please pray for the congregation as they continue to nurture these relationships, and as they partner with the Springstein Community Club to host community events in their church auditorium in the year to come.