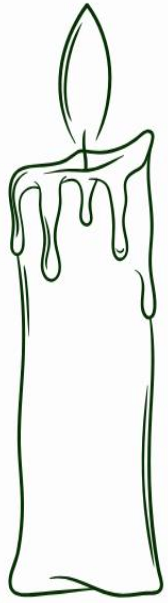
-BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA-
Sunday, November 30, 2025, 10:30 am

If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up. Daniel 3:17-18

Praising God

Hymn Here I Am to Worship VT 227
Call to Worship and Prayer
Hymn We Come VT 225
Congregational Prayer
Offering Gratitude



Hearing God's Story

Children's Story
Candle Lighting
Scripture Daniel 3:8-30
Sermon Bow or Burn!
Hymn How Great Is Our God VT 116

Living in Hope

Litany of Blessing and Release
Prayer of Blessing
Benediction
Hymn Christ Be All Around Me VT 848

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leading:** Terrell Wiebe
Music: ABC Youth **Children's Story:** Kristin Falk

Our Advent worship series is called "Be Amazed." As we wait for Christ's coming through Advent and Christmas, we will be invited to be amazed at the works of God past, present, and future.

Nov 30: First Advent. Hope in the Furnace. Speaker: Mark
Dec 7: Second Advent. Peace in the Valley. Speaker: Mark
Dec 14: Third Advent. Joy in the Desert. Speaker: Terrell
Dec 21: Children's Christmas Program. "So You Wanna Be Mary?"
Dec 25: Christmas Day. Love Comes Down. Speaker: Mark
Jan 4: Epiphany. Come and See. Speaker: Terrell

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God of our ancestors, you are our constant hope through all the ages.

Many: We come eager for stories of you standing among us. We come longing to feel your presence among your people once again.

One: As the days darken around us, hope can feel a distant memory.
Many: Even in the middle of trials, we keep our eyes on you. Our allegiance is to you alone.

One: Trust in God's steadfast love. Stand in amazement, ready to recognize God already among us here, in this place.

All: Our hope is in you, O God. Fill our hearts with the courage of our ancestors. Ready us to enter their story and be amazed.

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY- BE AMAZED

One: We have been wandering in the dark, fear engulfing us like a burning furnace. We long for your hope to find us and silence the flames of our fears.

Many: Come, Hope of the world. Come amaze us.

All: May your hope flood the flames of our fears.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS
- PRAYER AND PRAISE –

We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:
Wilma Martens- Dec. 1, James Friesen- Dec. 2,
Lyndon Friesen- Dec. 6, DJ Wahl- Dec. 6

Shirley Schellenberg has moved to Salem Home, Winkler to room #146 Cottonwood.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Carol and Pete Sawatzky at the passing of their son, Greg Sawatzky, on November 17. The funeral for Greg was held on November 23 in Altona.

Next Sunday, December 7, our worship service will include a child dedication for Ada and Isabelle Voth and their parents, Derek and Josee.

There will not be an adult Sunday school class this Sunday or next Sunday.

From the Church Council: It's been our practice at ABC to hold two congregational meetings annually - the spring AGM and fall update as per the Church Constitution. The fall update has been scheduled for Dec 7 in the basement dining area following the morning service. We realize there have been a number of church events recently but also felt it was important to update you on some of the initiatives planned for 2026. A light lunch along with coffee and tea will be provided. Thanks in advance for your interest in the happenings at Bergthaler Mennonite Church.

There is lots of planning involved in the Advent and Christmas season. The Sunday between Christmas and New Years is always a challenge to find people to lead the worship service. In light of this, the Music and Worship Commission is seeking a volunteer (or a few) to plan and lead an informal time of worship, sharing, and coffee in the church basement on Sunday December 28. If there isn't an interest in planning and leading, we will not have a service on December 28. Talk to commission members if you are interested: Delores Enns, Caroline Neufeld, Mary Anne Loeppky, Mark Tiessen-Dyck.

- THIS WEEK AT ABC –

Sun. Nov. 30, 9:15 am: Sunday school for ages 3-grade 12
Sun. Nov. 30, 10:30 am: Worship service
Sun. Nov. 20, noon: Farewell lunch and program for Virginia.
Mon. Dec. 1: 7-8:30 pm: All youth. We are joining the Special Olympics crew for their carnival event. Drop off at West Park school and pick up back at church.
Wed. Nov. 26, 7-8:15 pm: Ventures

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MCC: This Christmas, give a gift that transform lives across the globe. Choose from gifts like goats, clean water, fruit trees or gifts for peace. Shop gifts of comfort and joy that promote peace in MCC's Christmas Giving Guide.

Altona Mennonite Church presents a concert and carol singing night on Fri. Dec. 5 at 7 pm featuring organ and piano performances by Edna Zacharias, Nancy Ratzlaff, Loren Hiebert and Marilyn Houser Hamm.

LITANY OF RELEASE AND BLESSING

Council: Virginia, as sisters and brothers in a covenanted faith community, today we give thanks for your 14-year ministry among us. We say farewell to you and your family, and we bless the journey ahead - for you and for this congregation.

Virginia: We have shared worship and service, work and play, times of joy and sadness. We have met in the sanctuary, the hospital, in homes, and around the table. We have shared many of life's joys and griefs together.

Council: This is a time of many feelings. Farewells are difficult, but we have accomplished much during these years together, and we give God thanks for you and your ministry.

Virginia: I leave as your pastor with cherished memories of our times together. You have shaped my faith, ministered to my family and me, and helped me see and seek God's presence in my life and in the community. Thank you for your care, your creativity, your encouragement, and your hope.

Congregation: We praise God for your presence among us. We give thanks for your faithfulness and acknowledge this transition in the life of our congregation. God has blessed us richly through your ministry. We now bless you as you begin a new chapter in your life.

Virginia: Going forward, I will be your friend but no longer your pastor. You have been an important part of my life, and I will keep you, the congregation, in my prayers.

Council: May God bless and guide you, Virginia, on the next steps of your journey. May God bless and guide your family in this time of transition.

Congregation: To God's gracious mercy we commit you. The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace both this day and forever. Amen.

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