# -BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA-

## Sunday, September 14, 2025, 10:30 am

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*
*Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.*
*Psalm 139:14*

**Praising God**

Hymn At the Dawn of Your Creation VT 179
Call to Worship and Prayer
Hymn For the Beauty of the Earth VT 120
Offering

**Hearing God's Story**

Children's Story
Scripture Excerpts from Genesis 1 and Psalm 139
Sermon Sexuality is a Gift from God
Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

**Living in Hope**

Hymn God Who Touches Earth with Beauty VT 550
Congregational Prayer
Benediction
Hymn We Dream of a Turning VT 209

**Sermon:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck
**Worship Leading:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert
**Scripture Readers:** Julia Wiens and Dawson Wiens
**Music:** Hilda Franz and Andrew Richert
**Children's Story:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

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Today we begin a worship series called: "Body and Soul: Healthy Sexuality and the People of God." You can refer to the handout for more information.

September 14: Our Bodies, God's Image. Preacher: Mark
September 21: Created for Intimacy. Preacher: Virginia
September 28: Honouring the Gift of Sex. Preacher: Mark
October 5: Holy Desires. Preacher: Terrell

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: People of God, we gather here to celebrate the Holy One in whose image we are created. Our God is quick to show compassion, rejoices in justice, and delights in right relationships.

**People: We believe that we are created in God's image.**
Leader: Children of God, we celebrate the goodness of our Creator's hand. Like a patient artist, God has crafted all life forms, all humanity in all shades of skin, all ages, all kinds of ability, to share in the joys of this world.

**People: We are in awe that we are created in God's image.**

Leader: Beloved children of God, we recall that God mourns over the pain that we cause one another. Violence, broken relationship, abuse, and estrangement grieve God's heart.

**People: We remember that we are created in God's image.**
Leader: We gather to celebrate the Holy One in whose image we are made.

**People: We gather to form our lives to bear God's image.**

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### - PRAYER AND PRAISE –

**Hospitalized:** Shirley Schellenberg is in the Altona Health Centre.

**We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**
Edna Klippenstein- September 16, Brian Enns- September 16,
Ben Dueck- September 17

**Our love and sympathy** are extended to Kristin, Marv, Emma and Benjamin Falk on the passing of Kristin's grandma Katherine Krahn who passed away on September 1. The funeral was held on September 6 in Winkler.

**This morning** Pastor Terrell and Glenys Voth are leading worship at Gardens on Tenth and Eastview.

**Ventures Kids Club:** We are planning on starting our Ventures program October 1 with a full registration of kids! We could use a few more volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering throughout the year or even volunteering a few times/year that would be very helpful. Contact Joanna Ginter at 204.324.4233.

**If you would** like to use an area of the church for a meeting or event, please contact Ang at the office to book the space.

**Koinonia Ladies** will be beginning their coming year on Monday, September 22 at 2:00 pm. Anyone interested in joining us, call Tena Giesbrecht at 204.324.6933.

**-THIS WEEK AT ABC-**

**Sunday, Sept. 14, 10:30 am:** Worship service
**Tuesday, Sept. 16, 10:30 am:** Coffee with the Church staff.
**Tuesday, Sept. 16, 7:00 - 9:00:** Senior youth talk night: Can I ask that? Games and snacks to follow.
**Wednesday, Sept. 17, 7:00 - 8:30:** Junior youth talk night: Who am I? Games and snacks to follow.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**Xplore** – CMU's Xplore extended education program investigates dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it—all without assignments or exams! Consider taking a course on depolarization, how to tell our stories, retirement, understanding Roman Catholicism, the book of Daniel, the book of Ruth and more. Courses begin September 23. Churches may consider hosting an Xplore watch party with people from your community. For course information and to register, visit cmu.ca/xplore.

**Join us at the We Are All Treaty People celebration this weekend!** Enjoy performances by Ila Barker, Dom & Jacob, Serious Chill, and more! There will be free food, crafts and family activities. Sunday, Sept. 14 from 1-4 p.m. at the Forks National Historic Site in Winnipeg. For more information visit mcc.org/we-are-all-treaty-people

**Winkler Bible Camp Fall Supper:** September 23, 4:30-6:00 pm. Dine-in or drive-through options. For more information visit: winklerbiblecamp.com

**Support Eden** Foundation's 23rd annual Head for the Hills cycling fundraiser on Saturday, September 13 at Cripple Creek Music Festival site, near Morden. edenhealthcare.ca/h4h

## FROM THE PASTOR – Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

As I am getting ready for our Sunday school teachers meeting this Sunday, I am thinking about volunteers and volunteering. One thing we have been talking about for awhile now is needing more volunteers for Sunday school, more teachers, more substitute teachers, and more general support people, to make sure our teachers don't get burned out, and that our program runs well. In the process, I am learning that different volunteers need different things or focus more on different aspects of their roles.

I see my role as trying to make sure that every volunteer teacher has what they need to be able to focus on that which is most important to them. And so that they are able to find joy and accomplishment in the relationships they build and in the lessons they share. Thankfully this year there has been great responses from people willing to volunteer in roles that support our Sunday school teachers and program. This is not surprising, as I have heard countless stories about places that people in our congregation volunteer. We are very generous and willing to give of our time.

All this makes me wonder why people volunteer? And why do they volunteer for the things they do? Let me put the question to you. Why have you been willing to volunteer? Or when have you been willing to give of your time for somebody or something beyond yourself? Was it a one time thing, or an ongoing commitment? What helped you continue volunteering if that was needed and what caused you to stop, if you are not volunteering anymore?

I would love to hear your thoughts and responses to these questions and wonderings. And if there are any areas in Sunday school or the church that you would like to volunteer that you have not gotten the opportunity to, let me know.

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