

*Welcome to the  
Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
of Altona*



*Sunday, September 27, 2020*

*Worship Service 10:30 a.m.*

**BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH OF ALTONA**

**September 27, 2020**

**WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:30 am**

**Sermon:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

**Worship Leader:** Henry Peters

**Music:** ABC Ensemble

**Children's Story:** Jennifer Klassen

*"I will declare that your love stands firm forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations." ~ Psalm 89:2*

**GATHERING AND PRAISE**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Music **We sing to you, O God STJ 1**

Call to Worship and Prayer

**LISTENING**

Moment in Mission Video & The Lord's Prayer

Music **Great is Thy faithfulness HWB 37**

Children's Story

Scripture **Jeremiah 18: 1-10**

Sermon **"Does God ever change?"**

**RESPONDING**

Music **The love of God STJ 44**

Prayer for the Offering, the Church and the World

**SENDING**

Benediction

Music *How deep the Fathers love for us*

## **PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Mary Voth, Waldo Schulz, and Anne Kehler at Altona Health Centre. Jake Sawatzky recovering at home.
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** to Marge Schellenberg, family and extended family, at the passing away of brother-in-law John Driedger of Carman.
- ~ **This Sunday in our "Moment in Mission"**, we learn about the impact of Mennonite Central Committee's support for education in Syria. MCC partner, Middle East Council of Churches, helps children affected by the crisis in Syria to receive education and access to trauma counseling at private schools by covering a portion of their tuition fees. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZgFUBj2MzQ>
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada:** Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park, Witness workers in South Korea, ask for praise and prayer in the release of the first edition of Peace Journal "Plan P." May God use this journal to bring together many groups and individuals working for peace in this country and beyond.

## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Hopeful Answers to Hard Questions**

- Sept 13: What will Covid mean for the Church?  
(available at the church website)
- Sept 20: How do we respond when a loved one chooses a different path?  
(available at the church website)
- Sept 27: Does God ever change?
- Oct 4: Is Church irrelevant? Do we need it to be Christian? / Communion.
- Oct 11: How can we be grateful when prayers are not answered?
- Oct 18: How can we share our faith?
- Oct 25: How do we integrate science with our faith? (and what if extraterrestrial life was discovered!?)

**Next Sunday, Oct 4, our worship service will include communion.** Everyone is invited to receive pre-packaged communion elements in the foyer. Even though the bread and cup are different and will not be distributed, the significance of our communion remains: This is a remembrance of Jesus' last supper and a sign of his saving work!

Access to the livestreaming on Sunday mornings will be available from the Altona Bergthaler Church website [[abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca)]. The live stream will begin at 10:30am.

**Children's Bulletins** are available in the foyer for ages 3 plus, and 7 plus. The children's story video will still be posted to the Church website.

## **From the Pastor** – Josh Janzen

Fall is here! Even with the warmer weather this past week, it is clear that fall is all around. A new school year is in full gear as our children and youth adjust to the realities of another school year while also adjusting to the realities of going to school during a pandemic. In this season, worry, doubts, and anxiety are present, for both children and adults. Yet joy, hope, and excitement abound as well. As the leaves fall, Junior and Senior High Youth Groups kick-off next week! The pandemic brings changes to Youth Group as well, but there will still be games, some interesting food challenges, and soooo many chicken nuggets at our kick-off events. I can't wait for all the laughs had, relationships built, surprising questions asked, and faith journeys deepened, that will come in the weeks and months ahead. Youth Group will look different at times, but it still will be a safe place where Jesus is the center of our faith; community is the center of our life; and reconciliation is the center of our work. In the beauty of fall, we see the worry, the joy, and the hope that always abounds, even in a pandemic.

## **Ir Youth**

- Sept 29, 7-9pm - Youth group kick-off.

## **Sr Youth**

- Oct 2, 7-9pm - Youth group kick-off.

## **From the Covid Task Force re: wearing masks.**

We ask everyone who comes to worship and Sunday School, could you please wear a mask when: You enter the building; You are moving about the building; You join in singing.

(Masks may be removed when you are seated in a pew or Sunday school classroom, but must be worn if you are joining in congregational singing).

We thank everyone for the amazing response to the mask request, and for your continued efforts to make our church facility and events a safer environment.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona 117 2<sup>ND</sup> Street NW Altona, MB R0G 0B1  
Web Page Address: [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) Office: 324-6717 E-mail: [office@abchurch.ca](mailto:office@abchurch.ca)  
Worship Services available online at: [abchurch.libsyn.com](http://abchurch.libsyn.com)  
Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990/cell 1-204-771-3406 [marktd@abchurch.ca](mailto:marktd@abchurch.ca)  
Asst Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 [viriniagr@abchurch.ca](mailto:viriniagr@abchurch.ca)  
Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry: Josh Janzen, 324-6717, 1-402-631-3481 [joshi@abchurch.ca](mailto:joshi@abchurch.ca)  
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 [amandaw@abchurch.ca](mailto:amandaw@abchurch.ca)

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Sunday school started this morning!**

#### **A BIG thank you to our teachers:**

Age 3 – 5	– Cheryl Harder
Grade 2	– Lorraine Hamm, Heidi Toews, Jennifer Klassen
Grade 3 & 4	– Amanda Wiens
Grade 5 & 6	– Sharon Friesen
Grade 7 & 8	– Stephanie Rempel
Grade 9-12	– Byron Loeppky

- **Tuesday Coffee is back!** You are welcome to join the church staff for coffee in the library at 10am on Tuesdays.
- **Church Council** has adopted 'Guidelines for Rentals during COVID-19 (includes funerals) and 'Guidelines for pastors in their visits to people in the congregation during Covid'. The information was sent to the church by email. If you do not have email or would like a hard copy, these guidelines are available in the foyer (blue coloured paper).
- **Boys Ventures leaders needed!** Girls Ventures is set to start on October 7<sup>th</sup> but at this time we do not have the leadership team needed to run the Boys Ventures ministry. If you are male, female, a parent, a grandparent, or a member of the ABC church family, and are interested in spending 1.5 hours every Wednesday having fun and learning about Jesus with a group of boys, please talk to Amanda.
- **ABC's Junior and Senior Youth need your help!** We are in need of more Youth Sponsors for the upcoming Youth Ministry year. If you want to be a part of our Youth Ministry program, or if you have any questions, please contact Josh by phone (324-6717) or email [joshj@abchurch.ca](mailto:joshj@abchurch.ca) . Thank you for your support and for prayerfully considering being a part of the ABC Youth Ministry!
- **Adult Sunday School** is currently on hold. Our children's Sunday school is spreading out which means there is not be a good place for adult Sunday school to meet. We will re-evaluate in the coming weeks as we become accustomed to our new Sunday School arrangements.
- **Fall book study.** A group in our church is interested in learning more about the dynamics around race and racism in Canada, especially as it relates to our Indigenous neighbours. We will be reading the book **Indigenous Writes: A Guide to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit issues in Canada**. Discussions will be Wednesday's at 2 pm. All are welcome. Talk to pastor Virginia if you want a book and to join.

**The church office** welcomes artwork from all ages for our bulletin covers. Drawings are best done on half a sheet of 8.5X11 paper oriented vertically (the same way that you read the bulletin).

- **Celebrating Thanksgiving at ABC in 2020** – This year our Thanksgiving celebration will consist of a 'Gift of a meal to the Community'. We are encouraged to participate with a monetary donation to the Rhineland Food Bank. Please make cheques payable

to Altona Bergthaler Church – designation – Rhineland Food Bank. Donations may be made October 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Oct 8, 5-7pm** – Drive by **Soupin` Fundraiser** at the Gardens On Tenth, in lieu of the annual fall Soup & Pie. Drive in, pick up your food & give your donation, exit and enjoy!
- **Oct 16, 8pm** - The global pandemic has forced the cancellation of many fundraising events, but also made food security a more pressing need around the world. Join '**Singing` in the Grain`** for a virtual fundraising concert in support of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank partner, the Mennonite Central Committee, featuring The Quonset Brothers from Winkler, Corey Peters & Kristel Peters from Steinbach, and Steve Bell, Winnipeg. Join at [www.foodgrainsbank.ca/singing](http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca/singing).
- **MHC Gallery FUNDRAISER.** Please visit [www.cmu.ca/gallery/](http://www.cmu.ca/gallery/) for a gallery update and e-fundraiser. Look forward to the upcoming *Leap in Faith* project book and information on when the gallery will reopen.

**Mennonite Church Manitoba** – [mennochurch.mb.ca](http://mennochurch.mb.ca) 896-1616

- **Xplore** - a 55 plus enrichment program offered by Canadian Mennonite University, offers courses that investigate dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it. NO assignments or exams. Due to COVID-19, all Xplore courses in 20-21 are moving online via Zoom. 8 stimulating courses are offered every Wednesday and Thursday morning over a 6-week period, beginning Sept 30. View course, tuition, and registration information at [cmu.ca/explore](http://cmu.ca/explore).

**Mennonite Church Canada** – [office@mennochurch.ca](mailto:office@mennochurch.ca) 888-6781

- **Oct 24 - MC Canada Study Conference.** Join us as we gather virtually for "Table Talk: Does the Church still have Legs?", a study on the nature and identity of the church and the role of worship. Prof of Biblical Studies at Columbia Bible College, Jesse Nickel, will be a guest speaker and present on worship in the New Testament. In this short interview, he shares how the NT encourages us to be open to what worship can be. Register @[www.mennonitechurch.ca/tabletalk2020](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tabletalk2020)
- **Oct 8-Nov 26** [Thursdays at 7pm via ZOOM] - join Steve Heinrichs for an online book club exploring the book *Canada at a Crossroads*, by Jeff Denis. Register at [mennonitechurch.ca/crossroads-bookclub](http://mennonitechurch.ca/crossroads-bookclub) .

**Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba** – [Manitoba@mccmb.ca](mailto:Manitoba@mccmb.ca)

- **Looking for a speaker** for your next online Bible study or group meeting? MCC Manitoba staff members are eager to share their expertise and passions with you through a virtual presentation. To book a speaker call 204.261.6381 or email [events@mccmb.ca](mailto:events@mccmb.ca).
- **This fall, give the gift of relief.** Gather essential hygiene supplies, drop them off between Oct 15-17, and give hope to those in need. Find out which items are needed most at [mccmb.ca/Buckets-Thanks](http://mccmb.ca/Buckets-Thanks) or contact us at 204-261-6381 or [events@mccmb.ca](mailto:events@mccmb.ca)