

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



Sunday, August 15, 2021

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

WORSHIP SERVICE

August 15, 2021

“You shall not commit adultery.”

~ Exodus 20: 14

GATHERING and PRAISE

Welcome and Announcements

Music **We Come**

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music **Your Love, Oh Lord**

LISTENING

Children’s Story

Moment in Mission

Scripture Reading **Exodus 20: 14; Genesis 2: 18**

Sermon **“Upholding God’s Faithfulness”**

RESPONDING

Music **Heart with loving heart united HWB 421**

Prayer for the Offering, the Church and the world

SENDING

Benediction

Music **Now may the Lord of peace**

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert **Worship Leader:** Byron Loepky

Children’s Story: Sharon Friesen

Music: Steve Bell, Virtual Choir, Camps With Meaning

Our worship service will be available on the church website
[\[abchurchcommunity.ca\]](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Harold Sawatzky, Waldo Schulz, and Helen Schulz at Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **Rick Friesen** of our church family passed away Aug 9. We are invited to join in gratitude for his life and pray for his wife Myrla, family, and extended family. A private family funeral service will be held.
- ~ **Condolences** to Elmer & Amanda Heinrichs, and family, at the passing away of their daughter Jennette Marie Agnes Heinrichs on Aug 12.
- ~ **Pastors Vacation Schedule:**
Josh away on holidays Aug 13-21; Pastor Virginia away Aug 14-21.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**
Pray: As Werner and Joanne De Jong prepare for service with Mennonite Church Canada Witness in Ethiopia with Meserete Kristos Seminary, they must juggle moving, ending jobs, visa paperwork and travel plans. Pray that God's peace and joy will guide them. Pray for the seminary as it prepares for the new school year in September.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

We continue our worship series exploring the Ten Commandments and how these instructions continue to help us orient our lives to Christ's call.

- Aug 22: Don't steal and Don't covet ~ Mark Tiessen-Dyck
- Aug 29: Don't testify falsely ~ Josh Janzen
- Sept 5 : ~ Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Reminder: Next Sunday, Aug 22 we will worship in-person and live-stream at 10:30am. Live stream available at <http://www.abchurchcommunity.ca>. If you are using a handheld device [phone or tablet] you may get a message that says "*video unavailable*", but if you click on the line "watch this video on YouTube", it will reload and play for you.

Jr & Sr Youth

- **Aug 25, 7pm** - End of Summer celebration.

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Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 amandaw@abchurch.ca

FROM the PASTOR - Mark Tiessen-Dyck

This week we removed the "masks required" signs posted on our building's entrances and replaced them with signs that state, "We are a Conscientious Community!" Some people continue to feel safest in places where masks and even vaccinations are a requirement. I understand the reasons for this; however, our church will not be such a place. At this time, we are not asking people to wear masks (of course you are welcome to if you feel more comfortable doing so) and we will not be implementing any type of vaccine requirement. As we return to in-person congregational life we ask you to help us be a conscientious community.

I've felt the distress of being in situations where people expected things of me and yet never inquired as to my comfort level. I've been involved in events and interactions where people's behaviour did not honour what I expected in terms of my safety and therefore my family and community's safety. I've been in situations where I have asked people to abide by Covid safety measures and been treated as though I were a bully or unreasonable for doing so. These are experiences that can be avoided if we demonstrate conscientiousness toward one another. I also humbly recognize that my actions may have unknowingly made other people uncomfortable.

We are at a time when some people are craving more connection and contact while others remain hesitant to return to pre-pandemic habits. In light of our different experiences and expectations, we need the virtue of conscientiousness. While Paul does not include conscientiousness as one of the fruits of the spirit, it seems to be one aspect of several spiritual fruits including love, patience, gentleness, and self-control.

My hope is that as we come to worship and fellowship with the church, nobody is made to feel uncomfortable. Regardless of whether one chooses to wear a mask, vaccination status, or comfort level for handshakes, let's be conscientious toward one another.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Summer Office hours** are 8:30am to 12 noon.
- **Tuesday morning Coffee Time – 10am** – outside – bring a mug and a lawn chair. Coffee will be provided. In case of inclement weather, we will meet inside.
- **Moment in Mission** - This week's video: MCC's advocacy campaign in Palestine and Israel. It is called "We refuse to be enemies," about a Palestinian farmer who refuses to repay evil with evil but evil with good. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQZzis2hu-A&list=PLOLHveNnT5QdtIikD2mTv0eXKOyhDi2P0&index=3>

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mennonite Church Canada – office@mennonitechurchcanada.ca

- Our nationwide service: Eigenheim Mennonite Church, located near Rosthern, SK is sharing on August 15. Pastor Rachel Wallaces' message "Letting Go and Pressing On" will focus on Philippians 3:4b–14; how Paul has given up his old identity and values, how this has transformed his goals in life, and asks what are key elements in your identity and what would it take for you to give those up? The service is available at mennonitechurch.ca/worshipservices

Mennonite Church Manitoba – mennochurch.mb.ca 204-896-1616

- Do you know a university student who is still deciding where to live in Winnipeg this fall? Emmaus House has two openings for the 2021/22 Academic year. It is a place that immediately feels like home and where you'll find good food, friends, and lots of laughter. Great walking access to U of W and bussing to U of M. www.emmaushousewinnipeg.ca or call 204-272-9191 and ask for Rod or Susan.
- **Aug 22, 2pm - Thank Water Protectors Special Service:**
Pray, Learn, Support, Resist. Join Hope Mennonite's Justice Team in one of three simultaneous services as we give gratitude to Water Protectors who are defending waters and wild rice beds in Minnesota from the Line 3 pipeline expansion. Each service will include prayers, songs, a scripture reading, and actions. You're invited to RSVP to one of the following virtual or in-person gatherings:
TD Bank in Winnipeg (648 Notre Dame Ave) to connect with those funding fossil fuel expansion in the midst of a climate crisis. Contact Allegra or Steve.
The Enbridge Line 3 Pumping Station at Gretna Manitoba, our own Manitoba part of Line 3, where we will plant seeds of change. Contact Chris and Carolyn.
Zoom. Join the Zoom Service to show your gratitude for – and support of – those protecting water and wild rice beds.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81194547358?pwd=dVpKRzVHYnptWVUyNGxkc09Vd0hYZz09> Contact Kirsten or Lisa.

Canadian Mennonite University – cmu.ca

- **Work at CMU!** We are recruiting for: Food Services Cook and Director of Finance. Visit: cmu.ca/about/employment.

Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba – manitoba@mccmb.ca

- **Join** the MCC UN Office for an Online Global Student Seminar on Sept 30 and Oct 1. Listen in on topics about climate change, conflict and peacebuilding. Learn more here or at mccmb.ca/events.
- **Sept 9** - the 18th Annual MCC Manitoba **Golf Tournament**. Join us for a day of golf, prizes and dinner Sept 9 to support families impacted by the Beirut explosion. Register [here](#) or at mccmb.ca/golf.

Eden Health Care Services – www.edenhealthcare.ca

- **Sept 25** – Ride for Recovery of Hope.

Mennonite Disaster Service - mdscanada@mds.org