

*Welcome to the  
Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
of Altona*

**BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH OF ALTONA**

**August 23, 2020**

**WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:30 am**

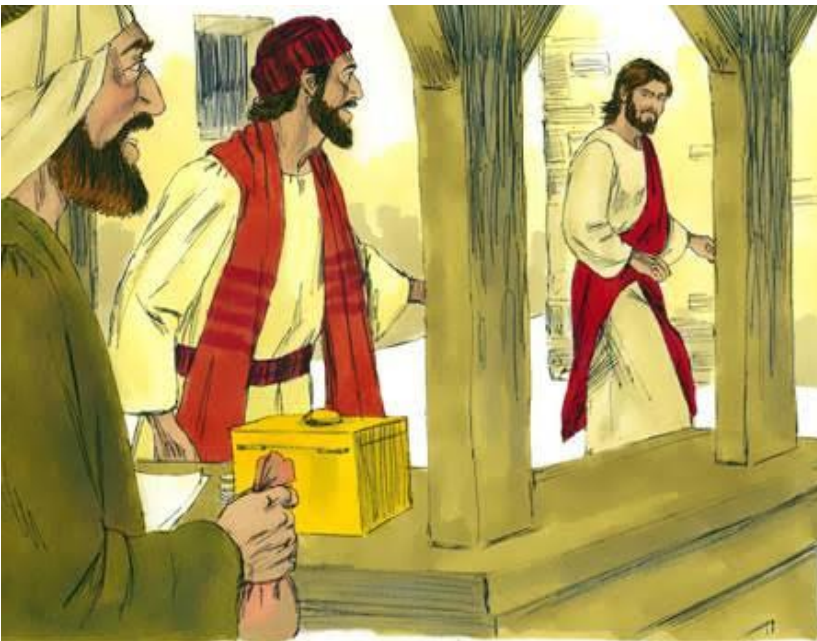
**Sermon:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck

**Worship Leader:** Al Friesen

**Music:** ABC Ensemble

*On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice'. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners'.*

*~ Matthew 9:12-13*



*Sunday, August 23, 2020*

*Worship Service 10:30 a.m.*

**GATHERING**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Music Holy, Holy, Holy

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music What place is this?

**LISTENING**

Moment in Mission Video

Scripture Reading **Matthew 9:9-15**

Sermon **"Calling a sell-out"**

**RESPONDING**

Music Just as I am, without one plea

Prayer for the Offering, the Church and the World

**SENDING**

Benediction & Postlude

Music Even so Lord Jesus come

## **PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Mary Voth, Sadie [Willie] Funk, Waldo Schulz, and Anne Kehler at Altona Health Centre; Marge Schellenberg at Health Sciences Centre.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada:**  
**Prayer** for Pantojas' response to injustice "Jesus is our strength to 'show and tell' the Good News that indeed, the Creator is with us in the midst of the sufferings and injustices we are experiencing." Pray with Dann and Joji Pantoja, Witness workers in Mindanao, Philippines, as they find practical ways to respond to the injustice they see around them. Pray God would give them joy, strength and peace for their 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.

Our worship service will be posted to [abchurch.libsyn.com](http://abchurch.libsyn.com) [Audio] [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) [Video] Sunday afternoon.

Children's teaching will be posted to [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca)  
This week's teacher is Kristin Falk.

This Sunday our "Moment in Mission" video will introduce us to a project supported by Mennonite Central Committee and Canadian Foodgrains Bank which is building community solidarity and sustainable agricultural practices in Tanzania. You can watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nt3Y0qU-318>.

## **Jr & Sr Youth**

- **Tuesday, Aug 25, 7-9pm** - Grade 7 only introduction to Youth Group and hangout.
- **Friday, Aug 28, 7-9pm** - Smores and Sno-cones part 2, Jr High and Sr High hangout.

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Pastor's summer vacation schedule:**  
Pastor Virginia will be back in her office Aug 25.  
Pastor Josh away Aug 17-24 and Aug 31-Sept 7.
- **Tuesday 10am Coffee** - outside on the church grounds. This will be a physically distanced event and so you will need to bring your own lawn chair and coffee mug, coffee will be provided.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Sept 19** - Eden Foundation's *Head for the Hills 2020* - join us again this year. For more information and to register click [HERE](#).
- **Sept 19 - Visit the Villages Tractor Trek.**  
**Mennonite Church Manitoba** – [mennochurch.mb.ca](http://mennochurch.mb.ca) 896-1616
- **No MCM Gathering** will take place this fall, so look for a more comprehensive MCM Report by end of September. Ministry work in most quarters is on-going, maybe even at a greater level than pre-Covid, however, the overall Camping Ministry has been hit very hard.  
**Mennonite Church Canada** – [office@mennochurch.ca](mailto:office@mennochurch.ca) 888-6781  
**Aug 23** – Join MC Canada weekly online worship service from Langley Mennonite Fellowship. Matthew 16:13-28. In the intimacy of Jesus's and Peter's master-disciple relationship, Jesus is recognized for who he is and Peter is blessed, ordained, confounded and sternly rebuked. Living with good news is so perplexing and surprising. Join us at <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/worshipservices>.
- **Oct 24**, MC Canada Study Conference. Join our nationwide community of faith 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. Registration: [www.mennonitechurch.ca/tabletalk2020](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tabletalk2020)
- **MC Canada** has donated \$50,000 to Mennonite World Conference's Global Church Sharing Fund to help our sister churches around the world struggling to meet basic needs due to pandemic-response measures in their countries. Now MC Canada is asking its congregations to match this donation so that we collectively raise \$100,000. Donations go through regional churches. Click [here](#) for info.  
**Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba** – [Manitoba@mccmb.ca](mailto:Manitoba@mccmb.ca)
- The Government of Canada will now be matching donations up to \$8 million for emergency response in Beirut, Lebanon until Aug 24. Together, MCC and its program partners in Beirut will address rehabilitation and cleanup needs arising from the explosion in Beirut. Donate now at [mcccanada.ca/beirut-response](http://mcccanada.ca/beirut-response).
- **Mennonite Disaster Service**
  - August edition of *On the Level* is now available. Read how MDS volunteers with Early Response Teams are working in Iowa, engineers roll up their sleeves in West Virginia and help build bridges they designed, and how MDS is cautiously planning for a few projects this fall. Click here to read more <https://conta.cc/2YhWGfK>

## **From the Pastor** – Mark Tiessen-Dyck

### **Thoughts on wearing a mask**

The first time I wore a mask it felt miserable. I did it because an exception was being made for me to visit someone and it seemed prudent to wear a mask. Hiding one's face seems unnatural and unfriendly. I'm also aware that masks create communication difficulties. We rely on lip reading and expressions of the mouth when engaging others. When Covid started and I first saw the occasional person wearing a mask in public my response was: "Overreaction. Covid is not here." I've changed my mind. I've decided that for the foreseeable future I will wear a mask when I am in indoor public places or participating in indoor gatherings. Here's why:

- While there were some conflicting messages near the beginning of the pandemic about the helpfulness of masks, it is now unanimous among scientists and doctors that masks reduce the risk of Covid transmission (wearing a mask improperly or touching your mask decreases the effectiveness, and wearing a mask is not a reason to abandon physical distancing). In one model, researchers predicted that 80% of people wearing masks is more effective than a strict lockdown at reducing the spread of Covid. There is now one active and two recovered cases in the Altona area. It's not just far away, and if we wait for community transmission, we are too late. While wearing a mask provides greatest protection for those you interact with, there are also safety benefits for the person wearing the mask.
- Last weekend I found it reassuring when I entered a store and the staff were all wearing masks. It communicated to me the business's intent to keep me and others safe. When I recognised my appreciation for the employees wearing masks, it begged the question of me, wouldn't the staff also appreciate customers wearing masks to protect them? A golden rule thing...?
- Wearing a mask is a way of being in solidarity with people who have made significant sacrifices or assumed greater risk to make our community safer. Children and youth will be wearing masks to go to school and teachers are figuring out how to teach with masks. I want to do my part to make our community safer.
- Manitoba government and public health officials are now saying that we need to learn to live with the virus. I agree that there is a time when we need to learn to 'live with it.' For me, there are higher priorities in reopening and 'living with it'. High priorities include children being able to attend school, people in hospitals and care homes being able to receive visits, and churches being

able to worship together and carry out their ministries. In order for higher priorities to safely occur, we may need to make sacrifices in other areas. My discomfort at wearing a mask: low priority. In a way, wearing a mask is a trade-off in exchange for a safer return to school, more visiting, and more church gatherings. I'm happy to make the trade.

- I am in agreement with many who encourage us, "Do not to live in fear!" Fear is never to be a guide for a follower of Jesus. But there is a difference between 'risk-management' and 'living in fear'. Wearing a seatbelt, lathering on the sunscreen, or locking a door do not constitute 'living in fear'. These are measures to reduce risk of harm. My decision to wear a mask is living in hope not fear. Hope that we will overcome Covid, that our neighbours are worthy of love and protection, and that God will continue to be at work in our community leading us through and beyond our Covid world one day.

You will see less of my face around town in the next while. But beneath my mask, there is a smile because it's still nice to see you.

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