

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



RAHAB AND THE SPIES

Hebrews 11:31

By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient,
because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

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Sunday, August 2, 2020

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH OF ALTONA

August 2, 2020

WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:30 am

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Worship Leader: Rose Tryon

Music: Worship Team

*“The city and all that is in it shall be devoted to the LORD
for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are
with her in her house shall live because
she hid the messengers we sent.*

~ Joshua 6: 17

GATHERING

Prelude

Waymaker

Come, now is the time to worship

Welcome and Announcements

Music

Once again

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music

The Blessing

LISTENING

Moment in Mission Video

Scripture Reading

Joshua 2:1-24

Sermon

“Holding on to Hope”

RESPONDING

Music

Faithful one

Prayer for the Offering, the Church and the World

SENDING

Benediction & Postlude

Music

How marvelous

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Waldo Schulz and Anne Kehler at Altona Health Centre and Sharon [James] Friesen at Boundary Trails Health Centre.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada:**
Witness workers in China finish school year from home. Praise God for another year of teaching in China for Tobia Veith. She finished her classes and exams online from home. Pray for George and Tobia as they travel in China to visit Anabaptist study groups to encourage and collaborate on resource development.

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

Our worship service will be posted to abchurch.libsyn.com [Audio] abchurchcommunity.ca [Video] Sunday afternoon.

Children's teaching will be posted to abchurchcommunity.ca
This week's teacher is Jolene Friesen-Stoesz.

During the next weeks our worship service will include a "Moment in Mission" video. This Sunday we will learn about the ministry of Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) and how they support people around the globe. You can watch the video at this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SarI5xjVQdc>

The Covid 19 Re-open Taskforce reminds everyone to practice physical distancing when coming to worship. Even as gathering sizes increase, we are still required to practice physical distancing to limit the spread of Covid 19. We are aware that all of us have our own perspectives on what level of physical distancing should be expected of us. **We also know that if we are able to practice good distancing more people will feel comfortable coming to worship.** This is a friendly reminder to practice physical distancing; it will make our worship environment safer and help others to feel comfortable joining. Some suggestions include: visit outdoors after the service (not indoors), avoid lingering especially in doorways, and do not sit close to people who are not from your household or in your immediate social bubble.

From the Pastor – Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

I recently read an article entitled "*We are all worship leaders.*" In the article the author, Sarah Kathleen Johnson, proposes that anyone or anything can lead us into worship on any given Sunday or other time. In this way Johnson is using the term "worship leader" to refer to **those who invite us into an encounter with God.** This can happen through a beautiful floral arrangement, the singing of a familiar song, a carefully chosen scripture passage or prayer, the joyful excitement of a child, or even holy moments of silence.

Worship leading is not something that rests solely on the individual or individuals that are up front on Sunday mornings. It is something that can be shared by everyone that is present for the worship experience. All of us can play a role in worship leading, because all of us can act as a means to invite others into an encounter with God.

How might you change your behaviour on Sunday mornings if you thought of yourself as a worship leader for others? Or how might you change your interactions with others if you were looking out for others to lead you into a worshipful experience?

Whenever we gather as a community of believers for worship each and every one of us helps set the tone for worship. This is not to put more stress or anxiety on your behaviour. It is simply to build awareness of the important role we each play. And then to pay attention to the people around us as well as the movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst to guide us and use us for enhancing the worship experience of our community.

Jr & Sr Youth

- **August 5 [Wed], 7-9pm** - Smores and Sno-cone night! Bring your own lawn chair and marshmallow roasting stick if you have one.

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Asst Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 viriniagr@abchurch.ca
Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry: Josh Janzen, 324-6717, 1-402-631-3481 joshi@abchurch.ca
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 amandaw@abchurch.ca

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Summer Church Office hours** - 8:30am-12 noon.
- **Pastor's summer vacation schedule:**
Pastor Virginia will be away August 17-23
Pastor Mark will be away July 27 – August 3
Pastor Josh's vacation August 17-24 and August 31-September 7.
- **Today** is the last Sunday in our sermon series on women of the Bible. Next week we begin a 4-week series on the disciples of Jesus. We will explore the strengths and weaknesses of this group of Jesus' followers.
- **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 896-1616

- **Day Camps** at Camp Assiniboia. Visit www.campswithmeaning.org to learn more and register or call 204-895-2267.

Mennonite Church Canada – office@mennochurch.ca 888-6781

- **Save the date: Oct 24**, Mennonite Church Canada Study Conference. Join our nationwide community of faith as we gather virtually for "Table Talk: Does the Church Still have Legs?", a virtual study conference on the nature and identity of the church and the role of worship. Plenary speakers from MC Canada-affiliated universities and colleges will present on themes of ecclesiology and worship. For more info visit <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/tabletalk2020>.
- **Help match** MC Canada's donation to Mennonite World Conference's COVID-19 relief fund! This spring Mennonite Church Canada donated \$50,000 to MWC's Global Church Sharing Fund to help our sister churches around the world who are struggling to meet basic needs due to pandemic-response measures in their countries. Now Mennonite Church Canada is asking its congregations to match this donation so that we collectively raise \$100,000. Donations will go through regional churches. Click [here](#) for more info.

Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba – Manitoba@mccmb.ca

- **Learn** more about how MCC is building relationships and working towards reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours. Tune in to our webinar, *Working Towards Right Relationships*, on Aug 11 at 7:00pm. More information at mcccanada.ca/mcc-webinar-series.
- **GO! 100** challenge in commemoration of MCC's 100th birthday [July 27]. Cheer on the challengers by watching our latest video at tiny.cc/GO100video. Challenges continue until Aug 31. Learn more at mccmb.ca/GO-100.