

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



*Advent 3
Sunday, December 12, 2021*

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

WORSHIP SERVICE

December 12 2021 10:30 A.M.

“He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I do choose. Be made clean!” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.” ~ Matthew 8:3

REJOICING in the LORD'S PRESENCE

Welcome and Announcements

Christmas Poem

Hymn **Lo, how a rose e'er blooming** HWB 211

Call to Worship and Candle Lighting

Prayer of Confession

Hymn **Prepare the way! The prophet called** VT 220

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Hymn **O come, little children**

Children's Story

Service of Licensing / Instrumental Music

Scripture **Mark 1:15, Luke 11:14-23, Matthew 8:1-4**

Sermon **"Healing, forgiving, and restoring, exemplifying
God's kingdom in action"**

LEAVING TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD

Hymn **Now the heavens start to whisper** VT 237

Prayer for the Offering, the Church and the World

Benediction

Sending Hymn **Love has come** VT 258

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert **Worship Leader:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Music: Choir, Laurie Enns, Tamara Franz Martin

Scripture/Candle Lighter: Marilyn Martens

Children's Story: Virginia, Stephanie Rempel, Dawson Wiens

Our worship service will be live-streamed Sunday morning at 10:30am and is available on the church website at [abchurchcommunity.ca]. If using a handheld device [phone/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.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Linda Braun, Wilbert Funk, Lena Hoffman, Harold Sawatzky, and Helen Schulz at Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **Happy 90th birthday** to Menno Braun!
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**
Pray: Calixte Bananzaro, president of the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso, has shared that terrorists have chased habitants in the northwest regions of the country from their villages, stolen their livestock and burned their stores of grain. Pray for an end to the violence in Burkina Faso.

“Jesus it’s nice to meet you!”

Our Advent and Christmas worship series is all about getting to know Jesus.

- Nov 28 When and where did Jesus live? What was the context of Jesus life and time?
- Dec 5 What did Jesus teach? What was the essence of his message?
- Dec 12 Speaker: Virginia What did Jesus do? And what did it accomplish? What was it about?
- Dec 19 Speaker: Mark Why did Jesus encounter opposition to his message and work?
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols at 6:30pm.
- Dec 26 Speaker: Virginia Baby Jesus.
- Jan 2 Speaker: Mark 4 Gospels, 1 Jesus. How we learn about Jesus.
- Jan 9 Speaker: Josh Who is Jesus?

We will celebrate the birth of Jesus with a worship service on December 24 at 6:30 pm and Sunday, December 26 at 10:30am. There will not be a worship service on Christmas day.

Commitment to Josh:

We promise to receive your wisdom and offer you counsel for the benefit of our lives together, to respect you as a leader in this community of faith and endure with you in times of disagreement, to support your leadership with prayer and resources and bless you in gratitude, grace and hope for the ministry that we share.

From the Pastor: Josh Janzen

ABC’s Junior and Senior Youth have joined together with Prison Fellowship Ministries and the Angel Tree program to purchase and deliver Christmas presents to children who have a parent in prison. This year, we were able to shop and wrap gifts for 30 kids. This is such an awesome ministry because it’s not just about buying stuff so that a child can have something to open on Christmas Day. This ministry is an opportunity for our Youth to be a light in this world and to help show other kids that they are deeply loved by God, by their parents, and even by complete strangers. You can help us in the service project by donating funds to cover the cost of purchasing these gifts!

You are able to donate to the Angel Tree project by giving during Sunday worship or by stopping by the church office. Donations are tax receiptable: if you donate by cheque, write it to Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church, and designate Angel Tree in the memo line; if you donate cash, please include your name and phone number. For more information feel free to contact me by phone or at joshj@abchurch.ca

Sr Youth

- **Dec 14 [Tues]** – Christmas mini-golf at church!

Jr Youth

- **Dec 15 [Wed]** – Christmas mini-golf at church!

Ventures: [Wednesdays]

- **Girls & Boys** – Enjoy your Christmas break! See you on Jan 12, 2022.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona 117 2ND Street NW Altona, MB R0G 0B1
Web Page Address: abchurchcommunity.ca Office: 324-6717 E-mail: office@abchurch.ca
Worship Services available online at: abchurchcommunity.ca Facebook: ABC community
Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990 cell 1-204-771-3406 marktd@abchurch.ca
Assoc Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 viriniagr@abchurch.ca
Assoc Pastor of Youth Min: Josh Janzen, 204-502-1991, cell 1-402-631-3481 joshj@abchurch.ca
Children’s Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 amandaw@abchurch.ca

CANDLE LITANY:

Leader: We light a candle of joy. And we imagine:

People: Jubilation! Rejoicing! Do not fear!

Leader: We light the candle and join in God's song, singing loudly, singing fiercely, singing together.

People: Imagine that...we are God's wonders, blessed wonders.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Long-time church treasurer Don Fehr has advised that after 15 years of looking after ABC's finances, he is retiring. A succession of Finance and Maintenance Commission members came to rely on Don's professional expertise, flexibility, deep faith, and caring commitment for the congregation of Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church. And although not committed to a specific date, Don has offered to work with Finance and Maintenance to locate and train a replacement at the earliest opportunity. The position of Church Treasurer is a part-time appointed position with duties and responsibilities related to the finances of the church, staff, and the Canada Revenue Agency. Don has prepared a job description which will be available from any member of the Finance and Maintenance Commission, and the church office.

If you have any questions re the above opportunity or suggestions for a replacement, we encourage you to contact one of the following members of the Finance Commission: Elmer Friesen, Al Harder, Clint Klassen, and Al Friesen – Chair

Finance Commission is in deep gratitude to Don and Grace for their contribution to ABC.

- **The pastors will be taking some time off** over the Christmas holidays: Mark will be on vacation Dec 25-27 and Jan 3-10 (He will be in the office Dec 28-31). Virginia will be on vacation Dec 27 - Jan 3.
- **The Mitten Tree Project** is happening again. New or home knit mittens, toques and scarves collected through the **Mitten Tree project** will be donated to Union Gospel Mission in Winnipeg. All donated items are greatly appreciated and much needed at UGM. To donate your items bring them to the 'mitten trees' in the church foyer. If you are unable to bring your items to church, call Amanda Wiens 204-324-6719 to arrange for a pick-up.
- **Canadian Mennonite subscriptions:** All who attend Altona Bergthaler Church may receive a subscription to *Canadian Mennonite*. The biweekly magazine is delivered by mail and email. Subscriptions are paid for collectively through Mennonite Church Manitoba. To start a new subscription or to change your delivery preferences (to receive print, digital or both), please contact the church office.

- **As of Dec 5, 2021**, we are asking that all those 12 and over attending our in-person worship services be vaccinated. Please be willing to show your proof of vaccination. Wear masks throughout the worship service.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Dec 21, 7pm** – The Longest Night Service, at Altona Mennonite Church. All are welcome.
- **The Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund.** If you would like to be a part of this mission, donations can be hand delivered to Pembina Valley Pharmacy, Access Credit Union [Gretna, Altona or Plum Coulee] or by mailing the donation to Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund, Box 2255, Altona, MB R0G 0B0.

Mennonite Church Canada – office@mennonitechurchcanada.ca

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

- MC Manitoba invites applications for two full-time positions: "Director of Mission Engagement" and "Director of Leadership Ministries". Visit the MCM website: www.mennochurch.mb.ca/get-involved
- Camp Assiniboia hiring kitchen helpers. For more information contact Lauren Gervais cakitchen@campswithmeaning.org 204-799-5005. For other job opportunities, visit www.campswithmeaning.org/news

Canadian Mennonite University – cmu.ca

- **Christmas at CMU** – Watch this year's Christmas at CMU program from the comfort of your own home. Christmas favourites performed by current CMU instrumental and choral ensembles, this is our gift of glad tidings and joy to you! Visit cmu.ca/christmas.
- **Dec 15, 7:30pm - Handel's Messiah** performed by the CMU Festival Chorus and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Visit wso.ca for more info. Watch online (for \$10) visit mywso.tv/products/handel-s-messiah.
- **Through this Place** - CMU's monthly e-newsletter about the inside, outside and all about CMU. Visit cmu.ca/about/newsletter.

MCC Manitoba - manitoba@mccmb.ca

- **Looking** for a unique Christmas gift? Let us help you gift wrap a goat! Animals, like chickens and goats, can provide nutrition, livelihoods and stability for people in need. Choose from MCC's Christmas Giving Guide at mccmb.ca/christmas. Then browse Brandon Ten Thousand Village's website at villagesbrandon.ca for beautiful fair trade gift options.
- **Opportunity** for students: Join young people across the country, MCC staff, civil servants and development professionals in a conversation on climate, advocacy and building bridges for a shared future. The Peace & Justice Office student seminar is Feb 22-24, 2022, with a location in Winnipeg. Learn more and register at mcccanada.ca/get-involved/events/peace-justice-student-seminar.
- **MCC MB** is looking for a halftime Constituency Relations Coordinator, offering a flexible home office base in Manitoba. mccmb.ca/openings.

Mennonite Disaster Service – mdscanada@mds.org