

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

Worship Service

December 19 2021 10:30 A.M.

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



Photo credit: Susan M Dueck

*Advent 4
Sunday, December 19, 2021*

“When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a Prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is – that she is a sinner”. ~ Luke 7: 39

REJOICING in the LORD’S PRESENCE

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn **O Come, All Ye Faithful VT 241**

Call to Worship and Candle Lighting

Prayer of Confession

Hymn **Silent Night, Holy Night HWB 193**

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

Instrumental **Away in a Manger**

Children’s Story

Scripture **Luke 4: 24-30, Mark 7: 1-5, 14-23, Mark 11: 15-18**

Sermon **“A Kingdom that challenges expectations”**

LEAVING TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD

Hymn **We Come VT 225**

Sharing Time

Prayer for the Offering, the Church and the World

Benediction

Sending Song **He Who Watches Over You**

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leader:** Josh Janzen **Music:** ABC Ensemble

Candle Lighter: Steph Janzen **Scripture:** Ang Loeppky

Children’s Story: Kristin Falk, Carol Neufeld

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:** Katherine Bergen, Lena Hoffman, Harold Sawatzky, and Helen Schulz at Altona Health Centre. Glenn Friesen at HSC, Winnipeg.
- ~ **Last April** following a significant decline in Gloria's heart health, the Lord saw fit to take us on a health journey we were not expecting. We'd like to thank all our many friends and family at ABC for your caring concern, and most importantly your prayers during this difficult time. We are now in the middle of a long list of assessment tests necessary to determine a possible recommendation for heart transplant. Thank you again for your ongoing prayer support.
- ~ Blessings to you all, Ron & Gloria Voth.
- ~ **Thank you** to Grace Harms, Kathy Dyck, Helen Dueck and Elvera Peters for the use of the quilts and blankets that are displayed in the foyer. Thank you to the decorators Cheryl Harder, Jolene Friesen-Stoesz, Imy Rempel and Angela Loeppky.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**
Pray: Please keep the leaders and staff of Mennonite World Conference in your prayers as they plan for the July 2022 gathering in Indonesia amidst uncertainty of worldwide travel. They will decide in February 2022 how those meetings will take place, on site or online. Pray for strength, grace and wisdom as they find ways for us to be church together in this way.

“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.

From the Pastors:

Christmas is a time to contemplate the mystery and wonder that the Most Holy God and Creator of the universe is born as a baby. His name is Jesus and he is born for you and lives for you and calls you and loves you.

God is compassionate and present in our weakness and burdens. God is strong and mighty to raise us up. May this paradoxical truth be real for you in this season of celebrating the incarnation.

This Christmas, may hope, peace, joy and love be yours in the birth of Jesus!

*Your pastors,
Josh, Mark, and Virginia*

In order to give everyone the opportunity to celebrate Christmas in worship, on December 23, 6:30 pm, we will have a Christmas worship service without a vaccination requirement. Due to capacity limits, signing up in advance with Mark or Virginia is required. If you would like to participate in this service the deadline for signing up is Tuesday Dec 21 at noon.

CANDLE LITANY:

Leader: We light a candle of love, and imagine

People: The lowly lifted, fear met with love.

Leader: We light the candle and pray for God's face to shine on us, to save us, restore us.

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

Jr & Sr Youth

- Enjoy Christmas Break! See you in the New Year!

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

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.

- **Deadline for year-end donations** is December 31st at noon. Donations can be dropped off at the church office. Any donations received after noon on December 31st will be receipted for 2022.
- **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.
- **We are requiring** that all 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. Proof of vaccination required.

- **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, 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

- Faith & Life - Join the F&L Male Choir, Women's Chorus and MCM Staff in a 23-minute online concert. www.mennochurch.mb.ca/flchoirs.
- Collecting stories of people's experiences with Spiritual Direction. If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Laura Funk, Spiritual Director in Residence at Mennonite Church Manitoba. LFunk@mennochurch.mb.ca
- MCM invites applications for two FT 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. Contact Lauren Gervais cakitchen@campswithmeaning.org 204-799-5005.

Canadian Mennonite University – cmu.ca

- On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff we thank you for assisting CMU in promoting our programs and activities in your church. We do not take for granted the time and "ink" used to assist CMU in furthering its mission. Thank you for being a part of an incredible network of churches across Canada that continues to support our work of forming lives for service, leadership, and reconciliation. We wish you a blessed and joyful Christmas season!

MCC Manitoba - manitoba@mccmb.ca

- Are you looking to shop differently this Christmas? Shop MCC's Christmas Giving catalogue at mccmb.ca/christmas for a gift that changes lives, and make your holidays sustainable and fun with Twelve Tips for a Thrift Christmas, available at thrift.mcc.org/christmas.
- A wide variety of SALT positions are now available! SALT is a 1-year cross-cultural service experience for Christian young adults from Canada and the USA. Explore international opportunities in fields such as education, agriculture, healthcare, community development and more! Visit mccmb.ca/salt for more information.
- 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

- **The Dec edition** of *On the Level* is available from MDS. In this issue: MDS responds to the deadly tornadoes in the Midwest/ South USA, MDS Canada needs volunteers to help survivors recover from extensive flooding in British Columbia, and learn about our Annual Celebration in Sarasota, Florida in January. Go to <https://conta.cc/3pTuFRA>.