

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



*Advent 2
Sunday, December 5, 2021*

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

WORSHIP SERVICE

December 5 2021 10:30 A.M.

*“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field.
When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy
went and sold all he had and bought that field”.*

~ Matthew 13: 44

GATHERING in the LORD'S PRESENCE

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn **Bless'd be the God of Israel HWB 174**

Call to Worship and Candle Lighting

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Hymn **Oh, how shall I receive Thee HWB 182**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Hymn **O come, little children**

Children's Story

Scripture **Mathew 5: 3-12; 13: 44-45; Luke 18: 15-17**

Sermon **"Training for the Kingdom of God"**

LEAVING TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD

Hymn **Seek Ye first the kingdom of God HWB 324**

Prayer for the Offering, the Church and the World

Benediction

Sending Hymn **Joy to the world HWB 318**

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

Music: Flying Free **Scripture/Candle Lighter:** Sarah Dueck

Children's Story: Byron Loeppky

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:** Harold Sawatzky, and Helen Schulz at Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** to Henry & Tina Klassen, family and extended family, at the passing away of Tina's brother, John Stoesz of Altona.
- ~ **Our condolences** to Trudy Enns and family, Barry & Dorothy Braun, Larry & Imy Rempel, and the extended family, at the passing away of son and brother in-law, Don Enns of Altona.
- ~ **Josh Janzen** has been a pastor at ABC for nearly 2 years. He has been putting his gifts to work and developing as a new pastor and it is a joy for our congregation to be part of this journey with Josh. Over the last year, with the endorsement of the church, Josh has been participating in the process for licensing. "Licensing toward Ordination" is a credential granted to pastors who are actively ministering and are testing, discerning, and developing their call to ministry. On December 12, during our Sunday morning worship service, Josh will be licensed. We trust this will empower Josh in his ministry among us. Rick Neufeld, on behalf of Mennonite Church Manitoba, will be present to witness and lead this recognition of Josh's ministry.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**
Pray: Praise God for the early November gathering of more than 30 church leaders in northeastern Thailand for an in-person retreat and training organized by Friends of Grace Church Association, including Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong. It was an important time of sharing and providing resources for these leaders, most of whom are lay leaders with limited biblical and theological training.

"Jesus it's nice to meet you!"

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

- 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. There will not be a worship service on Christmas day.

From the Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Advent is a time of waiting. We are in a time of waiting, liturgically, in our worship calendar, but also personally and globally.

And yet, waiting is not something we generally relish, in our daily lives. When I am waiting in line at the grocery store, I keep looking around to see if one of the check-outs will open up. We often think of waiting as wasted time, the time between when we want to do something and actually get to do it.

But the waiting in Advent is different, it is a purposeful waiting, it is a part of the plan and a part of the Christmas experience. Or maybe it is just the same as all other types of waiting, we just fail to recognize the significance.

During the season of Advent, we are being invited to wait with hopeful expectation. We are being invited to sit in this time of not yet and see what we can learn. We are being invited to step back from our assumptions about Christmas and take time to learn about who this Jesus was and what his life meant again, anew. And we are being invited to allow this waiting to change us, allow this waiting to impact our faith, and deepen our understanding of Jesus, as well as all those who waited and are waiting for his coming.

This year for Advent instead of a chocolate Advent calendar I am using an Advent devotional guide each day to slow down and learn more about the reasons behind our traditional Christmas practices. What ways have you found to slow down, or embrace this time of waiting?

Candle Litany

Leader: We light a candle of peace.

And we imagine:

People: God's tender mercy, God's compassion.

Leader: We light the candle of peace to feel God's embrace, God's nearness, God's breath.

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

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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 virginiagr@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

- **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 tree' 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.
- **Calling all singers of all ages!** On Sunday Dec 12, we are again going to have an impromptu choir in our worship service. Please come for practice that morning at 9:15am. The choir will be in the choir loft this time. Songs will be: Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming HWB 211, Prepare the Way! the Prophet Called VT 220, Now the Heavens Start to Whisper VT 237, Love Has Come VT 258. Contact Laurie Enns or Pastor Virginia with any questions or more song resources.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Please wear masks** throughout the worship service.

Sr Youth

- **Dec 7 [Tues]** – Angel Tree Christmas present wrapping.

Jr Youth

- **Dec 8 [Wed]** – Angel Tree Christmas present wrapping.

Ventures: [Wednesdays]

- **Girls & Boys Ventures 7-8:15pm** – Gingerbread Houses.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund** is accepting referrals for Christmas Hampers. Call in referrals by noon on Dec 10 to 204-324-7167. When calling have the following information: name of referral, number of children in the family with age and gender of child, physical address, mailing address and phone number. Note: the referrals must live in the R.M. of Rhineland. Due to Covid we will not require any volunteers for wrapping/packing/delivery. Thank you to all who have helped in the past. 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

- **Dec 9, 7pm - Book Launch** Suffering the Truth: Occasional Sermons and Reflections by Chris Huebner – www.commonword.ca/go/2659
- **Dec 11, 7pm - Christmas at CMU.** Join us from the comfort of your home for this year's Christmas at CMU program, with Christmas favourites performed by a variety of CMU's music ensembles. Watch the video @ cmu.ca/christmas. [Also available later].

MCC Manitoba - manitoba@mccmb.ca

- **Looking for a change of scenery?** A wide variety of SALT positions are now available! SALT is a year-long cross-cultural service experience for Christian young adults from Canada and the United States. Explore international opportunities in fields such as education, agriculture, healthcare, community development and more! Visit mcccanada.ca/get-involved/serve/volunteer/salt/assignments
- **MCC Manitoba** is looking for a halftime Constituency Relations Coordinator, offering a flexible home office base in Manitoba. Visit mccmb.ca/openings.

Mennonite Disaster Service – mdscanada@mds.org