

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



Sunday, February 28, 2021

Worship Service

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

WORSHIP SERVICE

February 28, 2021

Lent 2 ~ Called to deep Commitment

*"Then he called the crowd to him along with the disciples
and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny
himself and take up his cross and follow me."*

~ Mark 8: 34

GATHERING and PRAISE

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music **If you believe and I believe**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Story

Music **Will you let me be your servant**

Scripture **Mark 8: 31-38**

Sermon **"A costly commitment"**

CONFESSING and RECONCILING

Prayer of Confession

Music **You walk along our shoreline**

Words of Assurance

Offering and Praying

SENDING

Benediction

Music **Go now in peace**

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leader:** James Friesen
Children's Story: Amanda Wiens **Scripture Reader:** Dylan Friesen
Music: Recorded Artists – Kenneth Nafziger and Journey Musicians,
Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship, Ryan Chimzar, Flying Free

Our worship service will be available on the church website
[abchurchcommunity.ca] Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Anne Dueck, Doreen Sawatzky, Elizabeth Doell, Helen Schulz, and Waldo Schulz at Altona Health Centre, Anne Kehler at Notre Dame de Lourdes Hospital, Henry & Helen Thiessen in Morris Hospital.
- ~ **Condolences** to Grace Klippenstein, Rachel & Ryan Alex Wah, Dayna and Gavin, family and extended family, at the passing away of brother and uncle Allister Zacharias, of Eastview Place in Altona.
- ~ **Nora Hildebrant** has moved to #209 Gardens On Tenth.
- ~ **I am** a very proud great grandma and I would like to share that with my ABC family. We are all thankful for the safe arrival of Riley John, born to Nathan & Erika Klassen, on Feb 13. He is the also a bundle of joy for grandparents, Dale & Sandra Klassen. ~ Hilda Klassen
- ~ **Congratulations** to Pete & Elsie Letkeman on the arrival of a new granddaughter. Charlotte Paige was born to Dan & Kristen Letkeman, of Winkler, on Feb 22.
- ~ **Thank you** so much for your faithful financial support of our family and our ministry. We feel part of your community, even from Winnipeg.
~ Peace & love, Jaime, Kim, Micah & Finley Arpin-Ricci
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**
Praise God for four recently completed teacher training events for the Congo Literacy Project, held in Mutena, Kamiji, Kamayala and Bitu in December and January. Pray that 80 newly trained teachers would have the courage and determination to begin literacy classes in their respective congregations. The literacy project is supported by International Witness and Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Lent 2021 - Deep calls to Deep—God is calling us to go deeper. In preparation for this we invite you to *gather six items [stones, buttons, seashells or other objects]*, for each person in your household. These objects will represent our prayers for the season. You are welcome to place them in a bowl or glass so they are easily accessible as you join in with worship from home.

- Mar 7 - Lent 3 Called to deep Wisdom
- Mar 14 - Lent 4 Called to deep Healing
- Mar 21 - Lent 5 Called to deep Growth
- Mar 28 - Lent 6 Called to deep Hope
- Apr 2 - Good Friday
- Apr 4 - Easter - Called to deep Living

FROM the PASTOR: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a pastor and a brilliant young theologian in Germany when the Nazis came to power and his career was disrupted. Two days after Hitler became Chancellor, Bonhoeffer opposed the Nazis in an address on the radio, which was terminated before he completed it. Bonhoeffer became a leader in the Confessing Church, a movement named for its confession of Jesus as Lord, at a time when the church in Germany was increasingly becoming subordinated to the Nazi regime and the ideology of German nationalism. Bonhoeffer could have become a professor of theology in America, but he returned to Germany and resisted the persecution of Jews in church and society and opposed the programs of the Nazis. The underground seminary which Bonhoeffer led was shut down and he faced increasing restrictions by the authorities including being prohibited from preaching, teaching, and writing. Eventually he was arrested, taken to a concentration camp, and executed for his role in the resistance and participation in a plot to assassinate Hitler, no doubt a difficult decision for the avowed pacifist.

In preparing my sermon for this Sunday I read some chapters of Bonhoeffer's classic, "The Cost of Discipleship." Here are some quotes:

On cheap grace and costly grace: "[costly] grace is *costly* because it calls us to follow, and it is *grace* because it calls us to follow *Jesus Christ*. It is costly because it costs someone their life, and it is grace because it gives a person the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is *costly* because it cost God the life of his Son."

On Discipleship and the cross: "The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ-Suffering everyone must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world. It is that dying of the old self which is the result of his or her encounter with Christ. As we embark upon discipleship, we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with his death...In fact every command of Jesus is a call to die, with all our affections and lusts, but we do not want to die, and therefore Jesus Christ and his call are necessarily our death as well as our life."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Jr Youth

- **March 2 [Tues], 7pm** – Stretch! Week 3.

Sr Youth

- **March 3 [Wed], 7pm:** Stretch! Week 3.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Tuesday morning coffee** – join us at 10am via ZOOM.
- **Returning to in-person worship:** The COVID task force would like your feedback on whether or not you plan to attend in person worship in the near future? And would you prefer to come on a rotation basis (every other week or so) or have 2 worship services on Sunday morning (and would you prefer the early service at 9 am or a later one closer to 10:30 or 11am)? These numbers will help us in deciding what format to go with. Please email Pastor Virginia or Pastor Mark or call Susan at the church office.
- **Personnel** Commission has reviewed the current Covid restrictions and continues to affirm the pastoral staff to work from home during critical code red. You are welcome to be in touch by phone or email. While the pastor's hours vary slightly, they are **8:30am - 4:30pm Tuesday to Friday**. Susan will be in the office so you are also welcome to call the church. Susan's hours are **9-12** and **1-3 Tuesday-Friday**. The facility will be closed to visitors during the code red period. To contact the staff at their home please use the following phone numbers. You are welcome to call during office hours or anytime needed during an emergency. Mark - 1.204.771.3406 Virginia - 204.304.6119 Josh - 1.402.631.3481 or 1.204.502.1991 Amanda - 204.324.6719.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- **Mar 6, 9am-12 noon online - 2021 Mennonite Church Manitoba Annual Gathering.** Delegates should register through their church office. Non-delegates are welcome, but we're asking you to register on the MCM website or by calling the MCM Office. 204-896-1616 or mennochurch.mb.ca.
- **Mar 12 & 13 - Children's Ministry** Conference. Hosted out of Winnipeg and sponsored in part by MCM and MennoMedia. Inspiring workshops and main sessions! (from the comfort of your home). Visit <https://www.awesomekidmin.com>. Contact Kathy Giesbrecht for further information and encouragement to attend!

Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba – manitoba@mccmb.ca

- **Mar 24** - join First Mennonite Church of Winnipeg online as they present ***Break Every Yoke***, a conversation about working towards a just and dignified society. Speakers: David Driedger, Winnipeg MP Leah Gazana, and author John Clarke. Visit: <http://firstmennonitechurch.ca/break-every-yoke/>. This event is sponsored by MCC Manitoba.

Mennonite Disaster Service - ecomunications@mds.mennonite.net

- The February edition of *On the Level* is now available from MDS. Plus, we're now offering *Behind the Hammer*, our quarterly publication showcasing our volunteers and their inspiring stories, in a digital version Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3bgbp9v>

Mennonite Collegiate Institute – mciblues.net

- **Considering MCI for the 2021-22 school year?** New students who apply by March 15th will share in \$25,000 of available tuition support. One lucky applicant will receive their first year of tuition free! www.mciblues.net/admissions/new-student-incentive/ or contact our Student Recruitment Associate at sophiegerbrandt@mciblues.net

Canadian Mennonite University – cmu.ca

- **CMU's Xplore 55+** Enrichment program offers courses exploring dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it – No exams or assignments. 8 online courses - Wednesday mornings, Mar 3-Apr 7. Options: Christian worship, biblical spirituality, Christian faith and Indigenous spirituality, the Book of Revelation, Old Testament Prophets, the power of music, Abrahamic faiths in dialogue, and the witness of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Visit www.cmu.ca/xplore
- **Mar 3, 4pm - CMU Wednesday Webinar: *Music at CMU*** - explore the options and possibilities that music studies at CMU afford. **Register at** www.cmu.ca/webinar

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Worship Services available online at: abchurch.libsyn.com Facebook: ABC community

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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