

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



Photo credit: Susan M. Dueck

Sunday, January 23, 2022

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona
Worship Service*

January 23 2022 10:30 A.M.

*“For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--
whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given
the one Spirit to drink.” ~ 1 Corinthians 12: 13*

GATHERING and PRAISE

Welcome and Announcements

Music **God is here among us** HWB 16

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music **Will you let me be your servant** HWB 307

LISTENING

Music **If I were a butterfly**

Children’s Story

Scripture **1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a**

Sermon **“Church is *Body*: The implications of the metaphor”**

RESPONDING

Music **Gracious Spirit, dwell with me** HWB 507

Prayer for the Offering, the Church, and the World

SENDING

Benediction

Music **Lord, you give the great commission** STJ 63

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

Music: Glenys Voth **Children’s Story:** Sharon Friesen

Scripture Reader: Harold Schlegel, Elaine Erb

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, Helen Schulz, and Katie Krahn at Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **Wilbert Funk** of our church family passed away January 18th. We are invited to join in gratitude for his life and pray for his wife Sally, family, and extended family.
- ~ **MC Canada / Manitoba**
Pray: Please pray Rudy Dirks and for the Congolese and Angolan leaders as they begin year two of online meetings as part of the Africa Leadership Coaching Certificate program: for daily provision and health for their families; for wisdom in preparing sessions; and for the Spirit's transformative work in each one of their lives as they learn and practice in their communities.
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**

Grace Harms	[Jan 19]
Peter Hildebrand	[Jan 24]
Ruth Kroeker	[Jan 24]
Hilda Klassen [Bernie]	[Jan 28]
Helen Neufeld	[Jan 28]
Nettie Neufeld	[Jan 29]
Hilda Hildebrand	[Jan 30]

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Jan 23 - Speaker Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Jan 30 - Speaker Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Feb 1 - Difficult questions about the Bible

Sr Youth

- **Jan 25 [Tues], 7pm** – Movie Night!

Jr Youth

- **Jan 26 [Wed], 7pm** – Waitlisted Bible Study.

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Assoc Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 virginiagr@abchurch.ca
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From the Pastor: Josh Janzen

Spending time studying and reading scripture is one of a multitude of ways in which we can deepen our relationship with God, and yet it is an important activity. The spiritual practice of Lectio Divina (Latin for "divine reading") is a way of contemplatively reading scripture and dwelling in it. This practice of reading scripture lets us sit with the text for longer periods of time. 15th century Anglican priest Thomas Crammer describe the practice this way: "Let us ruminate, and, as it were, chew the cud, that we may have the sweet juice, spiritual effect, marrow, honey, kernel, taste, comfort and consolation of them." Crammer exhorts Christians to dwell with the word and "chew" on it multiple times, much like a cow or sheep would eat grass.

There is no one exact way to practice Lectio Divina, so I want to offer two different ways that we can live out this spiritual practice. Each version helps us to engage with scripture in very different ways. The first way is what I call The Four Questions. This practice involves reading a passage of scripture four times while pausing to reflect on a different question each time. The four questions are:

- 1) What does the text say? —This question asks to simply think about what is going on in the text.
- 2) What does the text say to me? – This question seeks to have us reflect on what resonates from the text within our own life.
- 3) What do I want to say to God about the text? This question asks us to respond to some of the emotions or feelings that have come up in the previous questions, and make them known to God.
- 4) What difference will this text make in my life? The last question empowers us to a respond in action.

Responding to these four questions can be prayer in itself. If one were to make this a continued practice, this version of Lectio Divina allows space for journaling and a place to put our responses and feelings down on paper.

The Second version of Lectio Divina that I offer is called Blackout Prayers. This practice of lectio Divina allows us to get a little crafty. It requires a black sharpie and printing out the scripture passage you are studying in large text. As you read through the text, draw boxes or circles around words that stand out to you. You can do this multiple times, focusing on one or two words each reading. Once you have your focus words, black out the rest of the text. Lastly, write out your remaining words and close read them as words of prayer. These two versions of Lectio Divina are quite different, but both embrace the idea of the spiritual practice to dwell in God's word.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Our Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Feb 27 at 1:00 pm**. We are planning a hybrid format with both in-person and online participation.
- **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

Mennonite Church Canada – office@mennonitechurchcanada.ca

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

- MCM invites applications for the position of "Director of Leadership Ministries". Visit www.mennochurch.mb.ca/get-involved .

Canadian Mennonite University – cmu.ca

- **Jan 26 virtual open house @6pm** - *Where teaching is exceptional; faith & community matter; learning & career connect; professors know you.* Sign up for our virtual campus tour and one-on-one conversations with an Admissions Counsellor. Visit cmu.ca/virtualopenhouse.
- **Feb 8 - ReNew 2022:** An Online Conference for Pastors and Church Leaders. *Water from a Living Stream: Rejuvenation for Pastoring in a Complex World.* Dr. Scot McKnight will offer three scripture-rich presentations. Schedule /registration at: cmu.ca/renew.
- **Xplore:** At the Intersection of Faith and Life. A 55-Plus enrichment program, Xplore offers courses that investigate dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it. Xplore happens in a six-week block, with online courses offered Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, beginning March 1. Visit cmu.ca/xplore.

MCC Manitoba - manitoba@mccmb.ca

- **Feb 22-24** -Is our climate polarized? MCC Peace & Justice Office invites university students to engage with development professionals, civil servants and more in a student seminar Feb 22-24. Join us in Winnipeg for in-person presentations and Zoom sessions to explore ways that you can make a difference. Register by Jan 31 at mcccanada.ca/get-involved/events/peace-justice-student-seminar.

Mennonite Disaster Service – mdscanada@mds.org

- January edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: a new partnership with MDS Canada and MCC to respond to the flood damage in the Fraser Valley, a new job opening for MDS Canada, and links to join the Annual Celebration online. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3KqsX3r>