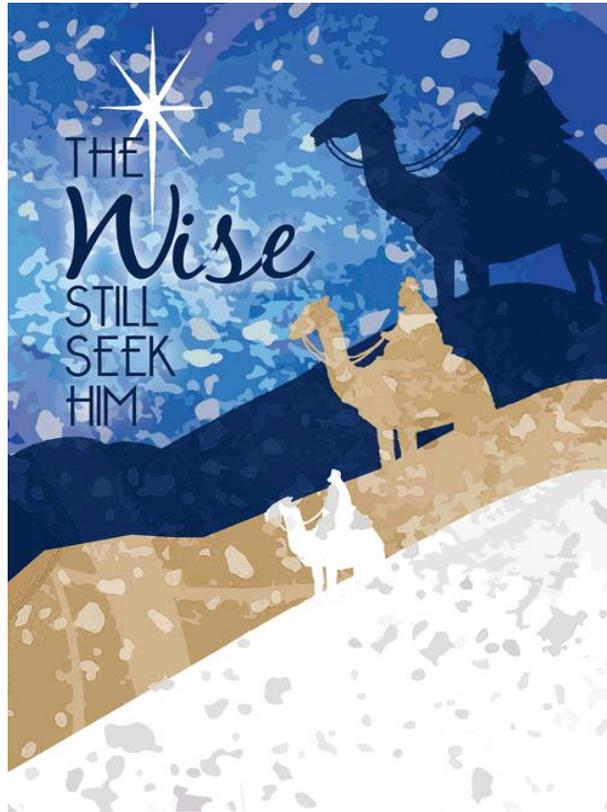


*Welcome to the  
Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
of Altona*



*Sunday, January 3, 2021*

*Worship Service*

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona*

*WORSHIP SERVICE*

*January 3, 2021*

*“As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?” ~ Acts 8: 36*

Welcome and Announcements  
Song We three Kings  
Call to Worship and Prayer  
Song Do you hear what I hear  
Children’s Story  
Scripture **Acts 8: 26-40**  
Meditation **“Seize the Day”**  
Song Where shepherds lately knelt  
Prayer  
Benediction  
Song Child of Peace

**Sermon:** George Veith

**Children’s Story:** Jeanette Hanson **Worship Leader:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck

**Music:** Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Faith and Life Men’s Choir, Recorded Artists

Welcome to George Veith our guest speaker. George and Tobia are *Witness* workers in China with Mennonite Church Canada.

And welcome to Jeanette Hanson our guest children’s story teller. Jeanette is director of International Witness for Mennonite Church Canada.

Our Congregation has continued to support George and Tobia and we look forward to ways we may continue to strengthen one another in our walk with Christ.

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

## **PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Lena Hoffman, Helen Schulz, Anne Braun, Elizabeth Doell, Waldo Schulz at Altona Health Centre; Anne Kehler at Notre Dame de Lourdes Hospital.
- ~ **Condolences** to Don & Grace Fehr, family and the extended family, at the passing away of Grace's father, Peter H. Toews of Altona. A private funeral will take place January 5.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada:** Restorative circles in Chuncheon well received by schools and teachers. Praise God for response to recent restorative circle processes led by Witness worker Bock Ki Kim in South Korea. Schools have been asking trainers from the Chuncheon Community Peace Center for training in communication and conflict transformation. One teacher responded, "I realize that I haven't been really listening to my students. Today they expressed themselves so well." Pray that God will use this training to bring peace to schools and homes in Chuncheon.

## **WORSHIP CALENDAR**

Jan 10 - Baptism of Jesus, Mark 1:4-11 Speaker: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

**Donations for the church** can be dropped off at Don and Grace Fehr's home at **85 Martin Crescent**. Place your donation in the designated box and then ring the doorbell. PLEASE NOTE THEIR NEW ADDRESS, and don't leave your donation at Don and Grace's former residence.

**2021 Donation Envelopes** can be picked up from the church. Ring the doorbell and Susan will meet you at the door.

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Personnel Commission** is pleased to share the following staff changes for ABC. Jolene Friesen-Stoesz and Cheryl Harder will job share the custodian position. Amanda Wiens will act as a substitute secretary during Susan's time off. We are excited to welcome Cheryl and Jolene to the ABC staff and equally as excited to have Amanda in this added role.
- **Commission Chairs:** reminder to submit your reports for the Annual Report Book to Susan at the Church Office.
- **The pastors** are working from home during critical code red. You are welcome to be in touch by phone or email. Susan will be in the office so you are also welcome to call the church. The facility will be closed to visitors during the critical code red period.

## **FROM the PASTOR:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck

New Year's is a peculiar holiday. What are we celebrating? That our planet completed another trek around the sun? We do measure time by the Earth's movements: a year is one orbit around the sun, a day is one rotation of the Earth on its axis, and smaller measurements of time are fractions of a rotation (one hour being 1/24 of a rotation).

January 1<sup>st</sup> was designated the New Year's Day many years before the time of Christ, with the first month named after the Roman god of new beginnings (Janus). When the Roman Empire collapsed in the 5<sup>th</sup> century CE, parts of Christian Europe adopted new dates for the start of a year, typically December 25 and March 25 to coincide with Christmas or the Feast of the Annunciation respectively, thereby coordinating the recognition of time with the Christian story instead of the Roman god. January 1 was again designated New Year's Day in the Gregorian calendar which was created in 1582 and named for the Pope who initiated this updated and standardized calendar. Gradually nations adopted the Gregorian Calendar and we still use it today.

How we designate time and acknowledge its passing is quite arbitrary. However, time is a creation of God and scripture witnesses that God works in time. Time is not meaningless or cyclical, but is moving in a direction, toward something. As Christians it is good to call to mind the doctrine of sanctification at New Year's. Sanctification is the Christian's call to continually grow in holiness, love, and virtue through the grace of God and the power of Holy Spirit. Scripture calls us to "redeem the time" (a literal translation of Ephesians 5:16, other translations capture the meaning as well, such as, "make the most of every opportunity"). What is time if not an opportunity for sanctification? And what is a New Year, if not an occasion to contemplate our sanctification. (Remember, time passes always not just on January 1).

## **Jr Youth**

- Jan 5, 7pm - ZOOM Game Night

## **Sr Youth**

- Jan 8, 7pm – ZOOM Game Night

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

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Canadian Mennonite University** – [cmu.ca](http://cmu.ca)

- *Through this Place* is a monthly e-newsletter 'inside, outside and all about CMU'. To subscribe visit [www.cmu.ca/newsletter](http://www.cmu.ca/newsletter).

**Mennonite Disaster Service** - [ecomunications@mds.mennonite.net](mailto:ecomunications@mds.mennonite.net)

**Mennonite Church Manitoba** – [mennochurch.mb.ca](http://mennochurch.mb.ca) 204-896-1616

**Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba** – [manitoba@mccmb.ca](mailto:manitoba@mccmb.ca)

- Serving and Learning Together (SALT) is a 1-year cross-cultural service experience for Christian young adults. Serve internationally in a variety of fields like education, agriculture, healthcare, information technology, peace and more. Visit [mccmb.ca/SALT](http://mccmb.ca/SALT) to register/learn more.
- Join the Ottawa Office and learn about how MCC is reshaping Canadian international aid policy. This virtual seminar from Feb 16-18 is available for university students. Application deadline is Jan 15 and registration is \$20. Learn more and apply at [mccmb.ca/Student-Seminar](http://mccmb.ca/Student-Seminar).