

*Welcome to the  
Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
of Altona*



*Photo credit: Susan M. Dueck*

*Sunday, January 9, 2022*

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona*

*Worship Service*

*January 9 2022 10:30 A.M.*

*“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”  
Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of  
the living God.” ~ Matthew 16: 15-16*

**REJOICING IN THE LORD’S PRESENCE**

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn **Be the Centre**

Call to Worship and Candle Lighting

Prayer

Hymn **Come, now is the time to worship**

**LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD**

Hymn **Holy, holy, holy Lord**

Children’s Story

Scripture **Matt. 16:13-16, John 1:29-34, Phil. 2:5-11**

Sermon **“Who is Jesus?”**

**LEAVING TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD**

Hymn **Magnificat**

Prayer for the Offering, the Church, and the World

Benediction

Hymn **Blessed be Your name**

**Sermon:** Josh Janzen **Worship Leader:** Mary Anne Loeppky

**Music:** The Worship Team **Children’s Story:** Kristin Falk

**Candle Lighter / Scripture Reader:** Stephanie & Abby Rempel

**Our worship service** will be live-streamed Sunday morning at 10:30am and is available on the church website at [[abchurchcommunity.ca](http://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, Katie Krahn and Glenn Friesen at Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **MC Canada / Manitoba**  
**Pray:** Join in praise and prayer with *Witness* workers Werner and Joanne De Jong as they make their way to Ethiopia to serve with the Meserete Kristos Seminary on January 16, 2022. After waiting the fall semester for visas, they are finally able to travel. Learn more about their assignment here: <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/article/11996-mennonite-church-canada-welcomes-new-witness-workers-in-ethiopia>
- ~ **Thank you** to everyone who donated to the Mitten Tree[s] project. We collected 36 pairs of mittens, 48 toques, 64 scarves, 28 pairs of slippers as well as some monetary donations. This will all be donated to the Union Gospel Mission in Winnipeg.
- ~ **Thank you so much** for the [Home/World Commission] **Christmas care package!** We are enjoying its contents every day. We are so thankful that you thought of us during this Christmas season. I hope you have a wonderful new year! ~ Josh and Alyssa Neufeld
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**
- |                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Morley Wahl      | [Jan 9]  |
| James Friesen    | [Jan 11] |
| Jake Bergen      | [Jan 15] |
| Trudy Enns       | [Jan 15] |
| Clarence Friesen | [Jan 15] |
| Larry Hamm       | [Jan 15] |

## **CANDLE LITANY**

**Leader:** We light the Christ candle as we honor Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, friend and companion, Messiah and King.

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

## **Jr Youth**

- Check your email.

## **Sr Youth**

- Check your email.

**From the Pastor:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

I have been thinking a lot about community lately, relationships, supports and purposes. I have been thinking about how we build and maintain community in our lives, in our church, and in this time of rising Covid cases and concerns. I don't know if it was always easy to build community and connections, but now it seems like there are more roadblocks than ever before.

- we can't invite someone out to eat with out first knowing their vaccination status.
- we can't invite 2 families over if they total more than 10 people
- we can't visit our friends in the hospital or care home. unless we have been designated their visitor.

And I could go on. Granted many of these things are hopefully only for the short term but it makes face-to-face connections difficult, and either building or supporting current relationships a challenge.

So, I have been trying to brain storm other ways to build and support relationships in our personal lives, as well as in the life of the church. For it is through relationships that we are able to support, encourage and challenge one another to grow in our faith and walk with God.

One idea that I have had is old fashioned letter writing and cards. Not just emails and texts but pen and paper writing. I am going to see if slowing down, and reaching out is able to build bridges of connection and support. Join me if you want and see what comes.

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Web Page Address: [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) Office: 324-6717 E-mail: [office@abchurch.ca](mailto:office@abchurch.ca)  
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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)

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **The poinsettias in the foyer** – anyone who wishes to take a plant may do so.... they are 'free for the taking'.

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. A job description is available from any member of the Finance Commission, and the church office. If you have any questions about the above opportunity or replacement suggestions, contact one of the members of Finance Commission: Elmer Friesen, Al Harder, Clint Klassen, and Al Friesen, Chair.

- **We have** begun to include people's birthdays and significant wedding anniversaries in our weekly bulletin, a small way to build community and relationships, as we have the opportunity to wish one another a happy birthday. The church office will continue to gather information and will be reaching out by email if we do not have your birthday / anniversary in our records. We look forward to celebrating one another in this way.
- **Pastor Mark will** be back in the office on Tuesday, Jan 11.
- **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](mailto:office@mennonitechurchcanada.ca)

- Thank you from ISR director Steve Heinrichs. In the midst of great sorrow and violence—unmarked graves found at Indian Residential School sites, assaults on land defenders in unceded Wet'suwet'en territory—this past year, ISR celebrated the legislative passing of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, a remarkable achievement accomplished by the linking of arms between Indigenous peoples, faith communities, activists & federal government officials. Thanks to our Mennonite Church family, for supporting the work of reconciliation and reparations. Thank you for your persistent prayers, the local learning and advocacy that you do and for your financial support. I lift my hands and heart to you!

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

- MCM invites applications for the position of "Director of Leadership Ministries". Visit [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/get-involved](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/get-involved) .

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

**MCC Manitoba - [manitoba@mccmb.ca](mailto:manitoba@mccmb.ca)**

- **MCC MB** is looking for a Constituency Relations Coordinator. Apply online at [mccmb.ca/openings](http://mccmb.ca/openings).

**Mennonite Disaster Service** – [mdscanada@mds.org](mailto:mdscanada@mds.org)

- **MDS is hiring!** If you want to make a difference and you thrive in an exciting, fast-paced disaster response environment, consider one of our openings at MDS. Learn more at website: <https://mds.org/employment/>

- **Feb 22-24** - The Peace & Justice Office student seminar, conversation on climate, advocacy and building bridges for a shared future. Learn more/register by Jan 31 at [mcccanada.ca/get-involved/events/peace-justice-student-seminar](http://mcccanada.ca/get-involved/events/peace-justice-student-seminar).