

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona*  
*Worship Service*

*June 26, 2022, 10:30 am*

*“Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.” - Colossians 3:1*

**GATHERING AND PRAISE**

Welcome and announcements

Music **What is this place?** HWB 1

Call to worship and prayer

Music **Holy, holy, holy** VT 76

Celebration of grade 12 graduates

**LISTENING**

Music **Jesus wants me for a sunbeam**

Children’s story

Offering and prayer

Scripture reading **Colossians 3:1-17**

Sermon **Why we do what we do**

**RESPONDING**

Music **In Christ there is no east or west** HWB 306

ABC conversations with Andrew Rempel

Prayer for the offering the church and the world

**SENDING**

Benediction

Music **Let the words of the Lord Jesus Christ dwell in you**

**Sermon:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert **Worship Leader:** Sharon Friesen

**Music:** Glenys Voth **Children’s Story:** Caroline Neufeld

**PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

- ~ **Hilda Wiebe** has moved to Eastview Place. She is in Evergreen room #106.
- ~ **Anne Dueck** from our church family passed away Wednesday, June 22, 2022. Funeral services will be held here at ABC on Tuesday, June 28. We are invited to join in gratitude for Anne’s life and pray for her extended family.
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** are extended to Bill and Carol Bergman for the passing of Bill’s brother Peter Bergman of Winnipeg who died on June 20, 2022.
- ~ **A big THANK YOU** from the Worship and Music commission to all the music groups and participants in our church. We are all grateful for the work and music that you provide.
- ~ **Congrats to ABC grad** Ethan Giesbrecht as he and his family celebrate his graduation from W.C. Miller!
- ~ **International Witness:** This week Werner and Joanne De Jong arrived in Canada for a summer of speaking in various congregations, study, visa applications and rest from their first semester at Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia. Pray that they will be renewed in body and spirit, that their visa application will be successful and that they will be able to return with energy at the end of August.
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God’s blessing to:**
  - Edna Martens – June 26
  - Phyllis Friesen – June 27
  - Myra Falk – June 28

**WORSHIP CALENDAR**

**June 26:** Speaker - Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

**June 26 7 pm:** Service of lament

**July 3:** Speaker - Mark Tiessen-Dyck

**July 10:** Speaker – Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

**Jesus and Empire: A Sermon Series on Colossians**

We continue our four-week series on the book of Colossians. This letter was an explosive and subversive text that was written for Christians struggling to follow Jesus in a world of empire. Colossians is also packed with wisdom to help shape our imaginations and lives towards Jesus in this time.

**Pastor Mark** will be taking the weekend off. He will be back in the office on Tuesday June 28.

**Sr Youth and Jr Youth:** Enjoy your summer!

## **FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL:** Stephanie Friesen

Earlier this week I attended an MCM meeting at AMC here in Altona. The opening devotional focused on Psalm 121:

"I lift up my eyes to the mountains. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth."

It was shared with us that there are many pastoral openings - lead, associate, and youth alike - and no pastors available to fill those spots. Obviously, this is something that concerns us since we are losing our youth pastor and, as church council, we have been figuring out how to move forward. Conversations with our congregation and specifically with the parents of our youth tell us that continuing to have our own youth program at ABC is essential and important. So, what do we do then if there are no pastors looking for jobs? In the past we would have formed a search committee to discuss, discern and reach out to MCM for a list of people looking for jobs. At this time, we feel like these steps have already been taken by different members of Church Council and that forming a search committee would be "meeting just to meet". Now, while this doesn't sound encouraging, be assured that we, Church Council, are not sitting back and doing nothing. We are thinking outside the box, we have talked about a few shoulders to tap on, and we are discussing options for the fall in the case that we don't have anyone in place for the youth. We will form a working group as the need arises.

So, where does Psalm 121 fit into all of this? We focus on the issue at hand (the mountains) but ultimately our help comes from the Lord, the one who created the heavens and the earth. Surely, He has the power to provide all that we need. As we continue to discern, search, tap on shoulders and get creative, we invite and encourage you to pray for us along the way.

Church Council Chair  
Stephanie Friesen

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Worship Services available online at: [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) 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 [joshi@abchurch.ca](mailto:joshi@abchurch.ca)

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**The church office** will be closed on Friday July 1 for the holiday.

**Over the summer, the pastors will be taking vacation time.**

During pastor's vacation time they will not be checking emails, responding to messages, or attending to church related matters.

Mark will be on vacation July 4 - July 11, and July 25 – August 8.

Virginia will be on vacation from August 6 – August 20.

Virginia will be out of the office attending Mennonite Church Canada gathering in Edmonton July 28 - August 1.

Josh will be out of the office at Mennonite Church Canada youth assembly from July 30 – August 5.

Josh's time at ABC concludes on August 14.

*Note: On the weekend of July 30 – August 1, all the pastors will be out of Altona. If there is a crisis or you need to be in touch with a pastor during this time, you may be in touch with Virginia who will respond as best as she is able from the Mennonite Church Canada Gathering in Edmonton.*

**Tuesday morning coffee is on!** You are welcome to join the church staff in the library on *Tuesday mornings at 10 am.*

**If you are interested** in a 3-4 carousel slide projector, please contact Cheryl or Jolene

**June 26, 7 pm – tonight-** We will have a service of lament for anyone who wishes to bring their grief into the presence of God. This includes the various losses we have experienced during the last couple years, particularly the pain and sadness of people leaving our church community. This will also be a time of fostering hope for our future as we move forward in welcoming and loving ways.

**ABC goes to camp!** We are required to communicate numbers of people and arrangements to the camp in preparation for our weekend at Camp Assiniboia September 9-11.

The cost for overnight stay is \$42 per adult per night and \$25 per child per night with additional costs for meals (if cost is a barrier, arrangements will be made so that you can participate). This includes most of the camp activities and facilities. People can stay from Friday to Sunday or from Saturday to Sunday, or come out for the day on Sunday. We are asking people to let the church office know your plans *before the end of June* so that accommodations can be arranged for. The entire camp is currently being reserved for us, but if we will not use all the available space the camp can have other groups use the space. For camp retreat details please contact Mark.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**MCC: A do-it-yourself fundraiser** for everyone! Join Go!100 and raise money for MCC this summer by doing 100 of the activity of your choice throughout July and August. Whether you choose to bike, paddle or run 100 km, or make 100 perogies or pies - you'll bring tangible relief to refugees and displaced people around the world. Visit [mccmb.ca/go-100](http://mccmb.ca/go-100) for more information and to sign up.

**Mennonite Church Canada:** Mennonite Church Canada will once again share worship services from congregations across our nationwide community of faith this summer, beginning with Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church this Sunday, June 26. Pastor Mark Tiessen-Dyck shares a message about how the supremacy of Christ affects the lives of Christians living in empire. The services and a schedule are available at [mennonitechurch.ca/worshipservices](http://mennonitechurch.ca/worshipservices).

**CMU:** MHC Gallery's next exhibition is: "Mennonite Village Photography: Views from Manitoba, 1890–1940" by Mennonite Historic Arts Committee. The exhibit runs from June 24 to September 10, 2022. Visit [cmu.ca/gallery](http://cmu.ca/gallery) for more details.

**Eden Foundation: July 9<sup>th</sup>** – Visit the Villages Tractor Trek, Meeting at the Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Winkler for breakfast, then trekking through villages of Schanzenfeld, Hochfeld, Blumenfeld, Osterwick and Chortitz. See poster in the lobby for full details.

**Love Music?** Play a variety of instruments? Want to share your love of music with others? The Opportunities Program at Blue Sky Opportunities is looking for a volunteer to share their love of music with the participants once or twice a month for 1- 1.5 hours in the afternoon. The participants in Opportunities have a wide variety of abilities so some creativity is needed to helping them explore their musicality through active participation; we have a variety of musical instruments that could also be used. Look forward to lots of laughs and cheers as they participate with you. If this opportunity interests you, contact Elaine Turnbull at 204-324-5401 or email at [hr.blueskyopp.com](mailto:hr.blueskyopp.com). We would require that you provide a clear Criminal Record Check as well as a clear Child and Adult Abuse Registry report.

**The Gardens on Tenth**, along with the Rhineland Area Ministerial and the Altona Memorial Health Centre are pleased to announce that Ray and Marilyn Houser Hamm have accepted the role of Spiritual Care Coordinator.