

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*

June 28 2020



**BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH OF ALTONA
WORSHIP SERVICE**

June 28, 2020

*“See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.
Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all of his splendor was
dressed like one of these.”*

~ Matthew 6: 28b-29

Sermon / Scripture: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert **Worship Leader:** Jolene Friesen-Stoesz
Music: ABC Ensemble **Sound Technicians:** Jason Driedger, Gord Sawatzky

Our guiding scripture for today’s worship: **Genesis 12:10-20; 13:1-18.**

Our worship service will be posted to abchurch.libsyn.com [Audio]
abchurchcommunity.ca [Video] first thing Sunday morning.

Children’s teaching will be posted to abchurchcommunity.ca first thing
Sunday morning. This week’s teacher is Amanda Wiens.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Anne Kehler at Altona Health Centre; Waldo Schulz at Boundary Trails Health Centre.
Sally Funk recuperating at home post surgery this past Friday.
- ~ **Next Sunday, July 5, we will resume worship together at the church building.** Everyone is welcome; however, we also understand that some may not yet feel comfortable gathering together as a church. Our Sunday morning worship services will be video recorded and made available for those choosing to worship from home. For those who intend to gather for worship at church next Sunday, please refer to the email attachment [sent with the bulletin] with information on our worship gatherings.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada:**
Vietnamese Mennonite church trains 10 pastors. Praise God for the week-long pastoral training in mid-June taught by leaders of the Evangelical Vietnamese Mennonite Church (EVMC). About 10 pastors gathered to study, pray and fellowship together. Pray for the president of EVMC, Rev. Hong Thi Nguyen, as she gives leadership to this group of congregations and develops resources for pastoral training.

From the Pastor – Mark Tiessen-Dyck

I had imagined that when we returned to worship it would be a glorious affair with exuberant singing, friendly hugs and handshakes with the people we missed, shouts of 'Amen', a shared feast, and powerful movements of the Holy Spirit. It is now clear that our return to worship at the church building will not occur in this way. Like everywhere else, reopening is gradual and will feel awkward as we become accustomed to new protocols. Some among us will choose to continue worshipping at home for a variety of good reasons.

It seems silly that I once thought Covid would be a minor disruption. Some people have breezed through this time easily adjusting to physical distancing, but for others this time has been excruciating, filled with anxiety, and permeated with deep uncertainty about our faith and God. As this disruption has been prolonged my thoughts have shifted from, 'How do we endure this interruption?' to 'How will we be permanently changed? How will the church be different? How will we be Christ's witnesses in a world forever altered?' I had planned to share my thoughts and my hopes for our church with you all prior to our reopening with the goal of helping us all get excited to continue being the church together. However, the timing does not seem right. I have heard from some who believe strongly it is time for us to be together again in worship, and others who continue to feel uneasy at returning to corporate worship. In light of this ongoing uncertainty, I do not consider next Sunday to be our true reopening or homecoming. This will be at a later date, at which point I'll share my hopes for a transformed post-Covid church.

That being said, I am thrilled to be able to preach to a congregation next Sunday! And I know that no matter how different our worship gatherings may be during this time; powerful movements of the Holy Spirit are not off the table.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Summer Church Office hours begin on July 2nd - 8:30-12 noon.**
The church office will be closed July 1.
Susan will be away June 30-July 3; Eva Schroeder will be filling in at the church office.
- **Pastor's summer vacation schedule:**
Pastor Mark will be away July 6-13 and July 27–August 3
Pastor Virginia will be away July 20-27 and August 17-23
Pastor Josh's vacation to be determined.
- **We continue** our summer sermon series on Abraham, an amazing man of faith. We will look at his call, conflicts, and covenant with God. This will be a time to dig deeper into who Abraham was and what his story can teach us about God and our call to faithfulness.

- **Tuesday 10am Coffee is back** - outside on the church grounds. This will be a physically distanced event and so you will need to bring your own lawn chair and coffee mug, coffee will be provided.
- **The church continues** to operate and strives to meet its financial obligations. Please continue your giving by bringing your donation to the church between 9am and 3pm or mail it to the church: 117nd Street NW, Altona, MB R0G 0B1. Electronic Transfer is also available, to set this up call Don/Grace Fehr 324-5908.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **You can** now sign the Christian Religious Exercise [in schools] Petitions online. Please share the link so that the required signatures can be attained quickly. Visit: form.jotform.com/201624320340034
- **July 1, 11am** – Grand Opening of "The Love Well Women's Drop-In Centre" on 32 2nd Ave NE Altona. Live music, free hotdogs, drinks and dessert. Freewill offerings accepted.

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

- Day Camps and Pop-Up Camps with Camps with Meaning. Visit www.campswithmeaning.org to learn more about and to register for our revised camping program. Or, call 204-895-2267.

Mennonite Church Canada – office@mennochurch.ca 888-6781

- **June 28** - Peace Mennonite Church in Richmond, B.C. will guide our nationwide community of faith in worship this Sunday. The life of faith is not always a straight, upward line, but often a journey marked by victory, failure and restoration. Lead Pastor Winston Pratt will speak on "When Heroes Fall," highlighting God's grace in our weakness. <https://www.mennonitchurch.ca/worshipperservices>
- **Help** match MC Canada's donation to Mennonite World Conference's COVID-19 relief fund! MC Canada donated \$50,000 to MWC's Global Church Sharing Fund to help sister churches around the world struggling to meet basic needs due to Covid-response measures. Now MC Canada is asking congregations to match this donation to raise \$100,000. Go to mennochurch.mb.ca.

Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba – Manitoba@mccmb.ca

- **GO! 100!** Take on the challenge to complete 100 of any activity – running, biking, baking, singing, puzzles! – from now to July 27 to raise funds & celebrate MCC's 100th birthday. mccmb.ca/go-100.
- The 2nd episode of Relief, Development and Podcast is out! Listen as Mulanda Jimmy Juma shares about his work for MCC today in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Olympian, Cindy Klassen, joins in as a guest speaker. Visit mcccanada.ca/relief-development-podcast.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona 117 2ND Street NW Altona, MB R0G 0B1
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Asst Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 virginiaagr@abchurch.ca
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 amandaw@abchurch.ca
Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry: Josh Janzen, 324-6717, 1-402-631-3481 joshi@abchurch.ca