

Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona



Sunday, June 6, 2021

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

WORSHIP SERVICE

June 6, 2021

"The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the skies display his handiwork." ~ Psalm 19:1

GATHERING and PRAISE

Music	This Ground
Welcome and Call to Worship	
Prayer	
Music	For the beauty of the earth HWB 89

LISTENING

Children's Story	
Gr. 3 Bible Presentation	
Music	In the bulb there is a flower HWB 614
Scripture Reading	Psalm 104:1, 14-24, 139: 7-12
Sharing	

RESPONDING

Music	All things bright and beautiful HWB 156
Prayer for the Offering, the Church and World	

SENDING

Benediction	
Music	Great is thy faithfulness HWB 327

Sharing: Jake Enns, Lisa Hiebert-Penner Worship Leader: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert
Children's Story: Andrew & Stephanie Rempel Scripture Reader: Emilee Hamm
Music: Camps with Meaning, Winnipeg Boys Choir, Victor Engbrecht

Our worship service will be available on the church website
abchurchcommunity.ca Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Waldo Schulz, Harold Sawatzky at Altona Health Centre; Henry and Helen Thiessen at Morris Hospital, and Gloria Voth in St. Boniface Hospital.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada / Manitoba**
Pray: For Camps with Meaning Ring Up the Cash COVID relief Campaign. We are thankful for all the active participants of this campaign and pray that financial donations exceed the losses the camp has experienced over this past year. We pray that Camps with Meaning can continue to provide faith-based fun for their campers and guests for years to come.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

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|---------|------------------------------------|
| June 13 | Speaker Mark Tiessen-Dyck |
| June 20 | Speaker Virginia Gerbrandt Richert |
| June 27 | Speaker Mark Tiessen-Dyck |

Grade 3 Bible Presentation

Today we celebrate with our grade 3's:

- Tommy Friesen
Penny Wahl
Dylann Funk
Carter Penner

Jr & Sr Youth

- Wednesday June 9 at 7pm - Chopped cooking challenge on Zoom

We remember and honour the 215 children and more who died at Residential Schools. We invite you to join in this memorial by coming, leaving a stuffed animal, praying and committing to listen and learn.



FROM the PASTOR: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

A week ago it was announced that the remains of 215 children were found in an unmarked burial site on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in B.C. When I heard this, I was speechless and unsure what to think or how to think about it, not unlike many of you I am guessing.

I have been trying to learn more about the history of Indigenous peoples in Canada as well as their current situation for some time now. From what I have learned the Residential schools were created for the singular purpose of assimilating Indigenous People in Canada. And they began with children to try and train them in the way of the white people as early and young as possible. These schools were created to make *them* more like *us*.

But what these schools actually did was far worse. They forcibly removed children from their homes, offered them a poor diet and poor educational training, put them in a setting that was rife with insects and disease, and rampant with physical and sexual abuse. Many children died, and those who did survive have scars that will stay with them for the rest of their life. The premise of these schools was racist and the implementation was even worse.

As Christians our calling is to love our neighbour as ourselves, and to care for the least of these. And yet in a moment like this, some of us might be so overwhelmed that we are tempted to simply turn away. But if we are to live into our calling as Christians and listen to the call of the Indigenous elders we would hear them asking us to have empathy, we would hear them inviting us to mourn with them, and reminding us that this is their story and their experience that we are being asked to honour.

As an act of empathy and mourning our church is going to hold a vigil for the young lives that were lost in the Kamloops residential school as well as all the other residential schools in Canada. We are going to create a space on the front steps of our building for people to bring teddy bears or other stuffed animals. Our goal would be 215, but even more would show the care and love that we wish for each of those children as well as the survivors of such horrific events. All are welcome to stop by, say a prayer for the children and survivors, and if you want leave a stuffie.

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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Tuesday morning coffee** – join us at 10am via ZOOM.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **June 10, 7pm** - Join Dr. Dieter Buddefeld and Dr. Ken Kliewer in a conversation about the COVID-19 vaccine, live on the Town of Altona's YouTube channel. If you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine that you would like to have addressed, send them to the Town of Altona at communications@altona.ca or call 204-324-6468 before the event. You can also submit questions live during the event via the comments.
- **June 13, 7pm** – Summer Drive-in concert with *Prairie Joe*, in support of One Hope Canada, at the Winkler EMMC Church. Enjoy the concert from your car via FM radio. Offering will be taken. Covid protocol.
- **June 17, 2-7pm** - Upcoming mobile blood donor clinic at the Altona Rhineland Pioneer Centre, Main Floor Hall 227 10th Ave NW. Please call 1-888-236-6283, or go on-line to book your appointment. NO WALK INS.

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

- **Pray and act** for peace in the Holy Land. In recent days, hundreds of people have been killed and injured in fresh violence fueled by pent-up hatred and ongoing injustice. Pray for our partners at Bethlehem Bible College and for all Palestinian Christians as they bear witness to Jesus' way of peace. Contact your MP to ask Canada to take a clearer stand for justice and international law. Visit <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/pin>.
- **Join our nationwide community of faith** for Mennonite Church Canada's AGM on Saturday, June 19, 1-2:30pm EDT. We will hear updates from our program directors, enjoy worship and reflect together as members of Mennonite Church Canada Joint Council share what God has showed them over the past year. All are welcome to register.
Link: <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/event/11737-2021-06-19-mennonite-church-canada-agm-2021>

Canadian Mennonite University – cmu.ca

- **June 16, 4pm - CMU Admissions Webinar:** *Why Fall 2021 is the perfect time to enrol at CMU.* COVID-19 has changed many aspects of society, including post-secondary education. When thinking of enrolling in university vs. taking a gap-year, there are some strong reasons to immerse yourself in university studies this fall. Join us to hear the top 4 reasons for you to consider CMU this fall! Visit www.cmu.ca/webinar.
- **CMU is looking for a Donor and Alumni Relations Associate** who will champion the capacity of students to change the world by building connections with individuals and groups within and beyond the university's support network. Visit www.cmu.ca/employment for info.

• **June 17, 7:30pm** - CommonWord Bookstore and Resource Centre invites you to a **book launch** event with Abe J. Dueck for his book *Mennonite Brethren Bible College: A History of Competing Visions*. Hear about his research on the guiding vision of MBBC (1944-1992) and its evolution, including the theology, worship and polity of the Canadian Mennonite Brethren conference that supported it. Register Zoom event at www.commonword.ca/go/2413.

- **July 7 -20th** - Join us for the annual **CMU Golf Classic** fundraiser in support of student athletes and student financial aid at Kingswood Golf & Country Club. Visit www.cmu.ca/golf to register or become a sponsor.

Mennonite Collegiate Institute – info@mciblues.net

- **July 10-18 - The 7th Annual MCI Golf Classic** has been postponed to July 10-18 at the Minnewasta Golf Course. To Register, call MCI at 204-327-5891 by June 30th. (\$150 per player/\$35 donation receipt)

Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba – manitoba@mccmb.ca

- **Due to** COVID-19 the Brandon MCC Relief Sale is cancelled for Sept. Thanks for your past support, we hope to see you next year.
- **June 7-11** - Join us for an online Quilt Sale. Browse through quilts, purses and stuffed animals for the perfect gift. All items are handmade by volunteers as part of MCC's Quilt Show & Sale Committee. Learn more: visit our Facebook page or mccmb.ca/Events.
- **Our virtual challenge is back!** Join us for GO! 100 all summer long. Challenge yourself or a team to complete 100 of anything while raising funds for peacebuilding projects around the world. Click [here](#) to get started or visit mccmb.ca/go-100.