

*Welcome to the  
Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
of Altona*



*Sunday, March 13, 2022*

*Lent 2 “From Fear to Compassion”*

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona*

*Worship Service*

*March 13, 2022 10:30 A.M.*

*“And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ ~ Matthew 25:40 NRSV*

**Lent 2 – from Fear to Compassion**

**GATHERING and PRAISE**

Welcome and Announcements

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

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music **Come thou fount**

Responsive Reading

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

**LISTENING**

Music **Today earth is singing** VT 510

Children’s Story

Scripture **Luke 13:31-35**

Sermon **“Called to Gather”**

**RESPONDING**

Music **Lord, whose love in humble service** HWB 369

Prayer for the Offering, the Church, and the World

**SENDING**

Benediction

Music **Great is thy faithfulness** HWB 327

**Sermon:** Josh Janzen **Worship Leader/Scripture:** Craig Neufeld

**Music:** Margaret Klassen, Judith Klassen and Simon Neufeld **Children’s Story:** Video

**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:** Susan Toews at the Altona Health Centre
- ~ **Ed Stoesz** of our church family passed away March 6. We are invited to join in gratitude for his life and pray for his wife Sarah, family and extended family. Funeral services were held here yesterday, March 12<sup>th</sup>
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada** - Lawrence Hart, Cheyenne Peace Chief and pastor of Koinonia Mennonite Church in Clinton, Oklahoma, passed away on March 6, 2022. His life and faith were centered in serving his tribe, striving for justice for First Nations people and connecting First Nations people in the United States and Canada through Native Mennonite Ministries. Please keep Lawrence's wife Betty, their three children and their families in our prayers as they and their larger community mourn his passing and celebrate his life. Learn more about Hart's life and witness through the book Searching for Sacred Ground: The Journey of Chief Lawrence Hart, Mennonite.

### ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**

Josh Janzen	March 14
Peter Letkeman	March 14
Marie Schmidt	March 15
Katherine Bergen	March 15
Bob Friesen	March 15
Maverick Friesen	March 15
Bill Stoesz	March 17
Joyce Loewen	March 19
Jacob Friesen-Stoesz	March 20

## **WORSHIP CALENDAR**

- March 20** - Lent 3- Mark – From earning to receiving  
**March 27** - Lent 4- Mark – From estrangement to embrace  
**April 3** - Lent 5- Virginia – From scarcity to abundance

### **Responsive Reading**

**One:** We use boxes to limit our understanding of God's ways

**Many:** These boxes put unnecessary boundaries around God

**One:** *Your ways, O God are higher than our ways*

**Many:** Let us seek God's ways      Pause

**All:** Lord, move us away from fearful responses into the light of your compassion.

### **From the Pastor:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Last weekend I attended the Mennonite Church Manitoba annual gathering. Here is a brief report:

After expecting a significant deficit for 2021 due to Covid's impact on Camps with Meaning, we received the good news that due to generous donors, a grant from the Winnipeg Foundation, and the wage subsidy program of the federal government, the camps have a small surplus for the last year. MCM will be moving forward with traditional camping opportunities this summer and a capitol campaign for the development of Camp Assiniboia which was delayed due to the pandemic.

MCM's work is now organized under 4 program areas. 1) leadership ministries; supporting and developing pastors and spiritual leaders. 2) Congregational ministries; supporting the internal life of the congregation including worship, care, and formation. 3) Mission ministries; supporting the external life of the congregation including local mission efforts. 4) Camping ministries.

The MCM board discerned the congregational health was an important area for MCM to focus on in the next 2 years. To support this endeavor, Kathy Giesbrecht accepted the board's invitation to be the Director of Congregational Ministries (program area #2 above). I am part of MCM's newly formed Congregational Health Committee and am excited to work with Kathy and others in exploring ways for our churches to grow healthier. The afternoon was a time for people to explore the topic of congregational health more deeply. I participated in workshops on children's ministry and pastoral care for busy families. I also had the opportunity to lead a workshop where I shared about our church's journey with Natural Church Development.

### **Sr Youth**

- **Mar 15 [Tues], 7pm** – South Wing service project

### **Jr Youth**

- **Mar 16 [Wed], 7pm** – South Wing service project

### **Ventures – Wednesdays 7:00 – 8:15 pm**

- **Girls - grade 3-5:** perler beads
- **Grade 6:** Ventures graduation celebration
- **Boys:** Science fun

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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**

**Pastor Mark** is taking the weekend off. He will return to the office on Tuesday March 15.

**We are looking for you!** Personnel Commission is looking for 2-3 congregants who are interested in getting to know our pastors better, willing to pop in regularly to see how they are doing, and willing to meet quarterly (or more if needed) for a deeper look into how we can better support them. People who are willing to review monthly reports, time sheets and expenses as well as pastoral reviews, and update Memos of Understanding as needed. If this sounds like something that would interest you, or for more detailed information about this position, please contact Stephanie Friesen at 204-319-0377 or via email at [friesenstephanie25@gmail.com](mailto:friesenstephanie25@gmail.com) Thank you.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**Mennonite Central Committee** – MCC is responding to the crisis in Ukraine through its local partners. Russian military forces have invaded the country with missiles striking major cities and casualties growing. Your prayer and donations will help partners scale up their work, providing relief and trauma healing for vulnerable and displaced people. Donate today at [mcccanada.ca/Ukraine](http://mcccanada.ca/Ukraine).

**Mennonite Church Manitoba** – Registration is open for all of our camps – day, overnight, farm, outtrip, ADV – we are looking forward to being together this summer! Staff and volunteer applications are also available. We need you too! [www.campswithmeaning.org](http://www.campswithmeaning.org)

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

**Canadian Blood Donor clinic:** Thursday, MARCH 24th at Altona - Rhineland Pioneer Centre, Clinic time: 1:00 - 7:00 pm. Please call 1-888-236-6283, or go on-line to book your appointment - NO WALK INS PLEASE.

**Fund raising concert:** To support our local Ukrainian population and provide relief to the humanitarian crisis we have organized a fund-raising concert at The eXchange (Seeds of Life Community Church) on **Friday, March 18th at 7 pm**. The evening will include performances from local musicians, messages of support from the community, updates from those affected, and an art and prize raffle and auction donated by local artists and businesses. All funds raised will go to MCC's Ukraine Emergency Response which aims to provide psychosocial support and trauma healing, temporary emergency housing, emergency distributions of locally purchased emergency supplies such as blankets, and distribution of food packages.