

*Welcome to the  
Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
of Altona*



*Sunday, March 14, 2021*

*Worship Service*

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona*

*WORSHIP SERVICE*

*March 14, 2021*

*Lent 4 ~ Called to deep Healing*

*“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” ~ John 3:14-15*

**GATHERING**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Music **Blessed Redeemer**

Call to Worship and Prayer

**LISTENING**

Music

**I will sing of my Redeemer**

Children’s Story

Scripture

**Numbers 21:4-9, John 3: 14-21**

Sermon

**“A snake at the party”**

**RESPONSE**

Time of Confession

Music

**I know not why God’s wondrous**

Words of Assurance

Offering Prayer and Prayer of the church

Music

**How deep the Father’s love**

**SENDING**

Benediction

Postlude

**Sermon:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leader:** Al Friesen  
**Children’s Story:** Laurie Enns **Scripture Reader:** Shelby Penner  
**Music:** Anne Friesen, Verna Heinrichs, Dave Wiebe, Lorraine Hamm

**Our worship service** will be available on the church website  
[[abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca)] Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

## **PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Helen Schulz and Waldo Schulz at Altona Health Centre, Anne Kehler at Notre Dame de Lourdes Hospital, and Henry & Helen Thiessen in Morris Hospital.
- ~ **Bona Medrano** will be returning to the Philippines on March 19. Let's join in prayer for her and her family as she returns home. We hope and pray that she will be able to return to Canada after one year.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**  
Pray for the Maliwan Mennonite Church in Khon Kaen, Thailand, and for Christine and Tom Poovong as they give leadership to this congregation. Pray that believers who have come to faith in the last couple of months grow to become a strong support for this group and a blessing to the community where they worship.

As we begin to feel the lessening of Covid restrictions we want to continue to think of and pray for those in care homes and assisted living settings.

**Eastview Place:** Elizabeth Doell, Jake Dueck, John Dyck, Dorothy Friesen, Rick Friesen, Gladys Hildebrand, Hilda Klassen, Nettie Neufeld, Don Penner and Carol Sawatzky.

**G.O.T. Apartments:** Katherine Bergen, Lena Hoffman, Alvin & Clara Kehler and Susan Toews.

**Emerson Personal Care Home:** Henrietta Braun.

## **WORSHIP CALENDAR**

**Lent 2021** - Deep calls to Deep—God is calling us to go deeper.

In preparation for this we invite you to *gather six items [stones, buttons, seashells or other objects]*, for each person in your household. These objects will represent our prayers for the season. You are welcome to place them in a bowl or glass so they are easily accessible as you join in with worship from home.

Mar 21 - Lent 5 Called to deep Growth

Mar 28 - Lent 6 Called to deep Hope

Apr 2 - Good Friday

Apr 4 - Easter - Called to deep Living

## **FROM the PASTOR:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

In the past few weeks, I have spent considerable amount of time de-cluttering. I have tried to sort through our piles of toys to figure out which ones are still played with and which ones are just gathering dust. I have sorted through my financial papers as I prepare for tax season. I have sorted through books and files in my office that are no longer relevant or can be put on the shelf for when they might be needed again.

De-cluttering and organizing can feel overwhelming at the start, but afterwards there is a sense of relief and spaciousness as the things that used to take up space have been put away or gotten rid of.

In the same way Lent is meant as a time that invites us to de-clutter our faith, or organize our spiritual life. It is a time when we are invited to think about what aspects or practices of our faith are important and vital, and how do we give them more attention and prominence? And at the same time, what practices of our faith are not as relevant or life-giving anymore and how can we adapt, alter, or let go of them?

The process is not always a pretty one, it tends to create a bit more of a mess before things get better, but it is a worth while one.

We are now half-way through Lent, and I encourage you, if you haven't already, to take some time to reflect on your faith and faith practices in light of these questions. The process or answers might surprise you.

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## **Jr Youth**

- **March 16/ March 18, 7pm** – Stretch! Bible study

## **Sr Youth**

- **March 17 [Wed], 7pm** – Stretch! Bible study

Berghaler Mennonite Church of Altona 117 2<sup>ND</sup> Street NW Altona, MB R0G 0B1  
Web Page Address: [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) Office: 324-6717 E-mail: [office@abchurch.ca](mailto:office@abchurch.ca)  
Worship Services available online at: [abchurch.libsyn.com](http://abchurch.libsyn.com) 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 [joshj@abchurch.ca](mailto:joshj@abchurch.ca)  
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 [amandaw@abchurch.ca](mailto:amandaw@abchurch.ca)

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Tuesday morning coffee** – join us at 10am via ZOOM.
- **Children's Sunday morning story time via Zoom** will continue each week at [9:30am](#). If your child has been enjoying Zoom story time or you would like to try it out for the first time please let Amanda know so she can continue to include you in the weekly emails and updates. You can email Amanda at [amandaw@abchurch.ca](mailto:amandaw@abchurch.ca).
- **We are excited to welcome people back to in-person worship!** This will not be a complete return to normal, but we are excited for this first step. Please continue to follow all COVID safety measures: stay home when sick, wear a mask, practice physical distancing etc. All our services will continue to be live-streamed as well.
- **The Rhineland Area Food Bank** is in need of volunteers to serve clients on Mondays, from 10am to 11am, and/or 7:30pm to 8:30pm. If anyone is interested in being a volunteer or would like more information, please call Ang Stoesz at 204 324-8139.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **March 25, 2-7pm – Blood Donor Clinic** at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre, Main Floor Hall, 227 10<sup>th</sup> Ave NW in Altona. Call 1-888-236-6238 to book your appointment - **NO WALK INS please**.
- **YFC Altona is hiring!** YFC Altona (The Station) is excited to add a full-time female staff this summer. The role would include planning and running programs and events for girls, Outreach initiatives, and much more. For more information contact Sheridan Sawatzky at YFC Altona. Email [sheridan.sawatzky@yfc.ca](mailto:sheridan.sawatzky@yfc.ca) or call or text 204 304 6521.

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

- **Looking for a get-away?** Camp Assiniboia has beautiful family cabins that are available for individuals or groups who live in the same household. For rental information, please contact Linda Dueck 1-204-864-2159 ext. 2, or email: [carentals@campswithmeaning.org](mailto:carentals@campswithmeaning.org)
- **Mennonite Women Manitoba** announced its new name and logo this week. Check out their FB page, Woven, to see their new logo and postings. Email [woven.mcm@gmail.com](mailto:woven.mcm@gmail.com) to ask to be added to their Email List to receive Book Club and Conversation Circle announcements.

### **Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba** – [manitoba@mccmb.ca](mailto:manitoba@mccmb.ca)

- **You're invited** to a theatre performance like never before! **UNMUTE** is a Zoom theatre piece that addresses the rise of domestic violence and gender-based assault during COVID-19. Registration is free and opens March 15. Find out more at [mcccanada.ca/unmute](http://mcccanada.ca/unmute).
- **Looking for an international service opportunity?** Apply for SALT (Serving and Learning Together). There are several positions still available, including an Advocacy Program Assistant in Cambodia or a Nursing Assistant in Nigeria. Learn more about the program at [mccmb.ca/SALT](http://mccmb.ca/SALT).

### **Mennonite Collegiate Institute** – [mciblues.net](http://mciblues.net)

- **Considering MCI for the 2021-22 school year?** New students who apply by March 15<sup>th</sup> will share in \$25,000 of available tuition support. One lucky applicant will receive their first year of tuition free! [www.mciblues.net/admissions/new-student-incentive/](http://www.mciblues.net/admissions/new-student-incentive/) or contact our Student Recruitment Associate at [sophiegerbrandt@mciblues.net](mailto:sophiegerbrandt@mciblues.net)

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

- **March 23, 7pm - CMU | Graduate School of Theology and Ministry Webinar** – If you are considering graduate theological studies, whether beginning a degree program, or taking a course or two, this Webinar is for you! Hear from faculty and students in the program, and learn about generous scholarship and bursary opportunities to support your interest. Explore options for learning, vocation and leadership at CMU. Prospective students who attend the webinar and submit a GSTM application by May 31 will have their application fee waived. For more info and to register go to [enrolment.cmu.ca/register/gstmwebinar](http://enrolment.cmu.ca/register/gstmwebinar).
- **Apr 13, 7pm - Spring at CMU** is online. Hear stories from students, faculty and alumni including a spotlight on Science; CMU Singers' premiere of *Breathe* by Leonard Enns (commissioned by the CMBC class of 1970); and more at [www.cmu.ca/springatcmu](http://www.cmu.ca/springatcmu) Optional Part Two: Conversation with President Cheryl Pauls and others at 8pm. RSVP to [development@cmu.ca](mailto:development@cmu.ca) by April 9 to receive the conversation Zoom link.
- **CMU launches new Centre for Career and Vocation** – As work-integrated learning month kicked off across Canada on March 1, CMU celebrated the launch of its newest initiative, the [Centre for Career and Vocation](#). Its mission is "to equip members of the CMU community to purposefully connect calling, courses, and career through curriculum-integrated academic and vocational advising, experiential and work-integrated learning, and encouraging interdisciplinary exploration and creativity." Check out the new website at [www.cmu.ca/career-vocation](http://www.cmu.ca/career-vocation).
- **A CMU Podcast: So What? – Episode 3: Treaty** – What are treaties and why do they matter? This Podcast episode, coming out of a CMU Face2Face conversation entitled *Whose Neighbour Am I? Treaty One and Mennonite Privilegium*, features Niigaan James Sinclair and Hans Werner, reflecting on treaties signed by First Nations and Canadian Mennonite settlers. How might we live into Treaty as ongoing relationship with mutual benefit, and not a one-time exchange of land? Listen as Jonas Cornelsen (CMU alumnus living in Calgary) leads you through a fascinating and important 20-minute conversation. Visit [www.cmu.ca/sowhatpodcast](http://www.cmu.ca/sowhatpodcast) to listen.

### **Mennonite Disaster Service** - [ecomunications@mds.mennonite.net](mailto:ecomunications@mds.mennonite.net)