

*Welcome to the  
Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
of Altona*



*Sunday, March 20, 2022*

*Lent 3 “From Earning to Receiving”*

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona*

*Worship Service*

*March 20, 2022 10:30 A.M.*

*“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near” ~Isaiah 55:6 NIV*

**Lent 3 – From Earning to Receiving**

**GATHERING and PRAISE**

Welcome and Announcements

Music **Here I am to worship**

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music **How deep the Father’s love**

Responsive Reading

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

**LISTENING**

Music **Today earth is singing** VT 510

Children’s Story

Scripture Isaiah 55:1-9, Luke 13:6-9

Sermon **“From Empire to Grace”**

**RESPONDING**

Music **All who are thirsty**

Prayer for the Offering, the Church, and the World

**SENDING**

Benediction

Music **Same power**

**Sermon:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leader/Scripture:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

**Music:** Worship team **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
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** are extended to Mark and Debbie Heinrichs for the passing of Mark's mother, Eva Heinrichs. Betty Heinrichs and Anne Kehler sister-in-law to Eva.
- ~ **We extend condolences** to Noah, Joanna, Esme, Claire and Hazel Ginter for the passing of Noah's grandmother, Betty Ginter.
- ~ **Mennonite Central Committee:** In celebration of MCC Thrift's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, sign up for the "**Thrifty 50 challenge**" and join us in making our planet a better place! Visit "**thrifty50challenges.org**" for more information and to sign up!
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**  
Hannah Tiessen-Dyck on March 22

## **WORSHIP CALENDAR**

- March 20:** Lent 3 – Mark – From eternity to receiving
- March 27:** Lent 4- Mark – From estrangement to embrace
- April 3:** Lent 5- Virginia – From scarcity to abundance
- April 10:** Lent 6 – Mark – From power over to power under
- April 15:** Good Friday
- April 17:** Easter Sunday – Virginia – From ending to possibility

## **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 feeling we must earn your love. Help us receive and give your grace to ourselves and others.**

**Lenten prayer of confession (Isaiah 55 adapted)**

**Leader:** Holy One, we seek you while you may be found.

**People:** We call upon you while you are near.

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O God, for our thoughts are not your thoughts and our ways are not your ways.

**People:** Forgive us for acting as if we must earn your love. Open us to receiving your love as a gift.

**Leader:** As we walk with Christ on this Lenten journey, let us see your way more clearly

**All: and follow your way more faithfully.**

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

Two weeks ago, Covid joined my family. First one person tested positive, then another and so on, until we all had it. It was not a great experience and there were many things that we complained about, but at the same time there were also a few silver linings.

The hardest things were being sick and the fear. No one likes being sick and that made all of us a bit grumpy and on edge. But the harder part was the fear. On more than one occasion we have had to take each of our daughters to emergency because of croup like cough and difficulty breathing. But this time when they had trouble breathing at night there was the added level of Covid and not knowing how this virus works.

To keep things in perspective I have been trying to think of the silver linings that we experienced. This all happened while Andrew and I were on holidays so we did not have the added stress of navigating time off work to look after our girls, or worry about having infected anyone else. No one got terribly sick and we were all able to manage. We discovered a new TV show that was able to distract our girls enough that they did not complain about being sick while they watched it. Several people reached out to bring us groceries or other things, helping us not feel so isolated. And we managed to plan some fun activities for our girls and get into a bit of a routine that by the end of it they said they didn't want to go back to daycare because staying home was so much fun.

These highlights are not to negate or ignore the reality of our experience, but to show that even in the midst of sickness and fear, we can still find ways to be thankful and acknowledge God's presence.

## **Sr Youth**

- **Mar 22 [Tues], 7pm** - Service + hands-on prayer

## **Jr Youth**

- **Mar 23 [Wed], 7pm** – Hands-on prayer

## **Ventures – Wednesdays 6:30-8:15 pm**

- **Girls and boys** Amazing Race Finale.

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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**

Even though there are currently no government requirements to wear masks at this time, we are going to be taking a gradual approach to removing our masks.

We are asking every to abide by this timeline:

**For the remainder of March:** please wear a mask throughout the worship service as we have been doing.

**April:** wear a mask for entering, exiting, moving around and singing (masks can be removed once seated)

**May and beyond:** masks are optional.

We continue to request that if you are experiencing covid symptoms that you worship from home.

**Spring break** is coming up and staff are taking some vacation time:

**Pastor Josh** will be away from March 25 – April 4

**Pastor Mark** will be away from March 28 – April 4

**Ang Loepky** will be away from March 25 – April 5

Pastor Virginia will be around during spring break and Amanda will be in the office for some of the time that Ang is away.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**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 Church Canada** -

**<https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/article/13136-addressing-conflict-and-promoting-healing-in-congregations>**

Read our interview with Jaymie Friesen, (MCC Manitoba) and David Driedger (pastor of First Mennonite Church in Winnipeg), co-authors of MCC's new resource, "A guide to Responding to Congregational Abuse and Harassment." Available through CommonWord.

**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.

**The Gardens on Tenth** homes have lifted all vaccination restrictions. Some mask restrictions may still be in place. You are welcome and invited to visit your loved ones who reside in these places.