

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



Sunday, March 21, 2021

Worship Service

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

WORSHIP SERVICE

March 21, 2021

Lent 5 ~ Called to deep Growth

“Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” John 12:25

MCM video

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Music **For the Beauty of the Earth HWB 89**

Call to Worship and Prayer

LISTENING

Music **I Saw a Tree by the Riverside STS 116**

Children’s Story

Scripture **John 12: 20-26**

Sermon **“Way Down Deep”**

RESPONSE

Time of Confession

Music **Eternal Light**

Words of Assurance

Offering Prayer and Prayer of the Church

Music **In the Bulb there is a Flower HWB 614**

SENDING

Benediction

Sermon: Josh Janzen **Worship Leader:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Children’s Story: Kristin Falk **Scripture Reader:** Travis Harder

Music: various recording artists

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 and Helen Thiessen at Morris Hospital.
- ~ **Condolences** to Anne Schellenberg and family at the death of her sister, Kathleen Epp of Winkler. A private funeral was held on Friday.
- ~ **Henretta Braun**, a member of our church family passed away on Monday, March 15th. We are invited to join in gratitude for her life, and pray for Conrad and Vera Voth, Troy Voth, Loren and Suzanne Braun, Anne Friesen, Linda Braun and their families and extended family at the passing away of their mother/grandmother/sister/sister-in-law, Henretta.
- ~ **Thank you** so much for the prayers, cards and flowers that you sent during my long stay in the hospital. It was much appreciated during those long days without visitors being allowed. – Anne Braun
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**
The Mennonite Church of Colombia (IMCOL) asks us to pray for them as they support congregations in areas of violence. "Violence is widespread and affects us all. There is not a day that goes by that we do not hear of deaths, fighting and coca crops and fear for the welfare of children, young people and the whole church, but as a Church we cannot fall into despair. These events pain us but we must strengthen our hope in God." Praise God for the witness of peace they bring to the region and the strong message of hope in darkness.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

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

- Mar 28 - Lent 6 Called to deep Hope at 10:30am
- Apr 1 - Good Friday at 7:00pm
(increased COVID safety measures)
- Apr 2 - Good Friday at 10:30am
- Apr 4 - Easter - Called to deep Living at 9:00am
(increased safety measures)
- Easter – Called to deep Living at 10:30am

We are planning 2 Good Friday services and 2 Easter Sunday services. We invite you to check out this website for more information and ask everyone to RSVP - <https://goodfridayandeaster.rsvpify.com/>.

FROM the PASTOR: Josh Janzen

On the south wall of our church sanctuary is a painting depicting The Return of the Prodigal Son by Rembrandt. Maybe you've noticed it before or maybe you haven't. It depicts the power of the moment in which the son who left is embraced by his father while the elder brother stands off to the side. The painting is considered to be one of the master artist's last great works.

Dutch priest Henri Nouwen was so moved by Rembrandt's painting that he wrote a book reflecting on the image and on the larger parable. Nouwen writes that we have to wonder if we realized that God has been trying to find us, to know us, and to love us. As we continue in our spiritual journeys, no matter where we place ourselves in the story of the prodigal son, we ought to ask ourselves these questions: How can I let myself be found by God? How can I let myself be known by God? How can I let myself be loved by God? If you find yourself in the sanctuary or online, I encourage you to look at the painting. No matter where we find ourselves in the painting or in the parable, all of us who have experienced loneliness, dejection, jealousy, and anger can take up the challenge to love as God loves and live as God's beloved.

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Jr Youth

- No youth group this week

Sr Youth

- No youth group this week

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Web Page Address: abchurchcommunity.ca Office: 324-6717 E-mail: office@abchurch.ca
Worship Services available online at: abchurch.libsyn.com Facebook: ABC community
Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990 cell 1-204-771-3406 marktd@abchurch.ca
Assoc Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 viriniagr@abchurch.ca
Assoc Pastor of Youth Min: Josh Janzen, 204-502-1991, cell 1-402-631-3481 joshj@abchurch.ca
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 amandaw@abchurch.ca

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Tuesday morning coffee** – join us at 10am via ZOOM.
- **Pastor Mark and Pastor Josh** will be taking a week of holidays from March 22-29.
- **Over the next few weeks** we will show a video report from the MCM annual gathering on March 6. This will be shown just prior to 10:30 and the beginning of our worship service. This week's video is a report from Rick Neufeld, Director of Leadership Ministries. (you can view the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljse62CqwsA>)

Please consider filling one of the following committee positions:

Church Council Vice-Chair	- 1 to be elected for a 2 year term
Church Council Member at Large	- 1 to be elected for a 2 year term
Personnel Commission	- 2 to be elected for a 3 year term
Education Commission	- 2 to be elected for a 3 year term
Finance Commission	- 1 to be elected for a 3 year term
Worship & Music Commission	- 1 to be elected for a 3 year term
Home Ministries Commission	- 2 to be elected for a 3 year term
World Ministries Commission	- 2 to be elected for a 3 year term

To volunteer to serve the church in this capacity contact Byron Loeppky or Stephanie Friesen.

- **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.
- **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 10th 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 or call or text 204 304 6521.

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

- **Break Every Yoke** is a conversation on Guaranteed Basic Income and the church's response hosted by First Mennonite Church and sponsored by MCM, MCC and others. Visit <https://firstmennonitechurch.ca/break-every-yoke/> for more information.

Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba – manitoba@mccmb.ca

- **With spring on the horizon, MCC's Grow Hope farmers** are starting to work their fields for the planting season, and they need your help. When you sponsor an acre of Manitoba farmland, you're joining a community of people working to end global hunger AND every \$1 you give can grow up to \$5! Join today at mccmb.ca/GrowHope.
- **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. Find out more at 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.

Mennonite Collegiate Institute – mciblues.net

Canadian Mennonite University – cmu.ca

- **March 24th at 4pm - CMU/Financial Aid Webinar.** Paying for university can be a challenge at any time, but particularly so given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. CMU is committed to support students financially, and annually supports more than 50% of students through scholarships and bursaries. Be part of this webinar and learn about options for support including a new CMU Spring Scholarship, in addition to many other bursaries and scholarships. Register at www.cmu.ca/webinar.
- **March 31st at 11am - Sheila Klassen-Wiebe,** CMU Associate Professor of New Testament, is writing a commentary on the book of James, as part of the Believer's Church Bible Commentary series. As part of CMU's ReNew: Resources for Preaching series (intended for all those involved in ministry), Sheila will reflect on the question 'How do you preach from James so that it doesn't sound like a scolding, or a long list of "do's and don'ts"? Free registration at www.cmu.ca/renew.

Mennonite Disaster Service - ecomunications@mds.mennonite.net

- The March edition of On the Level is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: MDS needs volunteers to help with plumbing repairs in Texas, the Spirit of MDS Fund is offering another round of funding for congregations and MCC and MDS partner to renovate Indigenous Neighbours Program office building. To read more go to <https://conta.cc/3rWIj6p>.