

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



Sunday, March 27, 2022

Lent 4 “From Estrangement to Embrace”

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

Worship Service

March 27, 2022 10:30 A.M.

“So, he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him” Luke 15:20

Lent 4 – From Estrangement to Embrace

GATHERING and PRAISE

Welcome and Announcements

Music **Brethren, we have met to worship** HWB 8

Call to Worship and Prayer

Responsive Reading

Music **In Christ there is no east or west** HWB 306

LISTENING

Music **Today earth is singing** VT 510

Children’s Story

Scripture Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Sermon **“Prodigal Father”**

Prayer of confession and assurance

RESPONDING

Music **Come thou fount** HWB 521

Sharing time

Prayer for the Offering, the Church, and the World

SENDING

Benediction

Music **Heart with loving heart** HWB 420

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

Music: Samantha Fehr **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]. 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 condolences** to Alfred Klippenstein (brother) and to Grace Klippenstein (sister-in-law) and their families in the passing of Lawrence Klippenstein of Winnipeg on March 18.
- ~ **Join MCC in response to the crisis in Ukraine.** Russian military forces have invaded Ukraine with active shelling, airstrikes and other hostilities targeting cities across the entire country. For the latest updates on MCC's relief response. Join us in prayer and donate at mcccanada.ca/ukraine.
- ~ **China experiences another** wave of COVID. Restrictions are sweeping across China, resulting in the closing of small house churches. Pray that leaders will have wisdom to know how to care for the believers and to encourage them to love and peaceful living in a difficult time.
- ~ **Pray for the development** of sustainable, organic food production by small groups and families in Thailand, who are part of Friends of Grace Church Association. Pray for Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong as they help develop both spiritual and income-generation leaders in this ministry.

- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**
 - Irene Janz on March 29
 - Larry Tryon March 30

WORSHIP CALENDAR

- 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 with
- 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 out of our estrangement into your embrace**

FROM THE PASTOR: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Mark your calendars. May 1. ABC Ignite.

On this Sunday we'll be doing church differently. Instead of a traditional worship service, we will be gathering in the church basement for brunch, fellowship, coffee, worship, and conversation about our goals as a church.

For people who are part of our church family and committed to the work of our church, participation in this event is important. Please make it a priority! And if you have been away from the church for a while this would be a wonderful time to come back.

Church council is planning this event in response to some of the challenges our church has been facing and the recognition that it is time to think outside the box. We need to explore new ways of being a church and organizing around the ministry that is important to us. So in addition to worship, eating, and fellowship, we will also be sharing what we believe are priorities for our church and inviting your input and conversation. We are hoping that through our conversations, you and others will be open to sharing your gifts with the church and joining in our shared ministry.

We recognize that we have been stuck attempting fill roles in the church; a plug the hole approach. We need to shift to a people-empowering-gift-discerning approach. The church is people. You are the church. We are the church together. Our ABC ignite event is an opportunity to think about what gifts you may share with the church, even if this is something new for the church. I am excited about this event and about the church and about what is possible when the Holy Spirit works among us.

Sr Youth and Jr Youth - Enjoy your spring break!

Ventures – completed for the season!

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Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990 cell 1-204-771-3406 marktd@abchurch.ca
Assoc Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 virginiagr@abchurch.ca
Assoc Pastor of Youth Min: Josh Janzen, 204-502-1991, cell 1-402-631-3481
joshi@abchurch.ca Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719
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 continue to request that if you are experiencing covid symptoms that you worship from home.

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.

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 Loeppky 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.

Pastor Virginia and Glenys Voth are serving at Gardens on Tenth apartments this morning

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

You are invited to attend the Far East Broadcasting's Friendship meeting on Friday April 1 at 6:30 pm at South Park MB. Guest speaker will be Rev. Tri Dang. To reserve please call 1-800-565-3322 ext 175 before March 30. See poster in lobby.

Build a Village will be welcoming 3 new families to our community in the next few weeks with the first family arriving around the 7th of April! If you are willing and able to purchase the following items to help BAV set up a home for the family, that would be great! Please contact the church office to let them know what you are willing to donate so it can be checked off the list. All items can be dropped off at the church office. There will be more opportunities to help in the coming weeks. Thank you for you continued support and generosity!

2 twin sheet sets (new)	4 pillows
Shower curtain and hooks	Shampoo (for curly hair)
Conditioner	Kleenex
1 baby lotion	1 baby oil
1 toothbrush holder	1 toilet brush and holder
1 soap holder	1 toilet bowl cleaner
Feminine products	Disposable shavers package
Kitchen garbage can	Laundry basket

There is a \$100.00 camp sponsorship available to children attending camp this summer. Applications are in the church office. Please apply as soon as possible.