

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*

**BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH OF ALTONA
WORSHIP SERVICE**

March 29, 2020

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble".

Psalm 46:1

This week we have two services that we hope will join us together in worship.

The first is a service from Mennonite Church Canada with a message from Doug Klassen. This worship service was prepared for churches across Canada to join in worship. It includes a worship band, a children's story, and a sermon based on John 9. You can click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3NFKea2EE0&t=33s) or go to the following link to join this worship service: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3NFKea2EE0&t=33s>

Our second service is a message from Josh Janzen recorded from his home in Nebraska. Go to: abchurchcommunity.ca website to watch Josh's message.

The guiding scripture passage for Josh's message is Jeremiah 11:1-13.



Sunday, March 29, 2020

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Weekly Worship Services will be available online until further notice.

Worship Calendar:

April 5: Jeremiah 29:1-14

April 10: Good Friday service with communion

April 12: Easter

Even though we are not doing in person pastoral visits at this time, we are eager to make many phone calls to people in our community who would value a regular connection to the Church. If you or a loved one would appreciate a weekly phone call from the church, please let myself or Amanda know.

~ Mark Tiessen-Dyck

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Praise God for the marriage of Josh and Steph.** May God give them joy as they begin marriage together.
- ~ **Pray** for people in our congregation who are in quarantine: Ben & Susan Dueck, Marv & Joyce Falk, Elmer & Amanda Heinrichs, Frank & Irene Kehler, Rachel, Ryan, Dayna & Gavin Wahl, Dave & Irene Janz.
- ~ **Pray** for our residents of Eastview and Gardens on Tenth who are in lockdown. And also for the spouses and family who are not able to visit. May God provide strength and compassion during this difficult time.
- ~ **Pray** for people from our church and beyond who are health care professionals or are on the front lines of caring for vulnerable people. May God give strength for the important work at a time of added stress and disruption.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada: updates pandemic web resources**
As schools cancel classes across the country and congregations gauge whether or not to hold services, Mennonite Church Canada has updated web resources created by the Mennonite Church Canada Pandemic and Response Taskforce during the last flu pandemic in 2009-2010. <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/outbreakresources> for information on how to adjust congregational practices before, during and after an outbreak. At this time, Mennonite Church Canada urges every congregation to stay up to date with recommendations from their provincial health authorities on appropriate measures to take for limit the spread of COVID-19.
- ~ **The Menno Office** sustained extensive water and smoke damage from the fire in the U of M University Centre Friday, March 13th. Thankfully no one was hurt and the musical instruments were undamaged. Unfortunately the room will be unavailable for at least half-a-year during restoration. Please pray for IMCA chaplain Mark von Kampen as he ministers to students and staff in these unpredictable and stressful times.

Because we know that God is at work, we would like to hear your testimonies from this time of pandemic. Have the disruptions enabled you to experience God in a new way? What are you doing to stay connected? Have you had the opportunity to do something you don't normally do? How are you growing in your walk with Jesus? Where have you seen beauty, shalom, or joy? If you have something to share, please be in touch with me or one of the other pastors. With your permission we would also love to share some experiences with the congregation to help us stay connected in a time of social distancing and to remain centered on Christ.

~ Mark Tiessen-Dyck

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Pastor Mark** is taking a week of vacation this coming week. He will return on Tuesday April 7. Pastor Amanda is available at the church or at home if you need to be in touch
- **If you did not receive an email from the church** on Friday with the bulletin, you are not on our church email list and we encourage you to be in touch with the church office to ensure that you are. Also, check your junk email to see if it is going there.
- **Update for Josh's leave:** Beginning March 30, Pastor Josh will be taking a 4 week unpaid leave of absence. This was an arrangement that the Personnel Commission negotiated with Josh prior to his beginning ministry in our congregation. Due to the situation with COVID – 19 we are not sure when Josh will be able to return to Altona. However, we do anticipate that in 4 weeks Josh will begin ministry at ABC once again even if it is from his home in Nebraska.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mennonite Church Manitoba www.mennochurch.mb.ca 896-1616
Mennonite Church Canada

- **MWC pastor visits prairie provinces and urges prayer over terrorist activity in Burkina Faso**

In the last few weeks Pastor Siaka Troare from Burkina Faso, chair of the Deacons Commission for Mennonite World Conference (MWC), has been speaking in several places in Manitoba and Alberta. He urges us to pray for peace as terrorist groups randomly kill people gathered in churches, mosques and markets. After a visit from the MWC leadership to pray for groups in Burkina Faso, the head of the military said that this cannot be changed by military force but only by prayer that God will transform the hearts and minds of these groups.

Pray that God's power of transformative love will flood this land.

Canadian Mennonite University – www.cmu.ca

- **Join us online for Spring at CMU**

Given the cancellation of in-person events during the current COVID-19 crisis, Spring at CMU has been reimagined in the form of a 45-minute, national event, featuring music from the CMU Singers; sharing from CMU students, graduates, staff and faculty; a celebration of the CMU Communications & Media program; and an invitation for financial support during this challenging time.

Please join us Friday, April 3, 7- 7:45p.m.CST.

For information, please visit cmu.ca/springatcmu.

- **Your opportunity to discover CMU from home**

Prospective students and parents are invited to CMU's Virtual Open House on Tuesday, April 7, 1-2pm.CST cmu.ca/openhouse for details.

Mennonite Collegiate Institute – info@mciblues.net 327-5891

Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba – Manitoba@mccmb.ca

Beloved ones of ABC – from Josh Janzen

Steph and I were faced with a hard decision. We made the final call to cancel our wedding that was scheduled for April 11.

This was a very hard choice to make. After thinking through many options and replanning over and over, it seemed this was the best choice we could make. There were a lot of phone calls, emails, hugs, and a lot of tears.

But a wedding isn't why we were getting married. We are hoping to have a full ceremony with close family and friends later this year, but we are ready to start our lives together now. We recently were legally married and in the coming days we will have a small ceremony to covenant with each other. We will share our personal vows to each other and to God, exchange rings, and wash each other's feet. It might not be the original plan, but we are finding joy in the midst of it all.

Pray for us as we begin our lives together, and don't forget to love each other in this time of uncertainty.

From the Pastor – Mark Tiessen-Dyck

This last weekend was different for me. Instead of coming to the church building for activities on Sunday morning, I was here on Saturday morning with several others to record our worship service. Sunday was a day for family and rest and celebrating a birthday among us. We listened to the worship service in the morning and in the afternoon I headed out for a long run. It was wonderful to see countless people out walking and biking in town. I waved and smiled to so many people, including some of you! While I jogged passed Gardens on Tenth and the giant Van Gogh, a blue jay swopped out of the evergreen trees and flew right before me. Some moments later I saw a bald eagle soaring over town. Simple moments of beauty no doubt, but important ones in these times. Isaiah says that all the earth is filled with God's glory. Indeed, I am grateful for moments that remind me Isaiah's words are true.

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Asst Pastor & Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 amandaw@abchurch.ca
Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry: Josh Janzen, 324-6717, 1-402-631-3481 joshj@abchurch.ca