**Welcome to the**

 **Bergthaler Mennonite Church**

**of Altona**



**Sunday, May 15, 2022**

**Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona**

**Worship Service**

#  **May 15, 2022, 10:30 am**

**“****By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:25**

 **GATHERING AND PRAISE**

Welcome and announcements

Music **Jesus calls us here to meet him** SJ 3

Call to worship and prayer

Music  **Help us to help each other** HWB 362

 **LISTENING**

Music **Today Earth Is Singing** VT 510

 Children’s story

 Offering and prayer

 Scripture reading: **Acts 9:36-43**

Sermon **“A widow’s perspective”**

**RESPONDING**

Music **God whose giving** HWB 383

ABC Interview

Prayer for the church and the world

**SENDING**

Benediction

Music **The Lord lift you up** SJ 73

We are beginning a new practice called “ABC interviews”. This is a time in our worship service where we hear from someone in the church about how they are serving God in the church or the community. Today we interview Wendy Friesen about her role in the church library. (For more explanation of ABC interviews see the April 10 from the pastor)

 **Sermon**: **Virginia Gerbrandt Richert Worship Leader/Scripture: Rose Tryon**

 **Music: Samantha Fehr Children’s Story**: **Delores Enns**

**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 CO****RNER**

**~ Hospitalized**: Bernard Wiebe and Anne Dueck at the Altona Health Centre.

**~ International Witness:** Pray for church leaders in China who are discouraged with the many restrictions on their activities due to Covid and political interests. Notes of encouragement can be sent to jhanson@mennonitechurch.ca

**~ As the semester ends at the Meserete Kristos Seminary** in Ethiopia, Witness workers Werner and Joanne De Jong are planning to serve local churches with training courses. Pray for safe travel and good connections as they teach.

**~ We wish a happy birthday and God’s blessing to:**

Rudy Martens - May 17

 Henry Peters – May 20

**WORSHIP CALENDAR**

 **May 15:** Speaker – Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

 **May 22:** Speaker – Mark Tiessen-Dyck

 **May 29:** Guest speaker – Louis Sawatzky

**CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Today after our worship service, we will be having a lunch** in honour of our departing church staff: Don Fehr, Susan Dueck, and Amanda Wiens. We encourage everyone to recognize their contributions by coming to the meal.

**Tuesday morning coffee is on!** You are welcome to join the church staff in the library on Tuesday mornings at 10 am.

**Sr Youth** and Jr Youth:

Sr. Youth – Tuesday May 17, Check your email

Jr. Youth – Wednesday May 18, Lost and Found Bible study week 3

**FROM THE PASTOR:** Josh Janzen

Recently, I attended a webinar from AMBS focused on the theme of countering Christian Nationalism. While this presentation centered on Christian nationalism within the American context, I think there are some lessons that are deeply applicable to our realities here in Canada as well. We can define Christian Nationalism as cultural framework and lens for viewing the world that advocates for and idealizes a fusion of Christianity with American civic life. Christian Nationalism is rooted in nativism, white supremacy, and patriarchy and believes in divine sanction for authoritarian control and militarism. It is as ethnic and political as it is religious.

Christian Nationalism is a structure and system of sin and threatens authentic Christian witness to who God is. And while its focus is decidedly more American, it shares much in common with other systems and structures of sin that deeply affect us here in Canada, with two being racism and colonialism. All three of these systems are wrapped up and rooted in “Whiteness”. Sometimes there is confusion over what we mean by “Whiteness”, so here’s a simple definition. According to theologian Willie James Jennings, “Whiteness” is a way of imagining oneself as the central facilitating reality of the world and then having the power to sustain that imagination.

More often then not, we as white people will have one of two reactions when we start talking about “Whiteness” along side issues like racism and colonialism. The first is one of general discomfort and uncoziness about the conversation because we are unsure of where it might lead. The second reaction is where we bristle and get defensive and dismissive. (We may say things like “I’m not part of that” or “that’s in the past, it doesn’t matter anymore”) But the truth is that we are apart of this. Because of the system of Whiteness and the structures of racism and colonialism, we and our ancestors have benefitted from these systems and the horrors done in the past. And even now yes, we are still complicit in these structures, whether knowingly or unknowingly.

Whether it’s Christian nationalism, racism, or colonialism we as Christians must lament these corporate sins, end our silence on injustices, define and challenge the structural sins we face. When we do so, we may participate in bringing about God’s reign on Earth as is it in Heaven.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona 117 2ND Street NW Altona, MB R0G 0B1

Web Page Address: abchurchcommunity.ca Office: 324-6717 E-mail: office@abchurch.ca

Worship Services available online at: abchurchcommunity.ca 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 virginiagr@abchurch.caAssoc Pastor of Youth Min: Josh Janzen, 204-502-1991, cell 1-402-631-3481 joshj@abchurch.caChildren’s Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 amandaw@abchurch.ca

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**The Altona Panthers Special Olympics Club** is looking for volunteers!  We are hoping to add **regular Monday night volunteers** and we are also in need of a **volunteer head coach.**  These volunteer positions should be **someone who is passionate about finding the abilities in our athletes.** As the head coach you provide an opportunity for athletes in Altona to be active and participate in events for all abilities including snowshoeing and track and field. Knowledge in these sports is not required, training is available. Commitment is one Monday per week and taking the required training courses laid out by Sport Manitoba.  For more details and/or questions email Shania Ginter at shaniaginter@yahoo.ca.

**MCC: Host an MCC workshop on having difficult conversations.** The Covid-19 pandemic has prompted some painful exchanges between colleagues, friends and even family members, but so have many other issues. This workshop offers tools for practicing self-awareness, active listening and open dialogue. For more information or to host this workshop, contact Marta Bunnett Wiebe at martbunnettwiebe@mccmb.ca or 204.925.1910

**Cycle Clear Lake for MCC!** Sign up for a beautiful 34 km trail ride on July 2 and raise money to help refugees and displaced people around the world. Find out more and register by June 15 at mccmb.ca/cycleclearlake.

**CMU Golf Classic**. Support CMU student athletes and the CMU financial aid program by attending the 21 st Annual CMU Golf Classic. Wednesday, June 15 at Bridges Golf Course in Starbuck, MB. Visit cmu.ca/golf for details.

**Mennonite Church Manitoba: Join us as we commemorate the Palestinian Nakba by raising the Palestinian flag at Winnipeg City Hall, May 15, 2:00-3:30 pm! The Nakba, or catastrophe, saw the destruction of Palestinian society and their homeland in 1948. Over 750,000 Palestinians were permanently displaced and many of their descendants still live in refugee camps. The Nakba continues today, as Israel occupies the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza strip and treats its own Palestinian citizens as 2nd class citizens. This event is co-sponsored by the following group: Students for Justice in Palestine, University of Manitoba, Canadian Palestinian Association of Manitoba, Canada-Palestinian Network Winnipeg, Winnipeg Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid, Mennonite Church Manitoba Palestine-Israel Network, Independent Jewish Voices-Winnipeg**

**Summer camp** is not the same (actually it’s not possible) without our volunteers! **Kitchen and maintenance help, camp pastors, and health officers are needed at both camps.** Come and spend a week at one of our lovely sites and add your unique gifts to our amazing camp community. Call the CWM office at 204-895-CAMP or register online at www.campwithmeaning.org/staff