

*Welcome to the  
Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
of Altona*



*Sunday, May 23, 2021*

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona*

*PENTECOST WORSHIP SERVICE*

*May 23, 2021*

*“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability... speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ~ Acts 2: 4, 116*

**GATHERING and PRAISE**

Welcome and Announcements

Music

**Let all creation dance STS 122**

Call to Worship and Prayer

**LISTENING**

Music

**Wind who makes all winds HWB 31**

Children’s Story

Prayer for the Offering, the Church and World

Scripture

**Acts 2: 1-21**

Sermon

**“Receiving the Spirit**

**RESPONDING**

Music

**God has chosen me STS 114**

Communion

**SENDING**

Benediction

Music

**Sent forth by God’s blessing HWB 478**

**Sermon:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert **Worship Leader:** Josh Janzen  
**Children’s Story:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Scripture Reader:** Jason Driedger  
**Music:** Kenneth Nafziger/the Story Musicians, Seattle First Baptist Church,  
Erika Wood/Forest Grove United Church

**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:** Waldo Schulz, Harold Sawatzky at Altona Health Centre; Linda Braun at BTHC, Henry and Helen Thiessen at Morris Hospital, and Gloria Voth in St Boniface Hospital.
- ~ **Thank you** for all your expressions of sympathy through prayers, calls, cards, food and flowers at the passing away of Helen Braun.  
"To have a friend is to be one".  
~ Menno Braun, Steve & Lois, Clare & Barb, Judith & John.
- ~ **Congratulation to** Mitchell Friesen, son of Leroy & Irene Friesen of Altona, and Kelly Pocket, of Carman, who were married on April 18<sup>th</sup> at Kleinstadt, near Altona.
- ~ **Congratulations** to Noah and Audrey Verhoog on the birth of a son Dustin Ronald, on May 19, a little brother to Carson. Grandparents are John and Marilyn Martens, and Gary and Theresa Verhoog.
- ~ **Pastor Josh** will be taking a week of vacation May 24-30.
- ~ **Let us** join together in prayer for our farmers that they receive the rain needed to nourish the ground and the crops they care for.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada / Manitoba**  
**Praise:** Pentecost Sunday will mark the ordination of Erika Enns-Rodine. We celebrate with Erika and First Mennonite Church in this joyous occasion of ordination for congregational ministry.  
**Pray** and act for peace in the Holy Land. In recent days, hundreds of people have been killed and injured in fresh violence fueled by pent-up hatred and ongoing injustice. Pray for our partners at Bethlehem Bible College and for all Palestinian Christians as they bear witness to Jesus' way of peace. Contact your MP to ask Canada to take a clearer stand for justice and international law. Visit <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/pin>.

### **WORSHIP CALENDAR**

May 30            Speaker: Mark Tiessen-Dyck  
June 6            Gr 3 Bibles / "Church Picnic"

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona 117 2<sup>ND</sup> Street NW Altona, MB R0G 0B1  
Web Page Address: [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) Office: 324-6717 E-mail: [office@abchurch.ca](mailto:office@abchurch.ca)  
Worship Services available online at: [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) Facebook: ABC community  
Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990 cell 1-204-771-3406 [marktd@abchurch.ca](mailto:marktd@abchurch.ca)  
Assoc Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 [virginiagr@abchurch.ca](mailto:virginiagr@abchurch.ca)  
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)

### **FROM the PASTOR:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck

This is a special and emotional day for me. Later today I will be getting my first dose of Covid vaccine. A year ago, as I was leading worship it occurred to me that in addition to praying for people who were ill, suffering economically, or struggling with isolation, we also needed to pray for insights and breakthroughs for scientists and researchers who were working at treatments and vaccines for Covid. God has answered this prayer. Previously, the quickest vaccine developed was for mumps in the 1960s which took four years. That safe and highly effective Covid vaccines were developed in one year is nothing short of miraculous. Vaccination has been an astounding gift for human life. Polio is not part of our life because of vaccination. Small pox, a disease that has killed hundreds of millions of people, has been eradicated from the planet because of vaccination. For some years, I never got a flu shot. It's not that I believed there was anything nefarious about flu shots, I just didn't see a reason to do it; the flu shot was for older people, I never got terribly sick, and why bother injecting a foreign substance into my body that I don't need. In truth, some of my resistance to getting the flu shot came from not wanting to succumb to my mother-in-law's encouragement. One day, however, I was walking past a flu shot clinic with time to spare and I finally got the jab. Now I get the flu shot every year. Since I regularly visit hospitals, care homes, and senior residences, getting a flu shot is a way to protect the people I visit as well as my family and friends. Especially considering that flu shots have a low efficacy rate (as high as 60% but some years 10%), more people getting the flu shot helps protect everybody. Getting a flu shot is not principally about me, but about everybody else: people who don't get the flu shot, who have weaker immune systems, or who by coincidence may catch the flu from me even if they got the shot.

Much the same can be said about Covid vaccines, which are fortunately much more effective than flu shots. For me, getting the vaccine is about loving my neighbour, protecting our community, and being part of the solution. I would be happy to share with anyone in greater depth about why I'm getting the vaccine and how we can understand Covid and vaccination in light of the scriptures and God's purposes.

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### **Sr & Jr Youth**

- **May 25-28** – Family conversations: The Bible Project.

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Home Ministries Commission has a **campership/sponsorship** available for any children in our church going to one of the one-day pop-up Bible camps. Campership applications are available at the church office - \$25.00 per day, maximum up to a \$100.00 per child. Deadline for applications is June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- **It's time** to renew your **REJOICE** devotional subscription. If you wish to subscribe or renew, please call the church office. Subscription price \$47.82 [PST and GST included]. Deadline is May 25<sup>th</sup>.
- **We are looking for** people to choose music recordings for our online worship services. If you enjoy listening to hymns online at your leisure or would like to help us out in some way, please contact Delores Enns.
- **Tuesday morning coffee** – join us at 10am via ZOOM.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The **MDS May edition** of *On the Level* is now available. In our current issue: The 2021 Spirit of MDS Fund issues 43 grants worth \$104,900, a volunteer coordinator who's helped MDS mature is stepping down after fifteen years and MDS celebrates the wrap up of its multi-year long Hurricane Harvey response. Click link to read: <https://conta.cc/3yotddy>
- **June 26 - Eden Foundation's Charity Golf Tournament** at Gretna's Oakview Golf Course. A new twist on an old game: play 36, 54, or 72 holes all for the same low price. Free! Here's the twist, we want you to raise some money for mental health care. Due to present Covid health regulations, the maximum number of people we can accept is 36 participants. For more information go to <http://edenhealthcare.ca>
- **Eden Foundation's Head for the Hills 2021** is happening, and we hope you'll come join us again this year on **July 10**. For more information and to register click **HERE**.
- **July 10 - Visit the Villages Tractor Trek** is in its 14<sup>th</sup> year as a signature fund-raising event for Eden Foundation; to support mental health recovery programs for individuals living in our Southern Health region. By registering and raising funds, you are making a difference in the lives of many individuals living with a mental health challenge.

### **Mennonite Church Manitoba** – [mennochurch.mb.ca](http://mennochurch.mb.ca) 204-896-1616

- **Everyone** who is a part of a Mennonite Church Manitoba congregation is invited to participate in online Gratitude Groups, led by Laura Funk, Spiritual Director in Residence for MCM, will run every second week for 6-8 sessions of about 40 minutes each over Zoom. We will spend time each session reflecting on what we are grateful for. Info and to sign up, click here: <https://butterflyjourneys.ca/spiritual-director-in-residence-mcm/gratitude-groups/>
- **Join the "Ring up the Cash"** Camps with Meaning Covid Relief Campaign. We are expecting a concerning deficit this year. Donate and/or join the campaign. Visit participate: [ringupthecash.causevox.com](http://ringupthecash.causevox.com)

- **Camps with Meaning** is still in need of Health Officers for our Pop-Up Camps and Kitchen staff for our staff training and day camp weeks. We still need Health Officers for Pop-Up Camps in Steinbach on Aug 4, at Koinonia on Aug 6, at our city days on Aug 9, 10 and 12 and at Assiniboia on Aug 13. It's just one day, but it makes all the difference! Kitchen staff (2-3 per week) are still needed for June 23-25 at Koinonia, as well as July 4-9, 12-14, 25-30 and Aug 9-13 at Assiniboia. Contact the camp office at 204-895-2267.
- **Camps with Meaning** day camp weeks have filled up fast but we still have room at many of our Pop-Up Camps in August. Let us bring a little taste of camp to you! Aug 4 at Grace MC in Steinbach, Aug 5 at Morden MC, Aug 6 at Koinonia, Aug 9 at Fort Garry MF, Aug 10 at Jubilee, Aug 12 at Bethel MC and Aug 13 at Assiniboia. [www.campswithmeaning.org](http://www.campswithmeaning.org)

### **Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba** – [manitoba@mccmb.ca](mailto:manitoba@mccmb.ca)

- **May 26, 7pm** - Hear stories from MCC projects around the world through our webinar series 'The Right to Stay and the Right to Go: Migration and Human Dignity'. Learn how MCC understands different faces and forms of migration in Latin America. Register [here](#) or at [mccmb.ca/mcc-webinar-series](http://mccmb.ca/mcc-webinar-series).
- **Help provide emergency relief in Gaza today.** The recent violence has made poor humanitarian conditions in Gaza worse when hospitals are already overwhelmed with COVID-19. Hundreds of homes have been destroyed and damaged, with thousands displaced. Your gifts will help MCC partners provide emergency relief, like emergency food, hygiene supplies and trauma healing. To donate, click [here](#) or visit [mcccanada.ca/gaza-relief](http://mcccanada.ca/gaza-relief).
- **Students**, you could earn \$1,000 toward your ongoing studies. MCC Manitoba is awarding five scholarships to students working toward post-secondary degrees that align with MCC's focus areas. Learn more [here](#) or at [mccmb.ca/studentawards](http://mccmb.ca/studentawards).

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

- **CMU** is planning for primarily in-person classes for fall, with some accommodation via hybrid/online formats where needed. Check out more details on fall plans at [media.cmu.ca/news-release-fall-2021-plans](http://media.cmu.ca/news-release-fall-2021-plans).
- **June 15 - 20<sup>th</sup> annual CMU Golf Classic** Join us at Kingswood Golf & Country club in support of student athletes and student financial aid. Visit [www.cmu.ca/golf](http://www.cmu.ca/golf) to register or become a sponsor.

### **Mennonite Collegiate Institute** – [info@mciblues.net](mailto:info@mciblues.net)

- **May 24, 7pm** - Join "Owen & Jewel" online for our Spring Fundraising Series! You're in for some laughs, music, art, and an auction. Tune in on MCI's Youtube Channel or MCIBlues.net.
- **June 5 from 12-3pm** - MCI will hold a bun drive-thru on campus on to add to your Saengerfest faspas at home. Email [info@mciblues.net](mailto:info@mciblues.net) to pre-order your buns.
- **June 6, 11am - MCI Saengerfest** - This year, we're bringing it to your living room, via our YouTube channel.