

*Welcome to the  
Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
of Altona*



*Sunday, May 30, 2021*

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona*

*WORSHIP SERVICE*

*May 30, 2021*

*<sup>15</sup> You didn't receive a spirit of slavery to lead you back again into fear, but you received a Spirit that shows you are adopted as his children. With this Spirit, we cry, "Abba, Father."  
~ Romans 8: 15*

**GATHERING and PRAISE**

Welcome and Announcements

Music **How great Thou art**

Call to Worship and Prayer

**LISTENING**

Music **Kindle in us Your love**

Children's Story

Scripture **Romans 8: 12-17**

Sermon **"God's children by adoption"**

**RESPONDING**

Music **O, how I love Jesus**

Prayer for the Offering, the Church and World

**SENDING**

Benediction

Music **For the Journey**

**Sermon:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leader:** Byron Loeppky

**Children's Story:** Amanda Wiens **Scripture Reader:** Gavin Wiens

**Music:** Cedar Valley Worship, Eastern Mennonite University Singers,  
Courthouse Road Church, Steve Bell

**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; Henry and Helen Thiessen at Morris Hospital, and Gloria Voth in St Boniface Hospital.
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** to Elmer & Sharon Voth, Hugo & Helen Voth, Helen Voth, Bernie & Dorothy Friesen, families and extended family, at the passing of father, brother/ brother-in-law, Willie Voth of Altona.
- ~ **Pastor Virginia** is off this weekend.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada / Manitoba**  
**Pray:** Witness workers George & Tobia Veith are visiting places in China they have ministered, strengthening connections as they finish their time in China in the next few months. Pray that these relationships are strengthened and that Chinese colleagues have a sense of peace and clear vision for the future.

## **WORSHIP CALENDAR**

June 6	Gr 3 Bibles / "Church Picnic" – Sharing
June 13	Speaker Mark Tiessen-Dyck
June 20	Speaker Virginia Gerbrandt Richert
June 27	Speaker Mark Tiessen-Dyck

## **Guess who's making supper?**

Eating and sharing food is such an important part of our community that we couldn't imagine going another month without enjoying these activities. Given the realities of our time right now we have planned a "Guess who's making supper?" event. This is an opportunity to make a meal for another person/family in our congregation.

If you would like to participate you need to sign up by emailing Virginia ([viriniagr@abchurch.ca](mailto:viriniagr@abchurch.ca)) by June 3. I will then assign each household to another ABC household; this will be the family/person you will make a meal for. This is not a 'I make for you and you make for me' but rather a pay-it-forward model where you bring a meal to your assigned household as an act of service and building of community and another household will bring you a meal to enjoy. We would encourage you to find time to make the meal for your family the week of June 6-12 or 13-19. The meal doesn't have to be anything special, this is not a culinary competition, but a sharing of our loaves and fishes.

To make this Covid safe we are viewing it more like a delivery service like Skip the Dishes—the meal is simply delivered to the door for those in the household to enjoy.

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

This week, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC) and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) released findings of an investigation into the conduct of my grandfather, Frank H. Epp. The investigation found that my grandfather committed ministerial sexual misconduct (you can read the statements from MCEC, MCC, and Mennonite Church Manitoba [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)).

Older people may remember my grandfather from his time in Altona. My grandparents were part of our church before they became founding members of Altona Mennonite Church where my grandfather was the first pastor.

My grandfather died when I was a baby and I never got to know him personally. Over the years, I have heard about the immense contributions he made to the Mennonite Church. In private family conversations, I've also become aware that he was a man with deep flaws. As a family and the church, we must wrestle with the reality that someone who has done much good for the church can also cause great harm.

I believe the individual who has come forward to report my grandfather's misconduct. Along with my mom, grandma, and members of our family, I accept and acknowledge the findings of MCEC and MCC's investigation and am deeply saddened by the harm that my grandfather caused. My prayers are with survivors of sexual abuse. I also hold my mom, grandma, and the many other people who loved and respected my grandfather in my prayers as this news brings disappointment and anguish.

In this difficult situation, Jesus' words resound, "The truth will set you free". I hope that in naming this truth there will be freedom and healing. First for the individuals my grandfather harmed and also for our family. We cannot work to eradicate what we cannot name and heal from what we cannot acknowledge. I hope that naming this sin is a small step toward a world free from sexual abuse.

As a pastor, I am committed to responding to instances and disclosures of sexual abuse with compassion and integrity. I will honour the stories of abuse survivors and work to make the church a safe place. If you have been taken advantage of sexually or been abused, I encourage you to seek the support of a trusted individual: a family member, counselor, pastor, or advocate. For individuals who may have abused someone else, it is important that you seek accountability and genuine healing.

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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 [viriniagr@abchurch.ca](mailto:viriniagr@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)

## **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.
- **Tuesday morning coffee** – join us at 10am via ZOOM.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **June 26 - Eden Foundation's Charity Golf Tournament** at Gretna's Oakview Golf Course. A new twist: 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>
- **July 10 - Eden Foundation's Head for the Hills** is happening; for more information and to register click [HERE](#).
- **July 10 - Visit the Villages Tractor Trek** is 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

- **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>.
- **Everyone** who is part of an MCM congregation is invited to participate in [online](#) Gratitude Groups, led by Laura Funk, MCM Spiritual Director in Residence. They will run every 2<sup>nd</sup> week, for 6-8 sessions, each about 40 minutes, on Zoom. We will spend time reflecting on what we are grateful for. Info/sign-up 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** needs Health Officers for 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 Assiniboia on Aug 13. 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. Call the Camp 204-895-2267.

- **Camps with Meaning** – we still have room at many of our Pop-Up Camps: 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)

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

- **June 2, 4pm CMU Admissions Webinar:** What are CMU Grads Doing? Have you ever wondered what kind of career you'd like after university? This conversation with a variety of CMU grads will help you envision where your arts, business, science, or music degree could take you. Info/registration at [www.cmu.ca/webinar](http://www.cmu.ca/webinar).

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

- **June 5, 12-3pm** - MCI will hold a **bun drive-thru** to add to your Saengerfest fasha at home. Email [info@mciblues.net](mailto:info@mciblues.net) to pre-order buns.
- **June 6, 11am - MCI Saengerfest** - This year, we're bringing it to your living room, via our YouTube channel.

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

- **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 food, hygiene supplies and trauma healing. Donate, click [here](#) or [mcccanada.ca/gaza-relief](http://mcccanada.ca/gaza-relief).
- **Help provide** relief to the DR Congo volcanic eruption. Hundreds of homes on the outskirts of Goma were destroyed by flowing lava after Mount Nyiragongo erupted on May 22. MCC and local partners will provide emergency assistance to affected families. Donate today at [mcccanada.ca/volcano-relief](http://mcccanada.ca/volcano-relief) or click [here](#).
- **June 2, 6pm** - Join a conversation about the film *The Present* streaming on Netflix. Join guest moderators Izzeddin Hawamda and Frances Ravinsky for a discussion on Palestinian and Israeli experiences as depicted and their potential in the context of peacebuilding. Watch the film ahead of the discussion. Visit [mccmb.ca/Events](http://mccmb.ca/Events).
- **June 3, 7pm** - online book launch for *Germinating Conversations*. Join book participants and speakers as they launch an exciting new book on how to have difficult conversations through the lenses of food, faith, farming and the land. To register visit [mccmb.ca/Events](http://mccmb.ca/Events).
- **Due to** COVID-19 the Brandon MCC Relief Sale is cancelled for Sept 2021. Thanks for your past support, we hope to see you next year.
- **June 7-11** - Join us for an online Quilt Sale. Browse through quilts, purses and stuffed animals for the perfect gift. All items are handmade by volunteers as part of MCC's Quilt Show & Sale Committee. Learn more: visit our Facebook page or [mccmb.ca/Events](http://mccmb.ca/Events).
- **MCC is** looking for a Migration & Resettlement Administrative Associate, responsible for supporting sponsorship groups and staff in the process. For more info visit [mccmb.ca/openings](http://mccmb.ca/openings).