

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*

*May 31, 2020
Pentecost Sunday*



"Receive the Holy Spirit."
John 20:22



**BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH OF ALTONA
WORSHIP SERVICE**

May 31, 2020

*"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to
speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability."
~ Acts 2:4*

Scripture Reader & Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Worship Leader: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Music: Point Grey Inter-Mennonite Fellowship, Darryl Neustaedter Barg,
Moses & Jessica Falko, Phil Campbell-Enns, Chelsea Esmeier, Steve Bell

Children's Story: Jolene Friesen-Stoesz

Sound Techs: Jason Driedger, Gord Sawatzky

Our guiding scripture for today's time of worship: **Acts 2:1-21.**

Our worship service will be posted to abchurch.libsyn.com [Audio]
abchurchcommunity.ca [Video] first thing Sunday morning.

Sermon Response Discussion: Sunday 11:00 AM via ZOOM.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87461810280>.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

~ **Hospitalized:** Anne Kehler at Altona Health Centre.

~ **Mennonite Church Canada**

Pray: AIMM asks for prayer amid COVID-19 in Africa. Mennonite Church Canada ministry partner Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission asks us to pray for our African sisters and brothers as COVID-19 continues to spread. People visit markets to buy food almost daily because most don't have fridges or other ways to preserve food from day to day. Pray for provision, for protection, for courage and strength during this period of isolation. Pray that hospitals and medical staff provide the best possible care despite the lack of ventilators and other important medical tools.

From the Pastor – Mark Tiessen-Dyck

In the news this week, I learned about a young man named Ahmaud Arbery. Ahmaud and I had something in common; we both go for jogs in our neighbourhood. But something happened to Ahmaud while he jogged in his Georgia neighbourhood that I'm sure will never happen to me during my jogs around Altona: he was killed. Sometimes it takes events which—while similar to your experiences yet with astonishingly different outcomes—to reawaken a passion for justice and righteousness. What if I was born in a different time or place or with different skin colour? Ahmaud's killing appears to be racially motivated (it is now being investigated as a hate crime). Initially the men who killed Ahmaud told police they believed that Ahmaud was responsible for break-ins in the neighbourhood and that Ahmaud had been the aggressor in their confrontation. However, a couple months after Ahmaud's death, video footage was released which shows the unarmed black man being pursued and ambushed prior to being shot. Subsequently, three men have been arrested and charged with murder. This also raises questions of racism in the criminal justice system. Ahmaud's killing was not investigated thoroughly and prosecutors initially dismissed the case, such that months elapsed before arrests were made.

Racism, both systemic and personal, has tragically played out in this story. Christians are called to a higher standard than the favoritism of the world. Because "God shows no partiality" (Romans 2:11), neither should a person who loves God and seeks to be sanctified in God's ways. As recorded in Acts, the conviction that God does not show partiality but receives people from all nations was a powerful impetus for preaching the gospel and being the church (see Acts 10:34-38 for example). In Paul's exhortations to those "who have been raised with Christ," he writes, "Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all" (Colossians 3:11). Racism is a sin that rejects the character of God, thwarts the witness of the church, and denies the divine image within people. May we renounce this sin and seek sanctification by the Holy Spirit.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Pastor Mark** is taking this weekend off. He will return to the office on Tuesday, June 2.
- **The Church staff** is excited to welcome you back for Tuesday morning coffee! Beginning **June 2 at 10am**. We are going to be outside on the church grounds. This will be a physically distanced event and so you will need to bring your own lawn chair and coffee mug. If the weather is questionable, call the church office on Tuesday morning to see if coffee is still on.
- **In preparation** for June 7, which would normally be our church picnic Sunday, we are inviting you to share pictures of "**Where you see God.**" These could be pictures from your garden/yard, from nature, of your family, of your latest creation, or anything really that draws your

attention to God. Please send them to Virginia viriniagr@abchurch.ca to be shared in our worship on June 7.

- **The church** continues to operate. We will continue to strive to meet our financial obligations. Please continue your giving by bringing your donation to the church between 9am and 3pm or mail it to the church: 117nd Street NW Altona, MB R0G 0B1. Electronic Transfer is also available - to set this up call Don/Grace Fehr 324-5908.

Sr & Jr YOUTH

- **June 7, 7pm** - Next ZOOM Group.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Mennonite Church Canada – office@mennochurch.ca 888-6781

- Springstein Mennonite Church, Springstein, MB., invites you to join in worship as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. Theme: "Will the Fire Change You? Text: Acts 2:1-4. Theme is taken from the *Leader* magazine resources written by Joani Neufeldt of Lethbridge, AB. The service includes communion, be prepared with bread/cracker & wine/juice. Visit www.mennonitechurch.ca/worshipservices and the Mennonite Church Canada YouTube Channel.

Mennonite Collegiate Institute – info@mci blues.net 327-5891

- **Sängerfest** will be a celebration of our students through song, art, and conversation. From student testimonials to teacher tributes, and solo projects to a mass virtual choir. Celebrate with us on [MCI's YouTube channel](#) on **June 7, 7:30pm**.

Canadian Mennonite University – www.cmu.ca

- **June 3, 3-4pm** - *Study Science at CMU* - Join this online webinar to learn about distinct features of CMU's Science degree options, pre-requisites, labs and opportunities for research and fieldwork. Also, you will interact with CMU science faculty. www.cmu.ca/campusvisit
- **CMU's 'Chicken Fingers & Fries** event: we invite you to grab your own plate of chicken fingers & fries and watch this event online **June 5, 5pm**, featuring special guests, alumni music from Mike Wiebe, and the staff/faculty band "The George Herberts. cmu.ca/chickenfingers
- **June 17, 7pm** - This year's Canadian School of Peacebuilding public lecture *The Myth of Religious Violence* by Dr. William Cavanaugh, Prof at DePaul University, will be delivered online. cmu.ca/events
- **CMU Golf Classic:** COVID Cup Edition, invites golfers anywhere to register a round of golf in support of CMU at a course and time they choose. Details at cmu.ca/golf.

Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba – Manitoba@mccmb.ca

- Check out MCC's newest addition! Relief, Development and Podcast is a new podcast from MCC. Hosted by Scott Campbell, every episode features a special guest, stories from the field and updates from people and programs making a difference around the world. Visit mcccanada.ca/relief-development-podcast.

Mennonite Disaster Service

- MDS has launched *On the Level*, a monthly online newsletter to inform and inspire you! In our current issue, you'll read how MDS volunteers helped a victim of multiple disasters return home even after closing down the project. You can also learn how special funds are helping Mennonite churches in the U.S. and Canada keep their doors open. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/2LGvidw>.

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

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Asst Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 virginiagr@abchurch.ca

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