

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona*  
*Worship Service*

*November 20, 2022, 10:30 am*

*"I will bless you richly and I will give you countless descendants, as many as the stars in the sky and as the grains of sand on the seashore. ... All the nations of the earth will be blessed because of your descendants."*

*Gen 22:17a & 18a*

Welcome and Announcements

**GATHERING AND PRAISE**

Call to worship and prayer

Hymn **When we walk with the Lord** HWB 544  
**When the role is called up yonder**

Offering

**REMEMBERING WITH HOPE**

Children's story

Time of remembering and Candle Lighting

Hymn **When peace, like a river** HWB 336

Scripture Gen 9:28-10:1, 25:7-17,  
35:28-36:1, 49: 33, 50:24-26, Ex1:1-5

Sermon **Continuing God's story**

**LIVING FOR GOD'S KINGDOM**

Hymn **When we all get to heaven**

Congregational prayer

Benediction

Hymn **This world is not my home**

**PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

~ **Hospitalized:** Anne Sawatzky and Mary Sawatsky at the Altona Health Centre.

~ **Our love and sympathy** to Hilda (Jacob) Klassen at the passing away of her granddaughter Robyn Procak.(Heinrichs). The funeral was held in Winnipeg on Saturday.

~ **International witness:** Meserete Kristos Church invites us to rejoice in the peace agreement signed this week in Ethiopia. President Desalegn asks for prayer that "the peace agreement be rooted deep to transform the broken relationships, that there will be a provision of resources to address the needy community in the nation due to the conflict and other causes and that God would use MKC as tool of sustainable peace and restoration of the True Kingdom Gospel to Ethiopia and beyond."

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

Susan Heinrichs November 21

Carol Rempel November 23

Celina Toews November 24

Heidi Toews November 26

**WORSHIP CALENDAR**

**Nov. 20: Memorial Sunday**

Our theme for Advent this year is **Restoration is Near**. As we move through the weeks leading up to Christmas we will cry out for restoration. We will watch for it to take place among us and we will join in the restoration process with all creation. Join us on this journey.

**November 27:** Advent 1 – Watch: The day is almost here

**December 4:** Advent 2 – Prepare the way of the Lord

**December 11:** Advent 3 – Tell what you hear and see

**December 18:** Advent 4 - Children's Christmas program

**December 24:** Candlelight service

**December 25:** Sing for Joy: Your God reigns

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**Sermon:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert  
**Worship Leader:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck  
**Children's story:** Delores Enns  
**Music:** Glenys Voth and Lorraine Hamm

## **FROM THE YOUTH COORDINATOR'S COMPUTER:**

**Stephanie Rempel**

What a great group of youth we have! I find myself excited to be with these kids each time we meet. Whether it is strictly a social gathering or a combination of games and Bible study, these youth are willing to participate and share and contribute to our time together. My focus for youth has been to create a space that kids feel comfortable coming to. They know they will have some fun; they will learn and hear lessons from the Bible. They will know that it is a place where we encourage one another and that Jesus loves them and we have an opportunity to show that love to others.

There are about 15-20 youth attending. About half of them attend our church and others have come with friends or moved up through the Ventures program. We are gathering every other Wednesday and have combined the Sr. and Jr. Youth. We are currently doing a study series called "Jesus 101 – an Introduction into the life of Jesus". Pastor Mark has met with the Sr. youth on their own on a couple of occasions to give them space to just be that senior group and to have deeper discussions and sharing.

The Youth have very much appreciated the sweet edible treats dropped off by some members of our congregation and I also thank those who have shared their baking gifts too. Perhaps in the new year there will be another cookie call!

Please keep the youth in your prayers, that their hearts and spirits may be encouraged and continue to grow.

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**The world and home ministries** commission would like to thank everyone for their contributions. A special thank you to all those who donated food and served. Net funds raised \$5327.22!

**ABC Youth:** Youth Wed. Nov. 30, 7-9pm.

**Ventures Club** – Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:15 in the church basement

**Sermon discussion** Tuesday at noon.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Altona MCC** is looking for a shop manager. Please contact Corny Fehr at (MCC) 324.8323 or (cell) 324.3862.

**Southern Manitoba Choral Society** presents "Between darkness and light – a concert of peace, advent and joy" Sunday November 20 at Altona Bergthaler Mennonite church at 2:30 pm. Madeline Friesen as conductor and Loren Hiebert as pianist

**Share the warmth** program is up and running! Any sizes of gently used coats, ski pants, boots, toques, mitts and neck warmers for both children and adults welcome. Donations can also be made out to: The Community Exchange. Your contribution makes a warm and important impact. Drop offs are any Monday or Wednesdays during the winter months. Contact Julia Bergman at [sharethewarmthinfo@gmail.com](mailto:sharethewarmthinfo@gmail.com) or text at 204.470.9481.

**Mon. Nov. 21, 7:00 pm - MCI's Annual General Meeting** will be held in the school's chapel. In light of critical realities facing MCI, the board is issuing an urgent call to attend this year's AGM. Receive updates on the school's current realities. Assist in discerning the future for our/your school. Our board rep is Kristin Falk.

**Blood Donor Clinic** December 1 at the Altona Rhineland Pioneer Centre. Please call 1-888-236-6283, or go on-line to book your appointment. No walk ins please. The mobile donor centre hours are: 2:00 – 7:00 pm.

**Christmas Glow in the Country** is a great way to spend time with your family or friends and celebrate the season! Come take a leisurely drive through the 2-kilometer route in the comfort of your vehicle, tune your radio to our Christmas Glow station and enjoy the festive displays and goodies. Make your reservation for any of our 14 nights and get all the details at [winklerbiblecamp.com](http://winklerbiblecamp.com).

**Winkler Bible Camp** is hiring a Food Service Coordinator in a part-time or full-time capacity! See our website for more details.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:**

**CMU:** Christmas at CommonWord – Prepare for Advent and Christmas with gift-giving ideas (fair-trade coffee, seasonal books, other books to gift, Indigenous gifts) and church resources (worship, devotionals, group studies, performed dramas). Visit in person (2299 Grant Ave., Winnipeg) or online at [commonword.ca](http://commonword.ca). See the online flyer for Christmas sale specials available from November 28 to December 2.

**MCM:** The Mennonite Church Manitoba Nominating Committee invites our prayers as they discern nominees for upcoming vacancies. We are especially encouraged to pray for the upcoming open position of MCM Moderator. We are grateful to Gerald Gerbrandt for his exemplary service in this role in recent years, and we trust that God will provide another excellent Moderator for our regional church. If you have suggestions for the committee, please email Trevor Stoesz, Nominating Committee Chair, at [tstoesz3@hotmail.com](mailto:tstoesz3@hotmail.com).

**MCC thrift stores** is celebration of 50 years **Tuesday Nov 22 at 7pm**. It grew much beyond what I, or any of the four of us, thought it would grow into.”-Susan Giesbrecht, one of four founders of MCC’s first thrift shop in Altona, Man.

In early 1972, Selma Loewen learned that MCC would no longer be shipping donated clothing overseas so, she gathered her friends **Sara Stoesz**, Linie Friesen and Susan Giesbrecht together to respond to a call to “turn clothing into cash.” In March that same year, the four women opened the first volunteer-run MCC Thrift shop in Altona, selling used goods locally and donating the profit to MCC. Their “mustard seed” idea transplanted to neighbouring communities quickly. And today, more than 80 MCC Thrift shops across Canada and the U.S. contribute millions of dollars annually to the relief, development and peace work of MCC. Join us to celebrate the generous MCC Thrift contributions of your church and community on Tuesday! Join us on **Tuesday at 7 pm** to celebrate 50 years of MCC Thrift! This *special virtual event* will celebrate the history, creativity and generosity of the MCC Thrift network and our many dedicated volunteers. Register to attend at [thrift.mcc.org/celebrate50](http://thrift.mcc.org/celebrate50).

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**Lead Pastor:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990, (C) 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)

