

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

Worship Service

November 6, 2022, 10:30 am

“We love because God first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.”

~ 1 John 4:19-21

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome and announcements

Music **Come away from rush and hurry** VT 9

Call to worship and prayer

Music **We are people of God’s peace** VT 797

LISTENING

Offering and prayer

Children’s story

Scripture reading Luke 10:25-37

Sermon **Striving for non-violence**

RESPONDING

Music **All who are thirsty** VT 49

Time of Anointing

SENDING

Benediction

Music **He who watches over you**

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

~ **Hospitalized:** Anne Sawatzky, Mary Sawatzky and Shirley Schellenberg at the Altona Health Centre.

~ **Congratulations** to Haydon and Kiera Friesen on the birth of their daughter Blakely Grace Friesen born on Oct 25. We wish the parents, grandparents and great-grandparents God’s blessing.

~ **International Witness:** This week the Burkina Faso Partnership Council is meeting in Ouagadougou, three weeks after the second coup d’état this year in the country. The Evangelical Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso has its first international missionary family working in Mali, is translating the Bible into five African languages and has a micro-enterprise project. Pray as the council envisions what collaborative ministries God is calling this international partnership to engage over the coming year. Thank God for having protected the Burkina Faso church during this turbulent time. Pray that God will continue to bless it with a strong vision for witness in Burkina Faso and beyond.

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

Susan Dueck (Ben)	November 7
Art Froese	November 7
Eva Schroeder	November 11
Mary Anne Doell	November 12
Verna (A.K.) Heinrichs	November 12

WORSHIP CALENDAR

The “Third way” sermon series is available online if you missed any of it.

November 6: Peace Sunday and time of anointing

November 13: Missions guest speaker – Melanie Neufeld

November 20: Memorial Sunday

ABC Youth: Wed. Nov. 16

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

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert
Worship Leader: Mark Tiessen-Dyck
Children’s story: Joanna Ginter
Music: ABC Ensemble

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FROM THE PASTOR – Mark Tiessen-Dyck

The practice of anointing has deep Biblical roots. In the Old Testament, prophets anointed kings as a sign of God's appointment to their role (1 Samuel 16:13). More broadly, anointing signified God's commission; "the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor" (Isaiah 61:1, Jesus also quotes these words in Luke 4:18-19). Jesus' disciples anoint and heal many sick people (Mark 6:13). James instructs the church to pray over people who are ill and anoint them with oil (James 5:14). In Psalm 23, anointing is a sign of God's abundance, goodness and love, "You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows".

Today we offer anointing as part of our worship service. Everyone is invited to receive anointing. You may come individually, as a couple, or as a whole family. To receive anointing, you will come forward to one of the pastors and we will invite you to speak to us what you are also speaking to the Lord. If there is a particular reason you are seeking anointing, we encourage you to share that but you can also request prayer and blessing for life generally. What you share with us, whether it is lots or a little, we will hold in confidence. Then we will pray for you, and depending on what you are comfortable with, place oil on your forehead or the back of your hand, or offer you a 'no-touch' anointing.

Some reasons you may seek anointing:

- You have an illness or burden and desire healing. You are struggling with a difficult situation.
- You are in the midst of transition, or are facing a difficult decision.
- You have a new role or opportunity.
- You are seeking direction from the Lord.
- Being prayed for and blessed will be encouraging for you. Even if you don't have a specific reason for being anointed. You can still come forward and we will anoint you, pray for you, and bless you.

My hope is that our time of anointing will be an opportunity to be filled with the love of God express our devotion to God.

If you do not come forward to be anointed, I invite you to reflect on these questions, speaking to God, during our anointing time:

In what ways do I need God's healing?

Where is God present in my life? Where is God leading me?

How can I dwell more fully in the presence and love of God?

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Potluck today after the church service.

The church office will be closed Friday, November 11 for Remembrance Day.

ABC annual Soup and Pie fundraiser – Thursday, November 10.

Sermon discussion Tuesday at noon. Even though the "Third Way" sermon series is done, we will continue to have an opportunity to discuss the sermon and related topics over lunch with the pastors.

Finance and Maintenance has approved the recommendation to Church Council that a portion of the property east of the sanctuary be sold. This easternmost portion (approximately 120 feet by 110 feet) is currently covered by grass, and its sale will not impact the current parking lot capacity/dimensions. The process of surveying and subdividing can take up to 6 months, but we wanted to ensure there were no surprises when the For Sale signs appeared. We are also pleased that the north canopy application of stucco and paint has been completed and thank Wilf Hiebert and Ang Loeppky for their role in the project. The canopy is a welcome addition to the north entrance of the sanctuary, for safety, and ease of entry. We welcome any questions or discussion. Please see Elmer or Al with Finance and Maintenance.

The Community Meal is seeking containers to deal with leftovers and takeout. Surely you've kept every yogurt container that you've ever had, and now they might actually be useful! Containers should be standard size (either ice cream size, yogurt size, or sour cream size) with a matching lid. Containers can be dropped off in the church office.

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

Recovery of Hope presents Resilience: Bouncing back from stress and trauma with Andrea Dyck Tuesday Nov. 8 at 7 pm at Central Station in Winkler. This workshop will have a special focus on understanding resilience for those caring for children, however all are welcome. For more information and to register email info@recoveryofhope.ca or call 204.477.4673. Registration is \$20.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

MCC: Find the perfect locally made gift at Piece it Together's Christmas Craft Sale! Shop and support MCC's humanitarian relief efforts. Running Saturday, November 26, 9am – 4pm at Bethel Mennonite Church, 465 Stafford St, Winnipeg.

CMU: We Need to Talk – After nine months of war, are there still nonviolent options for Ukraine? Join Karen Ridd and Wendy Kroeker for a discussion of this question during CMU's interactive Zoom call-in show, *We Need to Talk*, November 16, 9:30 PM (CST). Visit cmu.ca/weneedtotalk.

MDS Canada is currently organizing a response in Nova Scotia following Hurricane Fiona. For more information on volunteer opportunities please contact the MDS Canada Office at 204-261-1274 or by emailing cflores@mds.org.

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

The Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund: The RESF is now accepting referrals for Christmas Hampers. These referrals can be called in to 204-324-7167. When calling in referrals please have the following information: name of referral, number of children in the family with age and gender of child, physical address, mailing address and phone number. Deadline for referrals is noon on December 9. A reminder that the referrals must live in the R.M. of Rhineland.

- Due to the change in our Christmas Hampers, we will not require any volunteers for wrapping/packing or delivery. The Committee will take care of this for this year. Thank you for your understanding. Hope to see you next year!

- Many people have reached out with a helping hand over the years with the RESF, and we sincerely "Thank You". If you would like to be a part of this mission, donations can be hand delivered to Pembina Valley Pharmacy, Access Credit Union - Gretna, Altona or Plum Coulee locations or simply by mailing the donation to Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund, Box 2255, Altona, MB, R0G 0B0

