

# *Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona*

## *WORSHIP SERVICE*

*November 28, 2021 10:30 A.M.*

*“After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” ~ Mark 1: 14-15*

*Welcome to the  
Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
of Altona*



*Advent 1  
Sunday, November 28, 2021*

### **GATHERING in the LORD'S PRESENCE**

Welcome and Announcements

Music **O come, O come Emmanuel**

Call to Worship and Candle Lighting

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Music **Magnificat**

### **LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD**

Children's Story

Scripture **Isaiah 52:7-10, Mark 1:14-15**

Sermon **"Setting the stage for Jesus"**

### **LEAVING TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD**

Music **Come, Thou long expected Jesus**

Prayer for the Offering, the Church and the World

Benediction

Sending Song **Joy to the world**

**Sermon:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leader:** Mary Anne Loeppky

**Scripture/Candle Lighter:** Erin Hamm **Children's Story:** Kristin Falk & Jacob Friesen-Stoesz

**Music:** Douglas Mennonite Church, Steve Bell, Cedar Valley Church,  
Stirling Mennonite Church

**Our worship service** will be live-streamed Sunday morning at 10:30am and is available on the church website at [\[abchurchcommunity.ca\]](http://abchurchcommunity.ca). If using a handheld device [phone/tablet] you may get a message that says "video unavailable", but if you click on the line "watch this video on YouTube" it will reload and play for you.

## **PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Harold Sawatzky, and Helen Schulz at Altona Health Centre. Erna Loeppky at BTHC.
- ~ **Josh Janzen** has been a pastor at ABC for nearly 2 years. He has been putting his gifts to work and developing as a new pastor and it is a joy for our congregation to be part of this journey with Josh. Over the last year, with the endorsement of the church, Josh has been participating in the process for licensing. "Licensing toward Ordination" is a credential granted to pastors who are actively ministering and are testing, discerning, and developing their call to ministry. On December 12, during our Sunday morning worship service, Josh will be licensed. We trust this will empower Josh in his ministry among us. Rick Neufeld, on behalf of Mennonite Church Manitoba, will be present to witness and lead this recognition of Josh's ministry.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**  
**Pray:** "This is your family," writes Tany Warkentin, MC Canada's Liaison for Ministry in Africa, as she returns from meetings with Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission in Burkina Faso and D.R. Congo this past October. Meet members of your global faith family through Tany's photo journal here: <https://www.mcab.ca/article/10528-and-this-is-your-family>.

## **"Jesus it's nice to meet you!"**

**Our Advent and Christmas worship series is all about getting to know Jesus.**

- Nov 28 Speaker: Mark When and where did Jesus live?  
What was the context of Jesus' life and time?
- Dec 5 Speaker: Mark What did Jesus teach?  
What was the essence of his message?
- Dec 12 Speaker: Virginia What did Jesus do? And what did it accomplish? What was it about?
- Dec 19 Speaker: Mark Why did Jesus encounter opposition to his message and work?
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols. 6:30pm
- Dec 26 Speaker: Virginia Baby Jesus.
- Jan 2 Speaker: Mark 4 Gospels, 1 Jesus. How we learn about Jesus.
- Jan 9 Speaker: Josh Who is Jesus?

We will celebrate the birth of Jesus with a worship service on December 24 at 6:30 pm and Sunday, December 26. There will not be a worship service on Christmas day.

## **FROM - the Rhineland Area Food Bank**

November 24, 2021  
Altona Bergthaler Church  
Altona, MB R0G 0B0

It is with much gratitude that we write this letter to thank you for the use of your space for the Food Bank. In 1997 you graciously offered us the temporary use of the space, and now 25 years later, we have found a new location for the Food Bank, beginning in the new year.

For many years, the Altona Bergthaler Church and the Rhineland Area Food Bank have been in partnership, providing much needed basic food items to many of the disadvantaged in our surrounding community. We have always appreciated the space provided for the storage and dispensing of food to the clients.

Because many of our clients are mobility challenged, and most of our volunteers are seniors, it has become increasingly more difficult to navigate the stairs to the Food Bank area; therefore, we have found a new location that is wheelchair accessible and is all on one level, with enough room that clients will not have to wait outside.

We look forward to our new location but at the same time, we will miss this space, that has been the Food Bank's home for 25 years.

We hope to be able to move locations, with as little disruption as possible to our clients, sometime in the new year. Please know that the Rhineland Area Food Bank board is extremely grateful for the many years that your Youth and their leaders have shared this space with us.

As a thank you for being such a large part of the operation of the Food Bank, we have placed a poinsettia in your sanctuary.

We wish you the joy and peace of the Christmas season.  
With gratitude and thanks,

Angelika Stoesz, Chair

On behalf of the Rhineland Food Bank Board, past and present.

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 [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**

- **On Dec 5** when we return back to in-person worship we will be requiring that all children and adults ages 12 and up be fully vaccinated. We will be asking people to please show their proof of vaccination, either card or digitally. If you would like to do that ahead of time you are welcome to stop by the church office with these documents and be added to a master list.
- **Christmas decorations....** If you have any decorations, you no longer use or need, consider donating them to church. Call or email Cheryl.
- **Please wear masks** throughout the worship service.
- **Nov 28 [Sunday] at 1pm - Fall Congregational meeting.** This meeting will take place by ZOOM.

**Agenda items include:** Pastor Reports, Land Acknowledgement, In-Person Worship discussion, and discussion and vote on the Resolution regarding Mark Tiessen-Dyck's ministry at ABC.

### **RESOLUTION:**

**WHEREAS, the Review Committee of the Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona has undergone a formal review process for Mark Tiessen-Dyck, and**

**WHEREAS, the Review Committee, upon reviewing the evaluations, has brought forward a recommendation to Personnel Committee that we extend an invitation to Mark for another term, and**

**WHEREAS, the Personnel Committee has accepted and agreed with the recommendation from the Review Committee, the Personnel Committee has brought forward the recommendation to Church Council, and**

**WHEREAS, Church Council has agreed and accepted the recommendation from the Personnel Committee to extend an invitation to Mark for another term,**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we extend a call to MARK TIESSEN-DYCK to serve as Pastor for an additional term of 3 years.**

### **Sr Youth**

- **Nov 30 [Tues]** – Check your email.

### **Jr Youth**

- **Dec 1 [Wed]** – Check your email.

### **Ventures: [Wednesdays]**

- **Girls & Boys Ventures 7-8:15pm** - Christmas card and gift making.

## ***Candle Litany***

Leader: We light a candle of hope.

And we imagine:

**People: God's righteousness, God's steadfast love, God's justice.**

Leader: We light the candle to see God's goodness in us, among us.

**People: Imagine that . . . we are God's wonders, blessed wonders.**

## ***Prayer of Confession and Assurance***

Leader: A friend once said children grow taller at night—while at rest—bones quietly stretch, and bit by bit their bodies grow.

Trees grow silently, too—  
from deep inside deep—energy is released.  
Branches reach for the light.

People can grow silently, too.

**People: We confess that all too often we stifle the growth God inspires deep inside of us, preferring the immediate, the good enough, the comfortable.**

Leader: In Advent—O God—cause us to get up on our tiptoes, lean forward, and extend our gaze.

**People: Surely God, who caused the righteous Branch to spring up, will enliven our imaginations in this season of hope.**  
*(silence)*

## ***Assurance***

Leader: The kingdom of God is near.

Listen—can you hear it?

Look—can you see it?

Our God says, “Surely the days are coming—  
they are already here!”

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Dec 2, 1-7pm - Mobile Blood Donor Clinic** at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre in Altona. Please call 1-888-236-6238 or go online to book your appointment - NO WALK INS please.
- **The Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund** is now accepting referrals for Christmas Hampers. Call in referrals, by noon on Dec 10, to 204-324-7167. When calling in referrals 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. Note: the referrals must live in the R.M. of Rhineland. Due to social distancing, we will again not require any volunteers for wrapping/packing or delivery. Thank you to the many people who have helped over the years. 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] or by mailing the donation to Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund, Box 2255, Altona, MB R0G 0B0.

**Mennonite Church Canada** – [office@mennonitechurchcanada.ca](mailto:office@mennonitechurchcanada.ca)

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

- **Break the Bank-uet 2.** Camps with Meaning Online Fundraising Event. Join camp staff for music, updates, a celebration of Summer 2021 ministry, and of course, breaking the bank. Watch the video here: [www.campswithmeaning.org/banquet](http://www.campswithmeaning.org/banquet)
- **Dec 4, 1-4pm - Prepare the Way! Advent Afternoon.** You are invited to bring your friends and family to Camp Assiniboia for an afternoon of harp music, singing, drama, and more.
- **MC Manitoba** invites applications for the full-time "Director of Mission Engagement" position. Visit [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/get-involved](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/get-involved)
- **Camps with Meaning** invites applications for a permanent Head of Maintenance position at Camp Assiniboia. [Job description on the Camps with Meaning website](#) [www.campswithmeaning.org](http://www.campswithmeaning.org) .

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

- **Dec 1, 6pm** - Business at CMU information webinar.
- **CommonWord** Christmas Sale runs Nov 29 to Dec 3. Save on fair-trade / specialty food /coffee products, unique books, and more.
- **Book Launches: Dec 2, 7pm** - Benchmark: Countering COVID through Painting and Poetry by Join Susan Moore and Mary Wiebe. Visit [commonword.ca/go/2653](http://commonword.ca/go/2653) to register and for livestream details.
- **Dec 9, 7pm** – Suffering the Truth: Occasional Sermons and Reflections by Chris Huebner – [www.commonword.ca/go/2659](http://www.commonword.ca/go/2659)

**MCC Manitoba** - [manitoba@mccmb.ca](mailto:manitoba@mccmb.ca)

- **Make Giving Tuesday a family affair!** Open up conversations about generosity with your kids using free MCC worksheets, activity ideas and crafts, available [here](#) or at [mccmb.ca/kids-learning-about-generosity](http://mccmb.ca/kids-learning-about-generosity). And pick out transformative gifts—like a Christmas pig, swaddling clothes or fruit trees—from MCC's Christmas Giving catalogue [here](#) or at [mccmb.ca/christmas](http://mccmb.ca/christmas).

- Join MCC Manitoba - We are looking for a halftime Constituency Relations Coordinator, offering a flexible home office base in Manitoba. Visit [mccmb.ca/openings](http://mccmb.ca/openings).

**Mennonite Disaster Service** – [mdscanada@mds.org](mailto:mdscanada@mds.org)

- The November edition of *On the Level* is available from MDS. In this issue: MDS Canada is monitoring the flooding in B.C., the Hay West program provides relief to farmers, the U.S. border reopens for volunteers coming from Canada, and learn more about our Annual Celebration in Sarasota, Florida in January. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3wWvLPE>