

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



Sunday, November 29, 2020

Worship Service

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH OF ALTONA

November 29, 2020

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sermon: Josh Janzen
Worship Leader: Al Friesen
Music: Various Recorded Artists
Children's Story: Kristin Falk

"If only you would tear open the heavens and come down!"

~ Isaiah 64: 1a

Welcome and Announcements
Call to Worship and Prayer
Candle Lighting
Song **Come, thou long-expected Jesus**
Moment in Mission
Children's Story
Prayer for the Church and the World
Song **Have thine own way, Lord**
Scripture **Isaiah 64:1-9**
Meditation **"Crying Out in Hope"**
Song **O come, O come, Immanuel**
Communion Bread and Cup
 Song **Put peace into each other's hands**
Benediction
Song **Open my ears, open my eyes**

Our worship service will be available on the church website
Sunday morning [abchurchcommunity.ca] at 10:30am.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Hilda Wiebe, Anne Wiebe, Elizabeth Doell, Waldo Schulz and Anne Kehler at Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** to Anne [David P] Wiebe, family and extended family, at the passing away of brother in-law Martin Wiebe of Winkler.
- ~ **Condolences** to Alvin & Clara Kehler and Tim & Denise Fast, Edgar & Marge Loepky, families and extended family, at the passing away of sister/aunt/sister in-law Hilda Loepky of Winnipeg on Nov 26.
- ~ **This week in our "Moment in Mission"** we will learn about MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Agency). MEDA seeks out ways that they can assist individuals and businesses around the world through their economic development programs. Visit: <https://vimeo.com/447219083>
- ~ **Thank you** for honouring my mom [Chris Penner] in your Memorial Service. My heart goes out to all of you who have lost loved ones this year. Thanks, too, for your love, prayers and cards for our family, and your support and friendship to my mom throughout her life! ~ Tannis
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**
Mennonite Church Canada has just under a dozen congregations across Canada with roots in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Meserete Kristos Church in Ethiopia is the largest Anabaptist community worldwide with whom we have an intentional, sister-church relationship. Ethiopia is experiencing a threefold threat of pandemic, famine and war. Crops are devastated due to a locust infestation and Ethiopia is now in the midst of intense conflict, while in the grip of a global pandemic. Pray for peace and healing in Ethiopia. Pray especially for the children; 42% of the population is below the age of 15. Pray also for the congregations here in Canada in our nationwide community of faith who carry deep concern for Ethiopia and Eritrea and for loved ones.
[Click here for the press release.](#)

WORSHIP CALENDAR:

Nov 29 - 1ST Sunday of Advent / Communion
Dec 6 - 2ND Sunday of Advent - Isaiah 40: 1-11
Dec 13 - 3RD Sunday of Advent - Isaiah 61: 1-4. 8-11
Dec 20 - 4TH Sunday of Advent - Isaiah 11: 1-10
Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Service
Dec 25 - No Worship Service
Dec 27 - Sunday Worship Service

Donations for the church can be dropped off at Don and Grace Fehr's home at **85 Martin Crescent**. Place your donation in the designated box and then ring the doorbell. PLEASE NOTE THE NEW ADDRESS, and don't leave your donation at Don and Grace's old house.

FROM the PASTOR: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

In the past several weeks and months I have heard a lot about self-care. I have seen many articles and posters calling people to care for themselves. While on the one hand this makes a lot of sense given that these are trying and stressful times that we are in, on the other hand it can look a bit selfish or self-absorbent. I want to place these actions in relation to our faith and calling as followers of Christ.

In Jesus' ministry whenever he encountered an individual that was in pain or hurting, he reached out to them, he often touched them, and he paid attention to all of the struggles they were dealing with. Lepers had a skin disease but they were also excluded from normal society. The blind could not see, nor could they earn their own living. And the bleeding woman was likely suffering from anemia as well as the stigma of continually being unclean. And when Jesus healed them, he restored the whole person, physically as well as socially and spiritually.

These days when we talk about self-care, we are not simply talking about a bubble bath or a day at the spa. We are talking about ways to restore our spirits, things that we need individually to stay healthy and connected. We are talking about deep connections with friends and loved ones, connections with ourselves and connections with God. And caring for ourselves make us better able to care for and support those around us.

Jr Youth

- **Dec 1, 7pm** – ZOOM movie night!

Sr Youth

- **Dec 4, 7pm** – Virtual guest speaker.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona 117 2ND Street NW Altona, MB R0G 0B1
Web Page Address: abchurchcommunity.ca Office: 324-6717 E-mail: office@abchurch.ca
Worship Services available online at: abchurch.libsyn.com Facebook: ABC community
Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990 cell 1-204-771-3406 marktd@abchurch.ca
Assoc Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 virginiagr@abchurch.ca
Assoc Pastor of Youth Min: Josh Janzen, 204-502-1991, cell 1-402-631-3481 joshj@abchurch.ca
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 amandaw@abchurch.ca

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Wednesday Night Worship** begins **Dec 2 at 7 pm**. We will gather every Wednesday on ZOOM during Advent to listen to scripture, Advent readings, pray, share about our lives and where we find hope right now. The Zoom link will be in the Friday bulletin email.
- **ABC is happy to** be joining together with *Prison Fellowship Ministries* and the **Angel Tree** program to purchase and deliver Christmas presents to children who have a parent in prison. This year, we have been given the names of 25 children to shop for. ABC's Junior and Senior Youth are excited to take the lead in purchasing and wrapping the presents! You can help by donating funds to purchase these gifts! You can drop your donations off at the church treasurer's house, 85 Martin Crescent. Donations are tax receiptable: if you donate by cheque, write it to Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church, and designate Angel Tree in the memo line; if you donate cash, please include your name and phone number. For more information contact Josh at joshj@abchurch.ca
- **Josh & Stephanie** Janzen have a new home phone # 204-502-1991.
- **The pastors** are working from home during critical code red. You are welcome to be in touch by phone or email. Susan will be in the office so you are also welcome to call the church. The facility will be closed to visitors during the critical code red period.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Dec 3, 3-7pm – Blood Donor Clinic** at Altona, Rhineland Pioneer Centre, Main Floor Hall 227 10th Ave NW. Please call 1-888-236-6238 for your appointment - NO WALK INS please.
- **The Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund** is accepting **referrals** for this season. If you, or anyone you know is in need of a Christmas Hamper, **call 204-324-7167** before noon Dec 4. The food will come in the form of vouchers, but there will be gifts for the children. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, no volunteers will be required this year, but thank-you to all who have helped wrap gifts and pack hampers in the past. Donations can be dropped off at Pembina Valley Pharmacy or Access Credit Unions, or they can be mailed to P.O. Box 2255, Altona, MB. Thank you!

Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba – manitoba@mccmb.ca

- **Give** the perfect Christmas gift this season. Finding it hard to choose between pigs and planting a garden? Give the gift that does it all. A gift of hope is used where it's needed most. Purchase your Christmas Giving gift at mccmb.ca/Christmas or call 204-261-6381.
- **Within** two weeks, two hurricanes have caused extensive flooding in Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Hurricanes Eta and Iota have destroyed crops and forced people from their homes. MCC is working with churches and community organizations to provide emergency food, hygiene supplies and cleanup support. Join us as we help. You can donate online at mcccanada.ca/eta-iota-relief or call 204-261-6381.

- **Missed** the Centennial Celebration last Saturday? The 75-minute program included storytelling, music and a time for reflection. View the recording at mccmb.ca/Centennial-Celebration.

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

Mennonite Church Manitoba – mennochurch.mb.ca 204-896-1616

Canadian Mennonite University – cmu.ca

- **Dec 2, 6pm - Wednesday Webinar, Study Science at CMU**, will address what you can expect from a science degree at CMU, including questions about pre-requisites, how science labs are running within a hybrid learning model, along with opportunities for research and fieldwork. Engage directly with Science Professors as you consider next steps for your university learning. Register at www.cmu.ca/webinar.
- **CommonWord Book and Resource Centre** continues to serve the broader church community, online, and with curbside pick-up. A rich array of **Christmas gift ideas** includes Advent and Christmas-themed books, Christmas cards, stocking stuffers, Sunday School gifts, and more. Gift cards are also available. Visit www.commonword.ca/go/2203
- **CMU** invites inquiries and applications for two positions: **Assistant Registrar** and **Food Services Cook** (both full-time). Applications will be reviewed upon receipt and accepted until the positions are filled. Inquiries and applications should be sent to hrdirector@cmu.ca.

Mennonite Disaster Service - ecomunications@mds.mennonite.net

- **The November** edition of *On the Level* is now available. [Click on this link https://conta.cc/3nF6fIG](https://conta.cc/3nF6fIG)
- **MDS** has suspended most of its fall projects due to rising cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. While planning continues for winter projects, we are monitoring the situation and will resume work when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, MDS has the following volunteer opportunities.