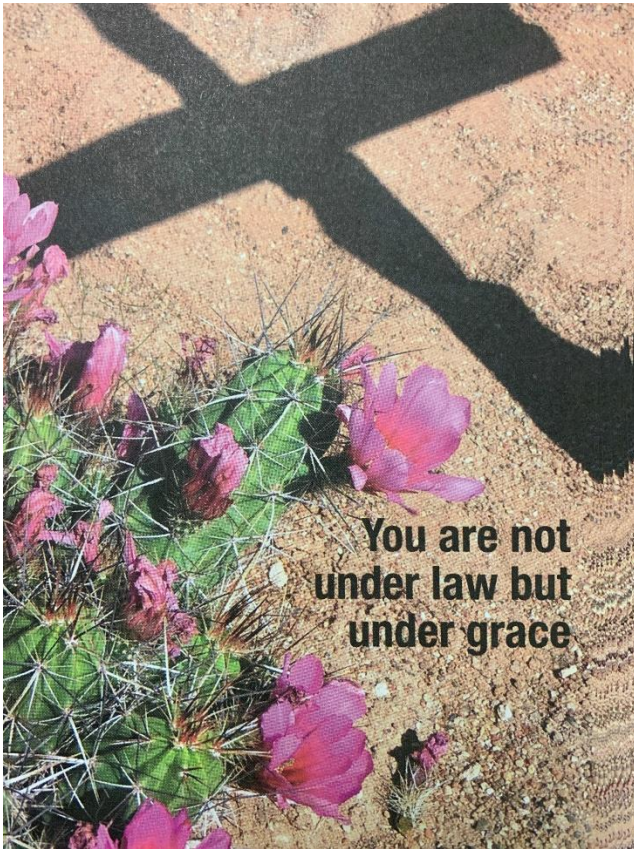


*Welcome to the  
Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
of Altona*



*Sunday, November 7, 2021*

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona*

*WORSHIP SERVICE*

*November 7, 2021 10:30 A.M.*

*"Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm;  
for love is as strong as death, its jealousy  
unyielding as the grave. It burns like a blazing fire, like a  
mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers  
cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his  
house for love, it would be utterly scorned."*

*~ Song of Songs 8: 6-7*

**GATHERING and PRAISE**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Music **Come, let us all unite to sing** HWB 12 vs 1&2

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music **Thou true Vine, that heals** HWB 373

**LISTENING**

Music **Love, Love, Love**

Children's Story

Prayer for the Offering, the Church and the World

Scripture **John 13:1-17, 34-35**

Sermon **"The contagiousness of love"**

**RESPONDING**

Anointing

Music **Take, O take me as I am** SJ 81

**Come and fill our hearts** SJ 59

**Love God, love each other**

**Here I am, Lord** HWB 395

**SENDING**

Benediction

Music **Heart with loving heart united** HWB 420

**Sermon:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leader:** Jolene Friesen-Stoesz

**Scripture:** Marilyn Martens **Music:** Marilyn Houser Hamm

**Children's Story:** Heidi Toews

## **PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Harold Sawatzky and Helen Schulz at Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **New address:** Alfred Klippenstein has moved to # 203, Gardens On Tenth.
- ~ **Our condolences to** Edgar & Marge Loeppky, family and extended family, at the passing away of Marge's brother, Bill Braun of Morden.
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** to Leona Braun, Erna Loeppky, family and extended family, at the passing away of their brother, Leonard Braun of Brandon.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**  
**Pray** - We thank God for the safe travels of Mennonite Church Canada Witness staff, Tany Warkentin, and other partners, to the Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission (AIMM) meetings in Burkina Faso and the Democratic Republic of Congo in late October. Please pray for the three national Mennonite churches in the DR Congo, one of which has just replaced their whole leadership team. May God guide these leaders to good collaboration in areas where all three churches share similar needs and concerns.

## **WORSHIP CALENDAR**

Our current sermon series is about love. We're taking a deep dive into what love is and why the "greatest of these is love". In addition to a sermon, each week we will share an exercise which we expect everyone to do as a way to help train our 'love muscles.'

Nov 14 ~ Peace Sunday. Speaker: Josh

Nov 21 ~ Memorial Sunday. Speaker: Virginia

Nov 28 ~ First Advent. Speaker: Mark

### **Sr Youth**

- **Nov 9 [Tues] 7-9pm** – Waitlisted Bible study, week 1

### **Jr Youth**

- **Nov 10 [Wed], 7-9pm** – Waitlisted Bible study, week 1

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

- **Girls Ventures 7-8:15pm** -
- **Boys Ventures 7-8:15pm** -

## **FROM the PASTOR** - Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

I have been thinking about prayer lately, specifically how we pray and what we pray for. The book that we are reading in our churches book study, "Everything Happens for a Reason," deals with different theological approaches and views of prayer. And though in some ways we might be tempted to label one approach to prayer as "*right*" and the other as "*wrong*", I do not think that prayer can ever be so easily categorized.

So, I sought out more information and input into a biblical understanding of prayer. In a podcast entitled "Ask N.T. Wright Anything", biblical scholar N.T. Wright answers questions about prayer. One of the questions was about how boldly could we pray. Do we pray for complete healing for someone? Or simply someone to experience peace in their struggles? And how do we react when our prayers do not seem to be answered the way that we wanted or expected them to be?

N.T. Wright seemed to say that when we pray, we should err on the side of more rather than less. He said that we should ask for our full desires and not hold anything back. I wonder is this your approach to prayer? If not, why not? Why is it so hard sometimes to pray for the miracle that we so desperately desire? I find myself tending to pray for "safer things" instead of a big miracle, things that I think are easier to answer. Which makes me wonder also, why is it so hard to pray for the miracles that we so desperately desire?

### **Love Exercise #5**

Find reasons to laugh. Celebrate. Notice love. Be creative. Do something just for the fun of it. And thank God for it all.

**Our worship service** will be live-streamed Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. and is available on the church website at [[abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca)]. If using a handheld device [phone or 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.

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 [virginiagr@abchurch.ca](mailto:virginiagr@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**

- **Nov 28** - Save the date: **ABC Fall Semi-Annual meeting.**
- **This year** marks the three-year point of Pastor Mark's ministry here at ABC. According to the constitution we have formed a Review Committee that consists of: Melvin Klassen, Rose Tryon, Tara Funke Friesen and Angela Loepky. The review process for Pastor Mark includes a review survey as well as a vote for this first term. Only the Review Committee will see the completed survey; however, the congregation and Pastor Mark will be given a synopsis of all the completed reviews. **The results of the survey and the vote will happen after the worship service on Sunday, Nov 28.** The surveys are available in the foyer today until Sunday, Nov 14, and during the week will be made available in the office. They will also be attached to your Friday bulletin email for you to print out at home and handed into the church. Completed surveys can be dropped off in the foyer Sunday mornings or in the drop off box by Susan's office during the week. **The deadline for the surveys to be completed and handed in is Sunday Nov. 14.** If you need assistance with a survey being brought to you or picked up, please contact Angela Loepky. Any questions can be directed to the Committee members.
- **The pastors will be taking some vacation time in November:** Mark will be on holidays Nov 8-15; Virginia Nov 8-15; Josh Nov 19-26. During the week of Nov 8-15, if you need to be in touch with a pastor, please reach out to Josh (either Mark or Virginia will be available to assist in the event of a funeral or crisis situation if required).
- **Rick Neufeld** will be retiring in March 2022 from his role as Director of Leadership Ministries for Mennonite Church Manitoba. Rick has been a pastor in MCM for 34 years, including 12 years at ABC. We are grateful for Rick's service to the church and wish him God's blessings as he transitions into retirement.
- **We request that people wear masks throughout the worship service. Thank you for doing your part to ensure we follow public health guidelines**

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

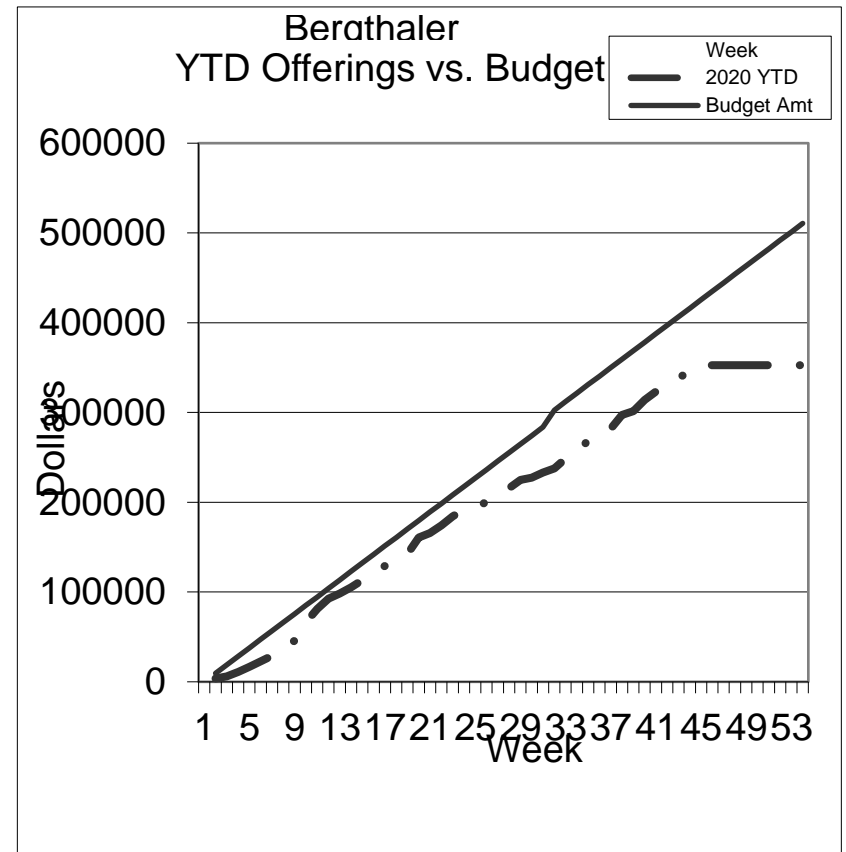
- **Nov 14, 7pm - Break the Bank-uet 2.** Camps with Meaning Online Fundraising Event. Join camp staff for music, updates, a celebration of Summer 2021 ministry, and breaking the bank. Visit [www.campswithmeaning.org/banquet](http://www.campswithmeaning.org/banquet)
- **Nov 9, 12noon** - Inter-Mennonite Chaplaincy Association AGM. Contact Scott Kroeker ([imca.chair@gmail.com](mailto:imca.chair@gmail.com)) for the ZOOM link.
- **Nov 18, 7pm - Resilience and hope** in Latin America. Join MCC area directors Cesar Flores and Lizette Miranda for a webinar. They will share an update on creative relief responses to the August earthquake in Haiti,

as well as stories of hope, resilience and faith in local communities. For more information click [here](#) or visit [mccmb.ca/mcc-webinar-series](http://mccmb.ca/mcc-webinar-series).

**Nov 27, 9-4** - Christmas Craft and Quilt Sale for MCC at Bethel Mennonite Church, 465 Stafford St, Winnipeg.

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

- **Nov 10, 7pm** - Peacebuilding & Collaborative Development Webinar. For peacebuilding and development practitioners looking to strengthen their knowledge, and skills, CMU offers a flexible MA-PCD program. For more information and to register go to [cmu.ca/gradstudies](http://cmu.ca/gradstudies).
- **Nov 12, 7:30pm** - Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery invites you to its annual Fundraising Gala with live music, verdant artworks, and a tribute to Ray Dirks. Visit [cmu.ca/gallery](http://cmu.ca/gallery) to register to attend in person or view the live stream.



We are currently at 83% of our giving budget; a shortfall of \$72,000. However, due to expenses being under budget, and no more unforeseen expenses, and donations continuing at the current level, I predict a small surplus at year-end. Please continue to give generously in these difficult times. Your Treasurer, Don Fehr