

*Welcome to the  
Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
of Altona*



*Sunday, November 8, 2020*

*Worship Service 10:30 a.m.*

**BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH OF ALTONA**

**November 8, 2020**

**WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:30 am**

**Sermon:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

**Worship Leader:** Craig Neufeld

**Music:** The Worship Team

**Children's Story:** Andrew & Stephanie Rempel

**Scripture Reader:** Ben Rempel, Abby Rempel

*“I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who harass you so that you will be acting as children of your Father who is in heaven.”*

*~ Matthew 5: 44-45a*

**GATHERING AND PRAISE**

Prelude            My Lighthouse

Welcome and Announcements

Music                **Here I am to worship**

Call to Worship and Prayer

**LISTENING**

Moment in Mission Video / The Lord's Prayer

Music                **Blessed be your name**

Children's Story

Scripture            **Matthew 25: 1-13**

Sermon                **“The Act of Preparation”**

**RESPONDING**

Music                **Faithful one**

Prayer for the Offering, the Church and the World

**SENDING**

Benediction

Music                **Not be shaken**

## **PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Elizabeth Doell, Waldo Schulz and Anne Kehler at Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **A big Thank-you** to all for your part in the Soup Fundraiser - those who donated products, the volunteers, and those who picked up. Your generosity is amazing. Net proceeds were \$6816.18.
- ~ **This Sunday in our "Moment in Mission"** we hear from Habitat for Humanity <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YB6VjPYZdZg> .
- ~ **Pastor Mark** is taking the weekend off. He will return to the office on Tuesday, November 10.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada: AIMM annual meetings in November**  
Pray for the online Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission annual meetings in early November. Pray for a Spirit of unity and understanding as people come together from five countries to discern and plan for this next year. Pray that the online nature of the meetings this year won't stand in the way of strengthening relationships. Pray for wisdom as AIMM chooses a new executive director.

- **Access to the livestreaming** on Sunday mornings will be available from the Altona Bergthaler Church website [[abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca)]. The live stream will begin at 10:30am.
- **Children's Bulletins** are available in the foyer for ages 3 plus, and 7 plus. The children's story video will be posted to the Church website.

### **Jr Youth**

- **Nov 10, 7pm** – Game Night – on ZOOM!

### **Sr Youth**

- **Nov 13, 7pm** – Movie Night - on ZOOM!

### **Ventures - Wednesdays 7:8:15pm.**

- **Girls:** Canceled till further notice

### **Code Orange updates for ABC:**

Sunday School and Ventures are on Pause  
Coffee Time and Book Study are on Pause  
Youth is switching to online  
Meetings are switching to online  
Masks are required inside the building  
Masks are to remain on throughout the entire worship service

### **From the Pastor:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Last Sunday we began using a different Bible translation in our worship services: The Common English Bible (CEB). For the next while, this is the translation that we will hear in worship. This is not meant to be a permanent change, and so we welcome your feedback. (The CEB is not to be confused with translations that prioritize contemporary language such as the NLT, GNB, CEV, The Message etc...).

Similar to the NIV and NRSV, the translations most commonly used at ABC in the last while, the CEB is based upon the best manuscripts and versions of the original Greek and Hebrew text. The translators of the CEB have sought to "balance rigorous accuracy in the rendition of ancient texts with an equally passionate commitment to clarity of expression" (from the preface). The translators endeavored to produce a translation that was accessible to the vast majority of English speakers and at a grade 7 reading level. A large group of world-renowned biblical scholars translated the text, reading groups gave feedback, and readability editors weighed in, with the result that in 2011 the CEB was completed. Those involved represented a wide variety of Christian traditions and cultures.

I love reading the CEB. In my view, the CEB is an improvement upon the sometimes formality and rigidity of the NRSV. It also guards against reading theology into the text, which separates it from the NIV in some instances. It is also delightful and surprising to read a new translation. For example, the name of God, "Lord of Hosts," is rendered, "Lord of Heavenly Forces." Did you ever think about what a host is? (it originally meant something like "angel army"). The CEB translation is more accurate because the word 'host' is obsolete and thus the CEB's translation better captures the original meaning of the text for English speakers today. Now, when I read "Lord of Heavenly Forces", I imagine all the angels of heaven praising God and ministering to creation.

I trust that God will continue to speak to us through the scriptures.

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Worship Services available online at: [abchurch.libsyn.com](http://abchurch.libsyn.com) Facebook: ABC community  
Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990/cell 1-204-771-3406 [marktd@abchurch.ca](mailto:marktd@abchurch.ca)  
Asst Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 [viriniagr@abchurch.ca](mailto:viriniagr@abchurch.ca)  
Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry: Josh Janzen, 324-6717, 1-402-631-3481 [joshi@abchurch.ca](mailto:joshi@abchurch.ca)  
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 [amandaw@abchurch.ca](mailto:amandaw@abchurch.ca)

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Due to** the code orange COVID restrictions we need to **cancel** Ida Mittelstet's farewell. However, we would like to acknowledge our appreciation. If you would like to send a well wish to Ida please email your message to either Angela Loepky at [loepkyangela@gmail.com](mailto:loepkyangela@gmail.com) or to Susan at the church [office@abchurch.ca](mailto:office@abchurch.ca) by Monday, November 9.
- **Nov 11 - The church office** will be closed on Remembrance Day.
- **Nov 23, 7pm – ABC Fall Meeting.**

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mennonite Church Canada** – [office@mennochurch.ca](mailto:office@mennochurch.ca) 888-6781

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

- Inter-Mennonite Chaplaincy Association offers a unique privilege for congregations and individuals to journey alongside U of M students and offer hope and encouragement in a Christian context. Join our AGM online Nov 10, 12pm. For a ZOOM link contact Scott Kroeker [imca.chair@gmail.com](mailto:imca.chair@gmail.com) . Also visit [mennooffice.ca](http://mennooffice.ca) for links to our new video, the E-Menno Office on Discord, and ways to support this ministry.

**Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba** – [manitoba@mccmb.ca](mailto:manitoba@mccmb.ca)

- Order a Remembrance Day MCC peace pin by calling 204-261-6381 or email [EmilyAnnDoerksen@mccmb.ca](mailto:EmilyAnnDoerksen@mccmb.ca). Visit [mccmb.ca/Peace-Buttons](http://mccmb.ca/Peace-Buttons).
- **Nov 21, 7pm** - Join us for a virtual MCC Centennial Celebration, featuring storytelling, music, & prayer. Visit [mccmb.ca/Events](http://mccmb.ca/Events) to register.
- **Christmas** Giving guides, gift inserts and greeting cards are available by pre-order only. Request copies to be mailed to you or arrange a safe pick-up - 204-261-6381 or [manitoba@mccmb.ca](mailto:manitoba@mccmb.ca).

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

- **CommonWord remains open** to the public during Code Red / call us (204-594-0527) to enter the store from 9am– 5pm, Mon-Fri.
- **Nov 12, 7pm** - Join us for a Zoom conversation with Ray Friesen on the launch of his book *Wandering the Wilderness*. Former pastor and lifelong "believing skeptic," Ray will reflect on his own wilderness experiences and Brené Brown's Wholehearted living research, while offering an ancient Biblical pathway for our own pilgrimage. Register at [www.commonword.ca/go/2159](http://www.commonword.ca/go/2159).
- **Face2Face | From Violence to Peace: Stories can change the world** – draws upon a CMU Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies class, 'Cultures of Violence, Cultures of Peace'. This class of 27 includes 11 students from the Philippines. The weekly learning, relationships, and stories shared by these students and peace practitioners have been transformative. **Nov 18, 8:00–9:30 PM (CST) Online**, somewhat later than normal in order to accommodate participants in the Philippines. Visit [www.cmu.ca/face2face](http://www.cmu.ca/face2face) to participate.

**Mennonite Disaster Service**

- MDS is now accepting volunteers for fall/winter projects.