

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



Sunday, October 10, 2021

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

WORSHIP SERVICE

October 10, 2021 10:30 A.M.

*“Everything should be done in love.” ~ 1 Cor 16: 14
“We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes
people arrogant, but love builds people up.” ~ 1 Cor 8: 16*

GATHERING and PRAISE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Music **I stand amazed in the presence**

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music **Blessed be your name
How great Thou art**

LISTENING

Children’s Story

Scripture **1 Corinthians 13**

Sermon **“Discovering love by clarifying what it is not”**

RESPONDING

Music **How great is our God**

Prayer for the Offering, the Church and the World

SENDING

Benediction

Music **Today**

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leader:** Craig Neufeld
Children’s Story: Kristin Falk **Scripture:** Byron Loeppky
Music: The Worship Team

Our worship service will be live-streamed Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. and continue to be available on the church website at [\[abchurchcommunity.ca\]](http://abchurchcommunity.ca)

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Nora Hildebrant, Harold Sawatzky and Helen Schulz at Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **Let's join in celebration** for God's gift of love and marriage. Congratulations to these couples who are celebrating 50 years of marriage: - Edna & Rudy Martens; - Don & Grace Fehr
- ~ **Condolences** to Marge Schellenberg, family, and the extended family, at the passing away of brother in-law Menno Isaac of Brandon.
- ~ **Pastor** Josh is taking this weekend off. He will be back in the office on Tuesday.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**
Pray - Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission co-executive directors in Congo and Canada, John Fumana and Bruce Yoder, ask us to pray for the successful registration of the Congo office. Pray for the AIMM meetings in Burkina Faso and Congo in October. Tany Warkentin, liaison to ministry in Africa for Mennonite Church Canada, will attend these meetings on behalf of our nationwide church.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Our current sermon series is about love. We'll be 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.'

Oct 17 ~ Learning to trust. Speaker: Mark

Oct 24 ~ Love series takes a break to welcome George and Tobia Veith

Oct 31 ~ Being vulnerable and transparent. Speaker: Virginia

Nov 7 ~ From boredom to laughter. Speaker: Mark

LOVE EXERCISE #2

Give someone a gift. This gift should be spontaneous but not random; something that is not expected or routine, but also something that is an expression of your love and appreciation for the person. The gift could be a physical object, a song, a blessing, a favour, reaching out to someone to express your gratitude.

If you need help thinking of a gift to give someone, spend some time meditating on God's love. Be filled with God's love and reflect on what you love about yourself. Spending time loving yourself will prepare you to share your love, and a gift, with someone else.

FROM the PASTOR ~ Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

What is worship? What role does music play in worship? What role does the leader play, or the participants? How does music add to a worshipful experience? And why do we worship the way we do?

These are common questions when thinking about worship, but they have come up in a new way for me recently as we have switched between pre-recorded and in-person worship services and back a few times over the past year. We have changed a few things in the way that we structure our worship services to make them fit into the online format and some of those changes have stuck. We have also encountered new challenges that require more creativity and collaboration. And one of those challenges is finding people to lead music in-person every Sunday.

As a result, I have been pushed to ask what role music plays in our worship? Is it important for the congregation to sing along, or be able to sing along? How significant is it that those leading music are live, in-person? Or how good or polished does the music need to be? What role does all this have in how we worship God?

I invite you to also reflect on these questions for yourself and for our congregation. And would welcome any of your thoughts. We will hopefully be trying some new things over the coming weeks and months in how we include music in worship. Please be gracious and patient as we navigate these waters together.

Today's sermon will explore four common misunderstandings of love and how we need to rethink our understanding of love in order to express a more Biblical and Godly love.

Misconception: Love is a feeling.

Corrective: **Love is an orientation, a posture, an activity, an art.**

Misconception: Love depends on the thing or person being loved.

Corrective: **Love depends on our commitment, faith, and character. Love requires practice, exercise, intention, and concentration.**

Misconception: It is selfish to love yourself. Loving yourself is sinful.

Corrective: **Loving yourself enables you to love others. Self-love is the opposite of selfishness.**

Misconception: When there is love there is no conflict. The absence of conflict is a sign of love. Love avoids unpleasantness.

Corrective: **Love seeks truth. Love addresses conflict in ways that honour one another.**

Jr & Sr Youth

- **Oct 13 [Wed], 7-9pm – Fall Food Drive.**

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Calling all singers** of all ages! On **Sunday, Oct 24**, we are going to have an impromptu choir in our worship service. All you have to do is show up that morning at 9:15am to sing through the songs a few times, then the choir will sing with the congregation. Contact Laurie Enns if you have any questions.
- **As we express our gratitude to God**, let's celebrate Thanksgiving by sharing food with our community, by bringing a food item or monetary donation for the Rhineland Area Food Bank. A bin will be placed in the church foyer for Oct 10.
- **Oct 13 - Youth Food Drive** - In the past, there has regularly been a Fall Food Drive right around Thanksgiving. This would involve youth going door-to-door asking for donations. This year, because of COVID and Public health measures, we are going to do something a bit different; **we are asking you to leave your food bank donations on your front door step**, as four Altona area Youth Groups work together to canvas the entire town. The Food Drive will take place Wednesday, October 13, and youth will be out from 7-9pm.
- **Free wooden chairs** – 33 metal framed/wooden stacking chairs available for free. Check with Cheryl or Jolene.
- **Note: Check the Lost & Found Box** for items that may belong to you. Unclaimed items will be taken to MCC.
- **We request** that people wear masks for entering, exiting, moving about the church building, and singing. Thanks for doing your part to ensure that our worship services are safer and consistent with public health guidelines.
- **Tuesday morning Coffee Time**, 10am, indoors. Coffee provided.
- **Reminder:** Live-stream will continue and be available Sundays at 10:30am at <http://www.abchurchcommunity.ca>. If you are 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.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Oct 14, 7pm - The Gardens on Tenth Annual General Meeting.** We will email you a zoom link [on Mon, Oct 11] for the meeting and you can choose to join remotely if you do not want to attend in person. As per Public Health orders masks are mandatory at the Gardens on Tenth and for the duration of the meeting. Your Board representative [Albert Falk, Ben Dueck] will be looking for delegates to represent your church, talk to them if you are interested.

Mennonite Church Canada – office@mennonitechurchcanada.ca

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

- **Oct 30, 9am** - Camp Koinonia **Annual Woodcutters Retreat.** Lunch will be provided. More info: call or text Matthew Heide 204-534-8268.

Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba – manitoba@mccmb.ca

- **Oct 16, 8pm** - Enjoy Singin' in the Grain from the comfort of your home! This virtual concert will premiere on World Food Day, raising funds for MCC food projects in Haiti, supported through Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Join at foodgrainsbank.ca/singing and enjoy the musical talents of Kim Thiessen, Darryl Neustaedter Barg and more.
- **Pack a Bucket of Thanks** with MCC this fall. Fill a bucket with essential relief supplies and help support vulnerable families impacted by emergency and disaster. Learn more at mccmb.ca/buckets-thanks.
- **Experience community** while discovering beauty and brokenness in MCC's new 6-month discipleship program! Seek is a program for 18–20-year-olds to live and study in Bethlehem, along with local Christian young adults. Deepen your faith in Jesus thru community discipleship and service with local MCC partners. Questions? Contact Simone Thiessen at simonethiessen@mccmb.ca or 204-261-6381. Apply by Oct 31 and find out more here or at mccmb.ca/seek. Mennonite Disaster Service - mdscanada@mds.org

Canadian Mennonite University – cmu.ca

- **Oct 26-27 - J.J.Thiessen Lectures.** Dr. Edith M. Humphrey, prof at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will provide three lectures, by ZOOM, in a series on "Mediation and the Immediate God". Visit cmu.ca/jjt.
- **Oct 20, 7pm** - Book Launch with Laura Funk (People and Places of Sacred Interior Spaces) at Marpeck Commons. Join Laura as she introduces her book of guided meditations and midrashic monologues. Laura is Mennonite Church Manitoba's spiritual director-in-residence. Visit commonword.ca/go/2503 for registration or live-stream details
- **Oct 22** - Campus Visit Day. This ½ day is intended for prospective high school or transfer students and their parents. Tour the campus, drop-in on a class, talk to current students, learn about financial aid, and enjoy treats from folio café! Visit cmu.ca/campusvisit to register a slot.
- **Gratitude!** This Thanksgiving Sunday CMU expresses deep gratitude to welcome students and staff back to campus and community! We are so grateful for safety, learning, and growth during the first six weeks of classes. We are thankful for the church community that undergirds the mission of CMU to 'inspire and equip women and men for lives of service, leadership, and reconciliation in church and society'.

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