

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



Sunday, October 31, 2021

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

WORSHIP SERVICE

October 31, 2021 10:30 A.M.

*“My friends at Corinth, our hearts are wide open to you
and we speak freely, holding nothing back from you.”
2 Corinthians 6:11*

GATHERING and PRAISE

Welcome and Announcements

Music **I sing the mighty power of God** HWB 46

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music **Praise the Lord Sing Hallelujah** HWB 50

LISTENING

Education Blessing and Appreciation

Music **If you believe and I believe** STJ 32

Children's Story

Scripture **Luke 15:11-32**

Sermon **"The Joy of Vulnerability"**

RESPONDING

Music **The Love of God** STJ 44

Sharing Time

Prayer for the Offering, the Church and the World

SENDING

Benediction

Music **Heart with Loving Heart** HWB 420

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert **Worship Leader:** Melissa Tiessen-Dyck

Scripture: Jennifer Klassen **Pianist:** Tena Giesbrecht

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.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Harold Sawatzky and Helen Schulz at Altona Health Centre. Helen [Ed] Voth at BTHC.
- ~ **Our condolences** to Wes & Sandy Bergen, family and extended family, at the passing of father Jacob H Bergen of Altona.
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** to Anne Friesen, Sheila Friesen, and Con & Lorraine Hamm, family and extended family, at the passing away of son Garry Friesen, of Silberfeld.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**
Pray - Witness worker Sook Kyoung Park has been experiencing some health issues lately. Pray for her and Bock Ki as they work with doctors in Chuncheon, South Korea, to find causes and treatments.

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 7 ~ From boredom to laughter. Anointing Sunday.
Speaker: Mark. Guest musician: Marilyn Houser Hamm
- Nov 14 ~ Peace Sunday. Speaker: Josh
- Nov 21 ~ Memorial Sunday. Speaker: Virginia
- Nov 28 ~ First Advent. Speaker: Mark

Love exercise #4

This week ask someone to pray for you, and be specific in how they can pray for you. It could be a friend or a family member, or someone from the church. If you are looking for someone, feel free to share with one of the pastors.

Sr Youth

- **Nov 2 [Tues] 7-9pm** – Pizza and games night

Jr Youth

- **Nov 3 [Wed], 7-9pm** – Talent show

Ventures: [Wednesdays]

- **Girls Ventures 7-8:15pm** - Lego Masters building challenge
- **Boys Ventures 7-8:15pm** – TBD

FROM the PASTOR - Mark Tiessen-Dyck

The practice of anointing has deep Biblical roots. In the Old Testament, prophets anointed kings as a sign of God's appointment to their role (1 Samuel 16:13). More broadly, anointing signified God's commission; "the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor" (Isaiah 61:1, Jesus also quotes these words in Luke 4:18-19). Jesus' disciples anoint and heal many sick people (Mark 6:13). James instructs the church to pray over people who are ill and anoint them with oil (James 5:14). In Psalm 23, anointing is a sign of God's abundance, goodness and love, "You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows".

Next Sunday, November 7, we will bring this ancient practice to our worship service as we conclude our series on love. Everyone is invited to receive anointing. You may come individually, as a couple, or as a whole family. To receive anointing, you will come forward to one of the pastors and we will invite you to speak to us what you are also speaking to the Lord. If there is a particular reason you are seeking anointing, we encourage you to share that but you can also request prayer and blessing for life generally. What you share with us, whether it is lots or a little, we will hold in confidence. Then we will pray for you, and depending on what you are comfortable with, place oil on your forehead or the back of your hand, or offer you a 'no-touch' anointing.

Some reasons you may seek anointing:

- You have an illness or burden and desire healing. You are struggling with a difficult situation.
- You are in the midst of transition, or are facing a difficult decision.
- You have a new role or opportunity.
- You are seeking direction from the Lord.
- Being prayed for and blessed will be encouraging for you. Even if you don't have a specific reason for being anointed. You can still come forward and we will anoint you, pray for you, and bless you.
- You desire to live more deeply in love.

My hope is that our time of anointing will be a sacrament, an opportunity to deepen our devotion to God, and a celebration that God is love.

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Worship Services available online at: abchurchcommunity.ca 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

- **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 Loeppky. 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 Loeppky. Any questions about this process can be directed to any of the committee members.
- **The pastors** will be taking some vacation time in November:
 - Mark will be on holidays November 8-15
 - Virginia will be on holidays November 8-15
 - Josh will be on holidays November 19-26During the week of November 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).
- **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.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mennonite Church Canada – office@mennonitechurchcanada.ca

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

- **Nov 3, 7pm** - Eating in an age of climate emergency. Join Germinating Conversations for an online dialogue and listen in to panelists tackle the question "What's for dinner?" in light of a changing climate. For more information and to register, visit germinating.eventbrite.ca

Canadian Mennonite University – cmu.ca

- **Interested in CMU?** Campus Visit Day is Nov 5; Virtual Open House on Nov 24. Visit cmu.ca/experience for more info/sign up. Apply for fall 2022 by Nov 30 and your application fee is waived!

Today we give thanks for the people who are such a vital part of our children's and youth ministries.

We pray for and encourage our Sunday school teachers who share important lessons with our kids each week:

Amanda Wiens
Lorraine Hamm
Heidi Toews
Jennifer Klassen

Sharon Friesen
Stephanie Rempel
Byron Loeppky

We are thankful for our Ventures leaders who use their energy to connect with the students of this church and this community:

Jolene Friesen-Stoesz
Amanda Wiens
Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Heidi Toews
Joe Wiens
Mark Penner

We are grateful to have a youth pastor and a group of parent volunteers who are ready to guide and nurture the faith of Altona's youth:

Josh Janzen
Steve Reimer

Emilee Hamm
numerous parent volunteers

May we continually pray for, encourage and support these people this coming year.

