

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona  
Worship Service  
October 9 2022, 10:30 am*

*"We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers."*

*~ 1 Thessalonians 2:13*

**GATHERING AND PRAISE**

Welcome and announcements

Music                   **We worship God the rock** SJ 28

Call to worship and prayer

Music                   **How firm a foundation** VT 592

**LISTENING**

Offering and prayer

Children's story

Scripture reading      Joshua 6:1-5, 15-21, 24-27

Sermon                  **Looking to Jesus**

**RESPONDING**

Music                   **The word of God is solid ground** HWB 314

ABC Conversation with Dawson Wiens, Jacob Friesen-Stoesz and Gavin Wahl

Prayer for the church and the world

**SENDING**

Benediction

Music

**Sermon:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

**Worship Leader:** Mary Anne Loeppky

**Children's story:** Kristin Falk

**Music:** Laurie Enns, Andrew Richert and Liam Martin

**PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

**Hospitalized:** Katie Krahm, Ben Dyck and Mary Sawatsky at the Altona Health Centre.

**Albert Schmidt** of our church family passed away on Sept. 28. We are invited to join in gratitude for his life and pray for his wife Marie and extended family. A private family funeral is planned.

**Susan Toews** of our church family passed away on Oct. 1. Our love and sympathy is extended to Susan's family. The funeral was held at ABC on Oct. 4.

**Our love and sympathy** are extended to Helen Schulz at the passing of her sister, Erna Enns who passed away on Oct. 6

**International Witness:** Believers in China will take a training course this weekend about following Jesus in the Anabaptist tradition. Pray for them as Christians face increasing political pressures and discrimination in the country, for wisdom in how to gather and for joy in being together.

**We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**

Agatha Kehler	Oct. 9	Grace Klippenstein	Oct. 13
Audrey Kehler	Oct. 10	Atlas Friesen	Oct. 14
Mark Tiessen-Dyck	Oct. 10	Natalie Toews	Oct. 15
Melvin Klassen	Oct. 12		

**Congratulations** on a momentous anniversary to Jenn and Clint Klassen who will be married 20 years on Oct. 12.

**"A THIRD WAY" SERMON SERIES**

**September 18:** Exploring fundamentalism: its origins, development and problems. Speaker: Mark

**September 25:** Exploring secularism: its origins, development and problems. Speaker: Mark

**October 2:** A Third Way of understanding traditions and rituals. Speaker: Virginia

**October 9:** A Third Way of reading the Bible: Speaker: Virginia

**October 16:** A Third Way eschatology (last things): heaven, hell, and the end of the world. Speaker: Mark

**October 23:** A Third Way of understanding salvation: Atonement, the death of Jesus, and eternal life. Speaker: Mark

**October 30:** A Third Way politics. Speaker: Mark

- **ABC Youth:** Tuesday Oct 11, 7pm, youth room. Senior Youth hangout with Mark TD. Invite friends. Come to play and talk.

## **FROM THE PASTOR:** Mark Tiessen Dyck

I have been asked a number of times, "Why this sermon series?" I have tried to answer this in my sermons but will try again here.

I believe there is something beautiful, profound, and truthful about Jesus and living life in him and being community in him. Fundamentalist versions of Christianity distort this and secularism blocks our view of it. The fundamentalist impulse is strong in our area and often those of fundamentalist persuasions present their claims as the core undisputable truths of the Christian faith, even when they are disputable, harmful, or not biblical. People frustrated by fundamentalism, due to the lack of alternative visions and language for a more faithful understanding of what it means to follow Christ, often embrace a secularized faith or worldview. Similarly, people who choose not to engage thoughtfully with the changes in the world or who are unsatisfied with a secular outlook embrace fundamentalism because it appears to be the only way to a biblical faith and life. The assumptions and ideas that create this framework of limited and unsatisfying choices must be challenged.

There is a third way. My hope for our church is that we will be a community that offers a refuge and a challenge to those who are searching for hope, love, and God. I hope that we will walk with Christ in a way that is true, urgent, and hopeful while avoiding the errors of fundamentalism. Pastors are often encouraged to ask, "What does your church offer your community?" I believe we can be for Altona a community that boldly claims a vibrant faith in Christ, while demonstrating that the harms caused by fundamentalism are not our best option.

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Ventures Club** begins Wednesday Oct. 12 from 7-8 pm. Registration will be in person at the church. This will be a boy and girl combined program. Included in your child's registration is a sign-up sheet for parent volunteers. Each family is asked to help with 2 events and 1 snack as a part of their child's registration. Questions can be emailed to [ventures@abchurch.ca](mailto:ventures@abchurch.ca).

**Join the pastors** for a sermon response discussion! Throughout the "Third Way" sermon series there will be an opportunity to engage the sermon by asking questions, discussing implications, and diving deeper. This will be like an adult Sunday school class except not on Sunday. Discussions will be Tuesdays over the lunch hour beginning at 12 noon, with discussion beginning at 12:10. During this time period Tuesday morning coffee will not be happening. Bring a bag lunch to the church library and join the conversation.

**My Coins count children's offering** will take place immediately before the children's time. The children will come around to collect coins with proceeds going to MCC's Buckets of Thanks project. This raises money for buckets of essential hygiene items that will be sent to Ukraine and other countries in need at this time. \$60 covers the cost of one bucket. Together a little goes a long way.

**Have you missed attending the ABC annual "Soup and Pie"** hosted at our church?! The Home and World Ministries Commission is planning to return to serving the Fall Soup & Pie Fundraising supper on Thursday, November 10th. We need your help to make this happen! We encourage you to sign up for ways that you can support this fundraiser. A signup sheet will be available after the service this Sunday and next Sunday. The signup sheet will also be in the office during the week.

**The World Home Ministries Commission** is working on updating the funeral serving groups lists. If you are interested in having your name added, please contact the church office.

**The Daily Bread** devotionals have arrived and are in the mailboxes.

**ABC is accepting tenders** for walkway, sidewalk, entryway/steps and emergency exit snow removal for the winter season. This involves shoveling and snow blowing. If interested please contact Cheryl.

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**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, (C) 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)

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Mennonite Church Manitoba:** Camps with Meaning Celebration Fundraising Banquets. Winkler banquet Oct. 22 @ 5:30 – Emmanuel Mennonite Church. See poster in the lobby for more details.

**Altona MCC thrift store** is seeking application for store manager. See poster in the lobby.

**Mennonite Church Canada:** We call our family of faith to pray for the people on Canada's east coast in the wake of tropical storm Fiona, one of the strongest ever to hit Canada. Read the call to prayer:

<https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/news/14328-mc-canada-joins-mcecs-call-to-prayer-for-people-of-the-east-coast>

**The impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine** on international grain and food supply, Food and Hunger relief programs by Mennonite Central Committee and Canadian Foodgrains Bank: presentations and discussion by Laura Rance and staff from MCC and CFGB. 1:30 Saturday, October 22, in Neubergthal Commons Barn, 5013 Road 1 West (north in Neubergthal). Admission \$20.00. Opportunity for donations. Refreshments included. For more information call/text 204 324 4115

**After two years of virtual concerts,** Singin' in the Grain is delighted to invite you to a live choral concert in support of the Canadian FoodGrains Bank (CFGB). Featured choirs are the CMU Singers from the Canadian Mennonite University and the Faith and Life Women's Chorus. The Winnipeg concert will be held at Douglas Mennonite Church at 7:00 P.M. on October 29, 2022, and the rural concert will be held at Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Winkler at 3:00 P.M. on October 30, 2022.

**Recovery of hope:** Raising kids can be one of the most rewarding experiences. But let's face it, it brings many challenges as well. If you'd like to add some tools to your parenting toolbox, book a babysitter and join Recovery of Hope for our fall workshop series, "Teaming up with our children: Collaborative and proactive tools for parenting in the real world." We'll be in Winkler on October 13 at 7:00 pm and in Winnipeg on October 20 at 7:00 pm. For more information or to register, email [info@recoveryofhope.ca](mailto:info@recoveryofhope.ca) or call 204.477.4673. Registration is \$20.

**Gardens on Tenth:** We're looking for groups in general (max of 15 people) to come sing to our tenants at the Garden's on 10th, in the apartments! Please contact Deandra @ [le@gardensontenth.ca](mailto:le@gardensontenth.ca) if this is something that your group would be interested in, and we can schedule a time into our calendar! Everyone will be required to wear a mask as per public health regulations in health care facilities, and if there are any cold/flu like symptoms we ask that you don't attend.

**Gardens on Tenth** is hosting a Wednesday night bible study starting Oct. 10 at 7 pm in the multi-purpose room.

