

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



Photo credit: Susan M Dueck

Sunday, September 19, 2021

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

WORSHIP SERVICE

September 19, 2021 10:30 A.M.

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.”

~ Micah 6: 8

GATHERING and PRAISE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Music **Come, we that love the Lord** HWB 14

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music **A wonderful Saviour is Jesus** HWB 598

LISTENING

Children’s Story

Scripture **Psalm 63: 1-4; Micah 6: 6-8**

Sermon **“Seeking and Heeding the Unexpected”**

RESPONDING

Music **God, fill me now** STS 63

Prayer for the Offering, the Church & the World

SENDING

Music **Go, my children** HWB 433

Benediction

Sermon: Josh Janzen **Worship Leader:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert
Children’s Story: Camps with Meaning **Scripture:** Jolene Friesen-Stoesz
Music: Flying Free

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]

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Harold Sawatzky and Helen Schulz at Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **Congratulations** to Kevin Rempel, son of Ed & Carol Rempel, and Karley Anderson, of Winnipeg, who were married on September 18th. We wish them God's blessing for their marriage.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**
Pray - Peace centre in Chuncheon has more reconciliation facilitators Celebrate with Bock Ki Kim, Witness worker in South Korea, who recently helped the Chuncheon Peace Center train nine facilitators, from May 26-July 28. This significantly increases the number of facilitators ready to respond to requests for reconciliation work.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Currently the pastors are sharing from their personal faith stories, answering the question, "Who are you as a follower of Jesus?" We look forward to exploring the experiences and influences that formed us as people of God.

September 26 ~ Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Next Sunday, September 26, our worship service will have a time of sharing. Everyone is invited to share prayer requests, reasons for praise, or stories of God's work in our lives and the world. This is a time to share our joys and sorrows, uphold one another in prayer, and grow together as the body of Christ. If you have an item to share with the congregation but are worshipping from home, you may speak to one of the pastors who will share on your behalf.

Sunday School started today! A BIG thank you to our teachers.

Age 3 - 5 – Amanda Wiens
Grade 1 & 3 – Lorraine Hamm, Heidi Toews, Jennifer Klassen
Grade 4 - 6 – Sharon Friesen
Grade 7 & 8 – Stephanie Rempel
Grade 9 - 12 – Byron Loeppky

Thank-you for your continued prayer and support of this ministry.

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Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 amandaw@abchurch.ca

FROM the PASTOR ~ Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

I am currently reading the book "Freeing Jesus" by Diana Butler Bass. The title of the book is based on the idea that we tend to put Jesus into a box of our own making—we make Jesus look like us, act like us, believe the same things that we believe, and generally confine his actions and words to things that we are comfortable with.

The book is part memoir, part theology, as Butler Bass systematically tells stories from each decade of her life about the way that she viewed and understood Jesus at that time. Each chapter is titled with the name for Jesus from that decade, and within each chapter she talks about the strengths and weaknesses of that name for Jesus. She includes titles such as friend, teacher, Saviour and Lord.

I have not yet finished the book but I am guessing she will be encouraging us to look at the names that we give to Jesus, how they were shaped in our life, and what purpose they serve in our faith. I have already appreciated the ways that she has deepened my understanding of Jesus as teacher and friend. And realize that no one name is able to encompass everything that Jesus stands for, which is why I appreciate the diversity of names she covers.

What names do you use for Jesus and God, and how have they helped you grow in your faith? Are there names for God that you are just learning to incorporate into your faith practices? How have they encouraged you to grow in your faith and understanding?

Jr Youth

- **Sept 22 [Wed], 7pm** – Bible study.

Sr Youth

- **Sept 24-26** - Weekend Retreat.

Amplify! giving voice to what we've seen and heard – introducing our theme for the Mennonite Church Canada nationwide youth (gr. 6-12) gathering, July 31- Aug 4, 2022, at Camp Valaqua, AB. Isaiah 40:3-5 will guide us as we spend time meeting God in nature and creation: A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord". Together, youth from across Canada will find their voices and raise them in joy during worship, games and prayer. Visit <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/amplify> for updates/news or contact: Joani Neufeldt youth@mennonitechurch.ca

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Oct 3 - Save the date - Cell kick-off.** Details to come.
- **As we express our gratitude to God**, let's celebrate Thanksgiving by sharing with our community a meal, by bringing a food item or monetary donation for the Rhineland Area Food Bank. A bin will be placed in the church foyer on October 3rd and 10th.
- **Free hymn books and music!** The Worship and Music Commission have been sorting through our music storage room and have culled some books that we don't need anymore. They are free for the taking and can be picked up in the foyer after the worship service.
- **Fall book study.** We will read the book **Everything Happens for a Reason: and other lies I've loved** by Kate Bowler. Meeting time's will be Thursdays at 2pm. Let pastor Virginia know if you are interested by Sept 20, so we can order the books and start in October.
- **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

- **Sept 28 – Drive-thru Mexican Fiesta** fundraiser at Gardens on Tenth. [In lieu of the annual Soup Pie]. See poster.

Mennonite Church Canada – office@mennonitechurchcanada.ca

- *We Declare: What We Have Seen and Heard* is the theme for **Gathering 2022** in Edmonton, July 29 to August 1. The webpage for the event is: www.mennonitechurch.ca/gathering2022. Learn about our speakers and what you can expect for our nationwide gathering at: <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/article/12098-mennonite-church-canada-announces-theme-for-gathering-2022-in-edmonton> .
- **Sept 25, 11am-3pm - Christian Peacemaker Teams** is celebrating 35 years of action! To mark this anniversary, we're hosting an online Peacemakers Congress, with interactive workshops, team panels, a keynote speaker and an auction! Details at: www.cptaction.org.
- **Whose Land, Whose Promise? Palestine, Justice, and the Bible** - MC Canada Palestine-Israel Network and 3 partner advocacy groups are hosting a 2-part online series Sept 19 and Oct 2, at 12 pm EDT /9am PST. Resource persons: Palestinian pastor-theologian Alex Awad, political science prof Ron Dart, and professor Dan Epp-Tiessen of CMU. Register: <https://bit.ly/3BbaFOc>.

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

- **Woven** (Mennonite Women MB) **Kick Off** their new **Woven Wednesday Series**, entitled Faith: Yours, Mine and Ours, on Wed. Sept. 29 at 8pm. We invite MCM women to join with our guests, Margie Hildebrand and Marika Veith, in exploration of the images of God we've held, hold and hope for. Hosted by Kathy Giesbrecht, our 45 min. together will include both guest input and question and response time. For Zoom Room Link contact: kgiesbrecht@mennochurch.mb.ca
- **Join an MCM Gratitude Group.** Every second week for six weeks on Zoom. 40 minutes of joining others in encouragement and sharing gratitude. Led by Laura Funk, MCM Spiritual Director-in-residence www.mennochurch.mb.ca/events for more info and to register.

Canadian Mennonite University – cmu.ca

- **Sept 29, 4-5pm** - Register for CMU's Virtual Open House - a virtual tour of CMU's campus, live questions/answers with Admissions team members, faculty, and current students. Open to students, parents, siblings, teachers, and school counsellors. For info/to register go to cmu.ca/virtualhopenhouse. In-person Campus Visit Days will also happen this year - cmu.ca/campusvisit.
- **Xplore:** At the Intersection of Faith and Life, a 55-Plus Enrichment Program, offers courses that investigate dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it, in a six-week block, with online courses on Tues, Wed, and Thurs mornings, beginning Oct 5. cmu.ca/xplore.
- **Oct 26-27 - J.J.Thiessen Lectures.** Dr Edith M. Humphrey, prof at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will provide 3 lectures on "Mediation and the Immediate God. More at: cmu.ca/jjt

Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba – manitoba@mccmb.ca

- **Sept 19, 3pm – 'We Are All Treaty People'** Celebration! over Zoom. Learn more about building respectful relationships between settlers and Indigenous neighbours and celebrate the 150th anniversaries of Treaties 1 and 2. Register here or visit mccmb.ca/events.
- **Sept 23 - MCC** Manitoba's 57th **AGM**. Join us via Zoom from 7-9pm. For info/to register [click here](#) or visit mccmb.ca/agm.
- **You** are invited to attend an MCC centennial conference! *MCC at 100* will be hosted by University of Winnipeg Sept 30 - Oct 2 via Zoom. The conference presents papers that examine the past, present and future of MCC. Register [here](#) or visit mennonitestudies.uwinnipeg.ca .
- **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.

Mennonite Disaster Service - mdscanada@mds.org

- The September edition of *On the Level* is now available from MDS. In this issue: Canadian farmers work together to battle drought conditions, thanks to MDS volunteers, a family goes home in British Columbia, and a derelict house becomes home for a Syrian refugee family. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3hA0o73>