

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



Photo credit: Susan M Dueck

Sunday, September 26, 2021

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

WORSHIP SERVICE

September 26, 2021 10:30 A.M.

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come;
the old has gone, the new is here!
~ 2 Corinthians 5: 17*

GATHERING and PRAISE

Welcome and Announcements

Music **Come, let us all unite to sing** VT 7

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music **Just as I am, without one plea** STJ 92

LISTENING

Children’s Story

Scripture **2 Corinthians 5: 16-19**

Sermon **“Receiving the love of God, being a new creation”**

RESPONDING

Music **Make me a channel of your peace** STJ 56

Sharing Time

Prayer for the Offering, the Church & the World

SENDING

Benediction

Music **You shall go out with joy** HWB 427

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leader:** Al Friesen

Children’s Story: **Scripture:** Riana Voth

Music: ABC Ensemble

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:** Harold Sawatzky and Helen Schulz at Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **The Sr High** Youth retreat is this weekend. We celebrate that this event is able to happen and we pray for the youth attending.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**
Pray - George and Tobia Veith are returning to Manitoba after 30 years service in China with our International Witness ministry. They will spend the next few months visiting churches. They will be at Altona Bergthaler Church on Oct 24, blessing us with their stories and passion for sharing the Gospel in an Anabaptist perspective for so many years.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Next week we begin a sermon series 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 3 ~ God is love. World Communion Sunday. Speaker: Virginia
- Oct 10 ~ Exploring our misconceptions about love. Speaker: Mark
- 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

Oct 3 is World Communion Sunday. We invite you to bring your own bread for Communion on Oct 3. We will supply the wine/juice and will have extra bread for those who forget.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona 117 2ND Street NW Altona, MB R0G 0B1
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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
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Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 amandaw@abchurch.ca

FROM the PASTOR ~ Mark Tiessen-Dyck

It's surprising and sad how many people attend churches for years without ever experiencing genuine Christian love and community. Churches must be places of love. A church can only be healthy and grow if it is a place where people are loved and express their love.

Over the summer months I've been thinking a lot about the role of small groups in the church. At their best, small groups are a 'church within the church' where people give and receive love, share the joys and sorrows of life, and journey with Christ together.

One of my long terms goals for our church is to have robust and vibrant small groups which become places of belonging, love, and outreach. My hope is that being part of a small group becomes a natural, desirable, and expected part of our congregation. Small groups have happened in our church in different ways but there are many people yearning for deeper community. If you are one of these people or are interested in being part of a group of people who support one another and engage our faith together, let's talk. A new small group, facilitated by Jason and Tammy Driedger is in the works, and possibly another if there is enough interest.

I also encourage people to join the care cell event at Al and Cheryl Harder's home next weekend!

Sr Youth

- **Sept 28 [Tues], 7pm** – Bible study week 1.

Jr Youth

- **Sept 29 [Wed], 7pm** – Bible study week 2.

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 – Care Cell kick-off.** Want to see what Care Cell is about, then join us for a wiener roast and fellowship on Oct 3, 12:30pm at Al and Cheryl Harder's place. Please RSVP [need to know numbers] by calling Cheryl 204-304-0374 and she will let you know about food to bring.
- **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 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.
- **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.
- **Oct 14, 7pm - The Gardens on Tenth Annual General Meeting.** On Monday Oct 11th we will email you a zoom link to the meeting and you can choose to join remotely if you do not want to attend in person. Due to current Public Health orders masks remain mandatory within 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.
- **Oct 16, 8pm - virtual Singin' in the Grain** concert - join 3 groups of Manitoba musicians to raise funds for MCC programs in Haiti through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank - at www.foodgrainsbank.ca/singing. Join us from the comfort of your home, and reach out with your gifts to share some of that comfort with those less fortunate.

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.

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 Sept. 29 at 8pm. We invite MCM women to join our guests, Margie Hildebrand and Marika Veith, in exploring 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.

Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba – manitoba@mccmb.ca

- **You** are invited to an MCC centennial conference *MCC at 100*, hosted by U of W, Sept 30-Oct 2, via Zoom. The conference will present 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.
- **Are you a recent high school grad?** In January, MCC will be offering a six-month discipleship program for 18–20-year-olds. Based in Bethlehem, the Seek program will help you discover the beauty and brokenness of the world, while living in community and ministering to others. Find out more and apply by Oct 31 [here](#) or at mccmb.ca/seek.

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>