

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

Worship Service

September 4 2022, 10:30 am

“When your children ask in time to come, ‘What do those stones mean to you?’ then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the Israelites a memorial forever.”

~Joshua 4: 6b-7

THIRSTING

Welcome and announcements

Music **We gather together** HWB 17

Call to worship and prayer

Music **Oh, how shall I receive thee** HWB 182

DRINKING DEEPLY

Offering and prayer

Scripture reading **Joshua 4:1-7, 19-24**

Sermon **Crossing the waters**

SATISFIED

Music **Come, thou fount** HWB 521

Prayer for the church and the world

SENDING

Benediction

Music **Lead on, O cloud of Presence** HWB 419

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Worship Leader: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Music: Tena Giesbrecht

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Katie Krahn at the Altona Health Centre. Ben Dyck at Boundary Trails Health Centre. Anne Braun has moved to Eastview.
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** to Tara Funke and Al Friesen at the passing away of their brother-in-law Ryan McBride who passed away on August 29. Tara and Al thank the church family for their messages of support.
- ~ **Katherine Bergen** of our church family passed away Wednesday, August 31. We are invited to join in gratitude and to pray for her sister Susan Dueck, Trudy Enns a sister in law and extended family. Funeral service will be Tuesday, September 6 at 2 pm at ABC with burial prior to the service.
- ~ **International witness:** Mennonite churches in Bobo Kioullasso, Burkina Faso, ask for prayer for pastors Joseph Sinou, Samuel Traoré and Josué Coulibaly. Senior Pastor Siaka Traoré recently handed over responsibility for congregations that he has started and nurtured over the years to these three young leaders. Pray for a clear vision and Spirit-filled witness in the Bobo Dioulasso communities where Christianity is a minority religion.
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**

Gail Braun	Sept. 5	Amanda Wiens	Sept. 8
Ken Penner	Sept. 5	Wendy Friesen	Sept. 9
Irene Friesen	Sept. 6	Bonnie Friesen	Sept. 10
Larry Friesen	Sept. 7	Cheryl Harder	Sept. 10
Tammy Driedger	Sept. 8		

WORSHIP CALENDAR

- September 4:** Come to the water: Crossing - Mark Tiessen-Dyck
- September 11:** ABC goes to Camp Assiniboia. *No in-person worship in Altona or livestream.* (See "Church Announcements")
- September 18:** "A third way" sermon series begins

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ABC goes to camp Sunday September 11. We are moving our worship to **Camp Assiniboia** (2220 Lido Plage, Cartier, MB). We will gather at 10:30 am for worship in the main lodge. Then share a meal together and enjoy one another's company as we take in the beauty of the camp setting while visiting and other activities for the afternoon. The cost for lunch is \$10 per person. **Please sign up** in the church foyer or by calling the church office, camp would like to know numbers for the meal. If you are still interested in coming for night be in touch with Mark or Virginia.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK – Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

At the end of July, I spent 5 days in Edmonton for the Mennonite Church Canada Gathering. This was a time set aside for a few delegate meetings to share some ministry updates and discuss budget details within Mennonite Church Canada, but mostly it was a gathering to be together with Mennonites from across Canada, to hear speakers talk about what it means to share the gospel, to participate in workshops and to worship and fellowship together as a larger body of believers.

Besides missing my family and my own bed it was a great time. It was a convergence of people from all over Canada concerned about and interested in the present and future of the church. The informal or small group conversations were my highlight. In a workshop I discussed with others ways that pastors are called and supported and how to do that more creatively to adapt to the changes in our world and culture. Then in a follow up conversation I dreamed with others about how we could support our camp leadership and make connections between the various Mennonite Camps across Canada. I shared about what we have been doing as a church in the past year to focus on building relationships and received affirmation and encouragement for some of our initiatives. And I heard stories from other churches that were looking for pastors and discerning next steps for youth and children's ministry and we shared similar challenges.

In all of the workshops and worship times I heard a common theme of the need for creativity and authentic connection. As we share the good news of Jesus we need to connect our stories to the stories and experiences of the people around us. And as we discern the future of the church we need to think creatively and be willing to try new things.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona: 117 2ND Street NW Altona, MB R0G 0B1

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E-mail: office@abchurch.ca **Worship Services available online at:** abchurchcommunity.ca

Facebook: ABC community **Lead Pastor:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990, (C) 1-204-771-3406, marktd@abchurch.ca **Assoc. Pastor:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 virginiagr@abchurch.ca

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mennonite Church Canada Nationwide worship service Sunday September 4. Join Bethany Mennonite church in Virgil, Ontario. Title: "Workin' for the man up top" and the scripture passage is Colossians 3:17, 23-24. Theme: In Luke 10 Jesus tells his disciples that "the worker deserves their wages" implying that they should not shy away from being paid. Yet few of us work only for the money - that is too spiritually unsatisfying. The bible speaks to this as well: when we work we serve others - customers, co-workers, employers, our own families - and most of all we serve Christ. Available at: www.mennonitechurch.ca/worshipservices.

Eden foundation: We are currently seeking your prayer support, as our Mental Health Centre in Winkler was evacuated last week because it sustained major damage in the rain storm the area experienced on Tuesday, August 23rd. Our leaders are currently trying to figure out which parts of the building can safely be reoccupied and what needs to be done to restore it for full occupancy again. We invite you to pray for the patients who have been displaced by this event and for Eden's leaders who need to develop solutions for restoration.

MCC: The annual We Are All Treaty People Celebration will take place at the Forks on Sunday, September 18. Come out for a family friendly afternoon event with music and performances, food, Indigenous arts, crafts and more!

CMU: Xplore: At the Intersection of Faith and Life – Xplore offers life-long learning courses investigating dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it—all without any assignments or examinations! Join one or more of our six courses in-person or online Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, beginning October 5. For information and to register visit cmu.ca/xplore.

Blood donor clinic - Thursday, September 8 at the Altona Pioneer Centre. The donor hours are: 2:00 – 7:00 pm. Please call: 1.888.236.6283, or go on-line to book your appointment. *They ask for appointments only and no walk-ins.*

Southern MB Choral Society - Southern Manitoba Choral Society invites singers to join us on Tuesdays for a season of singing! First rehearsal is September 13, 6:30 - 8:15 pm in the WC Miller Collegiate music room. Vaccination required and masks optional. Fall registration is \$35.

