

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



Sunday, April 25, 2021

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

WORSHIP SERVICE

April 25, 2021

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you – unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.”

~ 2 Corinthians 13: 5-6

GATHERING and PRAISE

Welcome and Announcements

Music **Amazing Grace**

Call to Worship and Prayer

LISTENING

Music **I’m ready to go**

Children’s Story

Scripture **Luke 18: 9-14; Romans 12: 3-13**

Sermon **“An introspective church: a developing church”**

RESPONDING

Music **I’ll fly away**

Prayer for the Offering, the Church and World

SENDING

Music **I can’t even walk**

Benediction

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

Children’s Story: Heidi Toews **Scripture Reader:** Brenda Braun

Music: Harve & Joyce Hildebrandt, Pete & Elsie Letkeman

Our worship service will be available on the church website
[abchurchcommunity.ca] Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Waldo Schulz and Harold Sawatzky at Altona Health Centre; Henry and Helen Thiessen at Morris Hospital.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**
Pray: Church leaders in the Holy Land urge the global church to advocate against the demolition of Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem to expand Israeli settlements--moves that contravene international law and human rights. Go to the links at the [Mennonite Church Canada Palestine-Israel Network \(PIN\)](#) web page for information on a letter-writing campaign asking Ottawa to speak out against this injustice.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Over the next few weeks, we will continue the sermon series "Church: Back to the Future".

May 2	Virginia Gerbrandt Richert
May 9	Josh Janzen
May 16	Mark Tiessen-Dyck

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FROM the PASTOR: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

I have been doing some catch up on reading my Canadian Mennonite recently and I came across an article from December 2020 that caught my attention. The article was called "*Strengthening Faith for the coming year*" by Donna Schulz ([Strengthening faith for the coming year | Canadian Mennonite Magazine](#)). In it several pastors discuss the spiritual practices that sustain them. I found it a reassuring and encouraging article. It gave a variety of suggestions for spiritual practices to try but also reminded me that not every practice is fitting or appealing to every person.

The article mentions the Lord's Prayer a few times as a simple yet significant practice that is appropriate, when we feel like we don't have time for anything else, or if we are just learning about spiritual practices, or as a foundation that can sustain us throughout our lives. Through this and other spiritual practices "we create space for God to have influence in our lives." There is nothing magical in these practices that make our lives easier, but over time these practices help attune us to God's activity in our lives and in the world.

This article gave me an idea. I have always loved the Lord's prayer, but usually seen it as a prayer to be recited in community with others. Since we are moving into another time of worshipping from home, I would like to **invite you to join me in saying the Lord's Prayer every day**, together, but apart. You can do this at whatever time or setting feels best for you. You can do this in the morning or right before bed, in your house, or as you walk outside. Those details are up to you. I am simply inviting us as a congregation to join together in this practice of prayer every day. May this and our other practices draw us closer to God, and closer to one another.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Jr Youth

- April 27, 7pm –Let's Pray! – conversations on prayer.

Sr Youth

- April 28, 7pm – Prayer Walk – praying for Altona.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Tuesday morning coffee** – join us at 10am via ZOOM.
- **The next few weeks**, we will show a video report, just prior to our 10:30am worship service, from the MCM Annual Gathering held on March 6. This week will feature a report from Camps with Meaning <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUCINPs5cNc>.
- **Bursary Fund** – for members or immediate family of A.B.C. If you are planning to attend a post-secondary institution for religious studies during the next school year, 2021-2022, you may pick up an application form at the church office. Deadline to return your application: May 7th.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Apr 29, 5-7pm – Gardens On Tenth 'Drive-thru' Mexican Fundraising Fiesta** 'hot & ready to eat' supper. Poster in foyer.
- Mennonite Church Manitoba** – mnochurch.mb.ca 204-896-1616
- **Campers** are registering for summer camps. This means we need staff and volunteers! Kitchen and maintenance help, camp pastors and health officers needed for 1-day pop-up camps and week-long day camps. Head to www.campswithmeaning.org Summer
- Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba** – manitoba@mccmb.ca
- **Choose thrift first!** For example, help reduce textile waste by checking out a thrift shop *before* you look at any new clothing for the rest of the year. Pledge your commitment at choosethriftfirst.ca or by [clicking here](#).
 - **The April** edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: MDS is celebrating National Volunteer Week, the Homes of Hope facility in Ephrata, Penn. is almost completed and a royal thank you to MDS volunteers. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/2QLOrAJ>
 - **Join** compassionate Manitobans working to end global hunger. Sponsor an acre of Manitoba farmland with Grow Hope and help provide food and agriculture training for people in places like Cambodia and DR Congo. Plus, every \$1 you give can grow up to \$5! Visit mccmb.ca/GrowHope or call Simone at 204-261-6381 for info.

Canadian Mennonite University – cmu.ca

- **Apr 28, 4pm** - CMU's next *Virtual Open House* – for students, parents, teachers, and school counsellors. If you can't make it at the scheduled time, sign up as an attendee to receive a tour recording. Register at www.cmu.ca/virtualopenhouse.
- **Apr 28, 7pm** - Zoom Event at CMU: We know that the climate crisis is pressing us all to act. Within this challenge, lament can help us claim that hopeful change *is* possible, as we deepen our faithfulness to the God of Creation. Join panelists Marta Bunnett Wiebe, Bob Haverluck, and Zoe Matties, and together explore what 'Ecological Grief' can mean in our lives. Register your interest at www.arocha.ca/events to receive a zoom link prior to the event.

- **Sept 2021**, CMU is planning for primarily in-person classes, with some accommodation via hybrid/online formats where needed. CMU is following all guidelines put forth by Manitoba Health. Check fall plans at media.cmu.ca/news-release-fall-2021-plans.
- **CMU is hiring** a FT Admissions Counsellor responsible for recruiting students to CMU's undergraduate programs. www.cmu.ca/employment.