

*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



Sunday, October 4, 2020

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH OF ALTONA

October 4, 2020

WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:30 am

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Worship Leader: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Music: Anne Friesen, Verna Heinrichs, Dave Wiebe

Children's Story: Jolene Friesen-Stoesz via video

“You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” ~ 1 Peter 2:5

* You are invited to pick up your communion elements as you enter the Sanctuary.

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Music How great Thou art

Call to Worship and Prayer

LOOKING BEYOND

Moment in Mission Video & The Lord's Prayer

Music There is a fountain

Prayer for the Offering, the Church and the World

LISTENING

Children's Story

Scripture **1 Peter 2: 1-10**

Sermon **“Church: the construction project you want to be part of”.**

RESPONDING

Music Let us break bread together HWB 453

Communion *

SENDING

Benediction

Music

*You are welcome to participate in communion if you are worshipping from home. Be sure to prepare your elements prior to the service.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Mary Voth, Waldo Schulz, and Anne Kehler at Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** to Jim & June Toews, family and extended family, at the passing away of Jim's brother Jack Toews of Altona.
- ~ **This Sunday in our "Moment in Mission"**, we learn about the Mennonite Church Canada Study Conference "**Table Talk: Does the Church still have legs?**" taking place on October 24. This is a one-day online conference intended for pastors, lay leaders and anyone interested in learning about and discerning the purpose and nature of the church and the role of worship. One important question will be "what does it mean to be the church?" Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYi3yPvuKws>
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada:** Across all regional churches in MC Canada, congregations are joining together to form support networks for international ministries. Pray that God will use these connections to strengthen relationships with international partners and to enliven and strengthen our faith here in Canada, as we grow and learn together. (To learn more about Witness Support Networks go to www.mennonitechurch.ca/IW-Sunday.)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Hopeful Answers to Hard Questions

- Sept 13: What will Covid mean for the Church?
(available at the church website)
- Sept 20: How do we respond when a loved one chooses a different path?
(available at the church website)
- Sept 27: Does God ever change? (available at the church website)
- Oct 4: Is Church irrelevant? Do we need it to be Christian?
Communion.
- Oct 11: How can we be grateful when prayers are not answered?
- Oct 18: How can we share our faith?
- Oct 25: How do we integrate science with our faith? (and what if extraterrestrial life was discovered!?)

From the Covid Task Force re: wearing masks.

We ask everyone who comes to worship and Sunday School, could you please wear a mask when: You enter the building, move about the building, and when you join in singing. (Masks may be removed when you are seated in a pew or Sunday school classroom, but must be worn if you are joining in congregational singing). Thanks for your efforts to make our church a safer environment.

From the Pastor – Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Some wisdom I've heard frequently over the last while is: "Don't waste a good crisis!" Just how Covid will shake up the church is still obscure, but I am convinced there is an opportunity somewhere within this crisis.

A statement that has shaped how I think of the church is, "the church doesn't have a mission, but God's mission has a church." For churches and institutions that are established and been around for a long time, our fundamental purpose and vision is often neglected and we become preoccupied with self-perpetuation and maintaining our structure. Our mission becomes the organization or the structure, rather than our structure and organization serving the mission. I couldn't agree more with Brian McLaren who says we need less organized religion and more organizing religion. One hope of mine is that through this crisis our vision as a congregation becomes clear and we are inspired to organize, not for organization's sake, but for the mission of God.

Jr Youth

- **Oct 6, 7-9pm** - Bible Study and games.

Sr Youth

- **Oct 9, 7-9pm** - Bible Study and games.

VENTURES

- **Girls Ventures:** Wednesday, 7 - 8:15pm. Fall kick off evening. Dress to spend the evening outdoors.
- **Boys Ventures:** Postponed till the new year provided there are leaders to help with this ministry.

Access to the livestreaming on Sunday mornings will be available from the Altona Bergthaler Church website [abchurchcommunity.ca]. The live stream will begin at 10:30am.

Children's Bulletins are available in the foyer for ages 3 plus, and 7 plus. The children's story video will still be posted to the Church website.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona 117 2ND Street NW Altona, MB R0G 0B1
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Worship Services available online at: abchurch.libsyn.com
Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990/cell 1-204-771-3406 marktd@abchurch.ca
Asst Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 viriniagr@abchurch.ca
Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry: Josh Janzen, 324-6717, 1-402-631-3481 joshi@abchurch.ca
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 amandaw@abchurch.ca

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Tuesday Coffee is back!** You are welcome to join the church staff for coffee in the library at 10am on Tuesdays.
- **Church Council** has adopted 'Guidelines for Rentals during COVID-19 (includes funerals) and 'Guidelines for pastors in their visits to people in the congregation during COVID'. The information was sent to the church by email. If you do not have email or would like a hard copy, these guidelines are available in the foyer (blue coloured paper). If you have any comments or questions about the COVID Rental Guidelines or any COVID protocol at church in general our COVID Task Force includes: Ed Doell, Tammy Driedger, Mark Friesen, Virginia Gerbrandt Richert and Mark Tiessen-Dyck.
- **ABC's Junior and Senior Youth need your help!** We are in need of more Youth Sponsors for the upcoming Youth Ministry year. If you want to be a part of our Youth Ministry program, or if you have any questions, please contact Josh by phone (324-6717) or email joshj@abchurch.ca . Thank you for your support and for prayerfully considering being a part of the ABC Youth Ministry!
- **Adult Sunday School** is currently on hold. Our children's Sunday school is spreading out which means there is not be a good place for adult Sunday school to meet. We will re-evaluate in the coming weeks as we become accustomed to our new Sunday School arrangements.
- **Fall book study.** A group in our church is interested in learning more about the dynamics around race and racism in Canada, especially as it relates to our Indigenous neighbours. We will be reading the book **Indigenous Writes: A Guide to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit issues in Canada**. Discussions will be Wednesday's at 2 pm. All are welcome. Talk to pastor Virginia if you want a book and to join.
- **The church office** welcomes artwork from all ages for our bulletin covers. Drawings are best done on half a sheet of 8.5x11 paper oriented vertically (the same way that you read the bulletin).
- **Celebrating Thanksgiving at ABC in 2020** – This year our Thanksgiving celebration will consist of a 'Gift of a meal to the Community'. We are encouraged to participate with a monetary donation to the Rhineland Food Bank. Please make cheques payable to Altona Bergthaler Church – designation – Rhineland Food Bank. Donations may be made October 4th and 11th.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Oct 8, 5-7pm** – Drive by **Soupin` Fundraiser** at the Gardens On Tenth, in lieu of the annual fall Soup & Pie. Drive in, pick up your food & give your donation, exit and enjoy!
- **Oct 13, 2-7pm** – Mobile Blood Donor clinic at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre, Main Floor Hall 227 10th Ave NW. Please call - 1-888-236-6238 for your appointment, - NO WALK INS please.
- **Oct 16, 8pm** - The global pandemic has forced the cancellation of many fundraising events, but also made food security a more pressing

need around the world. Join '**Singing' in the Grain'** for a virtual fundraising concert in support of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank partner, the Mennonite Central Committee, featuring The Quonset Brothers from Winkler, Corey Peters & Kristel Peters from Steinbach, and Steve Bell, Winnipeg. Join at www.foodgrainsbank.ca/singing.

- **Oct 22, 7pm - The Gardens on Tenth** Annual General Meeting in The Gardens MPR. Due to COVID-19 the meeting will be by invite only. ABC Board representatives, Albert Falk and Ben Dueck, will be looking for delegates to represent our church, so please talk to them if you are interested in attending.
- **MHC Gallery FUNDRAISER.** Please visit www.cmu.ca/gallery/ for a gallery update and e-fundraiser. Look forward to the upcoming *Leap in Faith* project book and information on when the gallery will reopen.

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

- **Oct 25, 7pm** - Join us online for The Camps with Meaning "Break the Bank-uet" Fundraising Celebration., with musical guests Steve Bell, Fred Penner, Kim Thiessen and Darryl Neustaedter Barg and our camp staff. Enjoy visual updates from Camp Assiniboia and Camp Koinonia. Donate generously to keep the camping ministry flame burning. www.campswithmeaning.org/banquet

Mennonite Church Canada – office@mennochurch.ca 888-6781

- **Oct 8-Nov 26** [Thursdays at 7pm via ZOOM] - join Steve Heinrichs for an online book club exploring the book *Canada at a Crossroads*, by Jeff Denis. Register at mennonitechurch.ca/crossroads-bookclub .
- **Oct 24 - MC Canada Study Conference.** Join us as we gather virtually for "Table Talk: Does the Church still have Legs?", a study on the nature and identity of the church and the role of worship. Register @ www.mennonitechurch.ca/tabletalk2020

Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba – Manitoba@mccmb.ca

- **Bucket of Thanks** - Gather essential hygiene items for a relief kit, drop them off between Oct 15-17, and give hope to those in need. Find out which items are needed most at mccmb.ca/Buckets-Thanks or contact us at 204-261-6381 or events@mccmb.ca
- **Oct 22, 9am-4pm** - Pastoral Care and Domestic Abuse workshop in Morden. Register by Oct 16 - Registration \$40 includes lunch. Capacity is limited. Visit mccmb.ca/Events.
- **Nov 21, 7pm** - Gather online for our Centennial Celebration. Join friends of MCC from across Canada and celebrate a century of relief, development and peace in the name of Christ through storytelling, music, prayer and thanksgiving. Learn more at mccmb.ca/events.