

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA

Sunday, April 28, 2024 10:30 am

*"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."
1 Corinthians 12:27*

Gathering and Praise

Announcements

Hymn I Come With Joy VT 478

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn God Who Touches The Earth VT 550

Entering God's Story

Offering Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song VT 581

Children's Story

Scripture Luke 24:44-53

Sermon Journeying With Jesus: Is This The End?

Responding in Faith

Hymn In The Bulb, There Is A Flower VT 670

ABC Conversations with Mary Anne Loeppky

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn You Shall Go Out With Joy VT 847

Sermon: Terrell Wiebe **Worship Leading:** Byron Loeppky

Music: Flying Free **Children's Story:** Grace Harms

Art: Jolene Friesen-Stoesz

Brunch Church is next Sunday May 5! Brunch is served at 9:15. The event will end around noon. Our meal is a fundraiser in support of the kid's camp at Matheson Island which our youth will be leading this summer. Breakfast will be provided by the youth involved. Our speaker will be David Scott, who is an Ojibwe Traditional Knowledge Keeper and Indigenous environmental expert from Swan Lake First Nation. David will be speaking to us about the significance of our land for Indigenous people, the historic relationships between Mennonites and Indigenous people, and how we can take steps toward reconciliation. It is our hope that David's sharing will guide us on the learning journey we began with the Blanket Exercise at our last Brunch Church. This Brunch Church will be a joint event with Altona Mennonite Church. Since AMC is also a partner in the relationship with Matheson Island and has some youth involved in the summer camp, they have accepted the invitation to join us!

FROM THE PASTOR: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Sabbatical Reflection #2

During my Sabbatical I read several books, one was called **Healing our Haunted Histories: A Settler Discipleship of Decolonization**. The book asks us to look at our own stories and family histories and acknowledge the suffering or sadness and ask how it has been dealt with or not. It also invites us to look for ways that our ancestors interacted with Indigenous people and whether or not they benefited from the mistreatment of Indigenous peoples.

The book tells the story of one of the author's Mennonite family's journey from Ukraine to California as a model, but really emphasizes the goal that we all explore our own family's stories and how they continue to impact us to this day. I took this prompting and reread my grandfather's autobiography, as well as some musings my grandmother wrote and gave the grandchildren awhile back. It became a journey into awareness and understanding of their lives, but also in light of the other book I was reading, it was fascinating to notice the little side notes here and there about the other cultures they encountered, like the Indigenous, French or Jews.

One such story is that of my great great grandparents, Sarah and Jacob. Sarah came to Canada around 1875 and was married shortly after and had 2 children. Then in 1879 Her husband, his brother, and their friend Jacob Gerbrandt along with others traveled to the West Reserve to stake out new homesteads. At some point they interacted with the Indigenous people of the area and were warned not to try to cross the Rat River when it was so high. Unfortunately, they did not listen and on their way home they tried to ford the swollen Rat River, and Sarah's husband and his brother both drowned in the process. Jacob Gerbrandt was left to tell Sarah the tragic news. Later Jacob and Sarah married and they moved to their homestead on the West Reserve southwest of Altona.

This is a tragic story that has been used to explain Sarah's melancholy nature all her life. But when looked at from a cross cultural perspective there are many details left out; like, who were those Indigenous people? How did they know them? And what other wisdom was shared?

I don't know the answers to these questions, and I may never find them. But this story shows knowledge and kindness offered to my ancestors from Indigenous peoples and I will continue to ponder and that dynamic.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER AND PRAISE:

We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:

Sharon J. Friesen- April 29, Leona Braun- May 1

Congratulations to Jason and Tammy Driedger on a momentous 30-year wedding anniversary on May 1!

Hospitalized: Pete Heinrichs at the Altona Health Centre.

Congratulations to grandparents Delores and Brian Enns and great grandma Norma Enns on the birth of Edward (Eddie) Parker Allum who was born April 15 to parents Kate and Codey Allum.

Congratulations to grandparents Laurie and James Enns and great grandma Norma Enns on the birth of Sophia Elizabeth Enns to Cael and Brittani Enns on April 23.

International Witness: Five church leaders from Burkina Faso and the DR Congo are equipping themselves with conflict transformation skills. They are studying the role of the church in conflict prevention and resolution, African methods of resolution in light of the gospel, socio-historical analysis of conflict, indigenous methods of conflict transformation, and the spirituality of peace. Their masters level program is lodged at the University of the Christian Alliance of Abidjan. Mennonite Church Canada through AIMM is helping to support this study. Pray that their ministries and their churches' witness to the gospel will be strengthened!

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Sun. Apr. 28, Sunday School for all ages.

Tue. Apr. 30, 10:30 am: Coffee with the church staff.

Sun. May 5, 9:15: Brunch Church. *No Sunday School.*

Terrell Wiebe will be joining Erika Enns-Rodine on a trip to Matheson Island on Wednesday and Thursday this week.

There was a brooch found on our parking lot. It is silver, black with a red rose in the middle and is waiting for its owner in the administrative office with Ang.

Voices Together Hymnals are available in the foyer to pick for use during worship services for those who prefer to have a hymnal in their hands. Please return them to the foyer after the service.

Hockey with the Pastor: I am accepting invitations to watch Winnipeg Jets playoff games. – Mark TD

Camp sponsorship for campers or staff application deadline this Tuesday.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many of the community announcements have posters in the lobby for more extensive information.

Steps Towards Reconciliation: You are invited to attend a special one-day workshop "Restoring Our Relationship to the Land: Indigenous Wisdom and Planting Practices". This workshop will take place at the MEC on Saturday May 4th, 9am-4pm. This will be an opportunity to listen and learn from three important guest speakers about land, planting practices, and Indigenous wisdom surrounding nature and healing. While onsite registration is an option, participants are encouraged to pre-register using the Google form: <https://forms.gle/y8mBggPRZRQktCW97>.

MCC: Do you want to take care of our earth? [MCC Thrift's Zero Waste Challenge](#) is a great place to start. Join us in learning all about going zero waste and challenge yourself to reduce your waste the week of June 23. If this challenge feels daunting, don't worry - even the smallest changes go a long way towards reducing our waste and helping the planet. We'd love for you to join us in making a difference. mccthrift.com/zerowaste

Altona Health Care Ladies Auxiliary is hosting a Taco Buffet Fundraiser, Thur., May 2 from 4:30 – 6:30, at the Pioneer Centre. Gluten free option available. Cost by donation. All proceeds will go towards *purchasing hospital ceiling tracks and specialized wheelchairs*. Tax deductible receipts available upon request. We look forward to your support.

Spring Food Drive Wed., May 8, 7-8:30 for the Rhineland Area Food Bank. Youth groups will be picking up non-perishable food items in Altona, Gretna, and surrounding areas. Please have all items placed outside your front door.

MCM: Voices Together in worship workshop, May 10, 11. Cost: \$65 before May 1 and \$80 after. If you are interested in attending this/carpooling, please contact Virginia.

Mennonite Church Manitoba weekly congregational profile: Seeds Church in Altona exists to make Jesus real by fostering relationships, taking time to listen, and moving with purpose. Seeds has a laid back and relational ethos in hopes of creating environments (small groups, worship) where people can connect to God, themselves and to others. Most recently they are most excited about an initiative that got its start within the Seeds community but has since morphed into its own community organization: The Community Exchange. Please pray for Seeds as they transition from the founding pastoral leadership of Darlene and Ted Enns-Dyck who will complete their 26 years of service to the congregation at the end of December 2024.