

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona
Worship Service

January 8, 2023,
Fellowship and Worship beginning at 9:30 am

The worship time will be live-streamed beginning at
approximately 10:30 am.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.” ~ Acts 2:42-43

Scripture Acts 2:42-47, Romans 12

Sermon Being Church, Doing Church

The children will be receiving your coin offerings this morning.

Today we welcome Michael Pahl, Executive Minister of Mennonite Church Manitoba. Prior to accepting his current role, Michael was Lead Pastor at Morden Mennonite Church. He has also taught biblical studies at various seminaries and colleges. Michael is married to Larissa, they have four children and two dogs.

Speaking: Michael Pahl

Worship Leader: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert and Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Children’s story: Andrew and Stephanie Rempel

Music: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Thank you to everyone** in our church family for your thoughts and prayers over the last few weeks. I am grateful to be back home and for the support of my church community. I look forward to worshipping with you again soon”
– Rey Schellenberg
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** to Erna and Ed Doell on the passing of Erna’s sister-in-law Elma Hiebert who died Jan. 2. A celebration of life ceremony will be March 11 at the Fort Garry Mennonite Church.
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** to Helen and Herman Kuhl on the passing of Helen’s brother Jake Pauls who passed away Dec. 31. Funeral service will be held Jan. 7 at the Home Street Church in Winnipeg.
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** to Milly Klassen and extended family on the passing of her sister-in-law Luella Klassen who passed away Dec. 28. The funeral was on Dec. 30 in Winkler.
- ~ **Heartfelt appreciation** from Lloyd Loewen and family for the years of prayers and support throughout Joyce’s battle with cancer. Thank you also for cards, texts, emails, food and kind words that we received from the church family. Thanks, Lloyd.
- ~ **Congratulations** to Dayna Wahl and her team on winning the U18 provincial curling championship!
- ~ **International witness:** Pray for security, peace and wisdom for congregations of the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso. They had planned to gather for annual January meetings in KénéDougou province, but terrorist attacks have increased in recent weeks. Authorities have asked churches to decrease public gatherings.
Witness workers Werner and Joanne De Jong ask you to pray for the safety of students traveling to and from the Meserete Kristos Seminary in Ethiopia over their Christmas break (around Jan.7). Pray for Werner as he mentors four graduate students working on final research papers..
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God’s blessing to:**
Morley Wahl January 9 James Friesen January 11

WORSHIP CALENDAR

On Jan 22 we begin a 4-week worship series on the **Characteristics of God**. We will explore the question; What is God like? In preparation, you are invited to reflect on what you think about when you hear the word God, who or what comes to mind?

January 15: Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday

January 22: God is Good

January 29: God is Just

February 5: Music Sunday

February 12: God is Holy

February 19: God is ...

FROM THE PASTOR – Mark Tiessen-Dyck

As we prepare for a sermon series about the nature and characteristics of God, I have been drawn again to these words from our Confession of Faith: "God's awesome glory and enduring compassion are perfect in holy love. God's sovereign power and unending mercy are perfect in almighty love. God's knowledge of all things and care for creation are perfect in preserving love. God's abounding grace and wrath against sinfulness are perfect in righteous love. God's readiness to forgive and power to transform are perfect in redemptive love. God's unlimited justice and continuing patience with humankind are perfect in suffering love. God's infinite freedom and constant self-giving are perfect in faithful love. To the one holy and ever-loving triune God be glory for ever and ever!"

I appreciate how this description of God unites attributes that in our experience often seem contradictory. Love is what overcomes these seeming tensions for Love is the characteristic at the heart of God's being; a love that is not distinct from righteousness, holiness, or faithfulness but perfected in and through them. The scripture says that "God is love" (1 John 4) a claim the Bible does not make regarding other attributes of God such as power, justice or mercy (The Bible may say that "God has power" or "God is powerful", but does not say that 'God is power').

Whenever we speak of God we do so with humility, recognizing that from our human perspective we cannot fully comprehend God. But we do know God through Jesus, the greatest revelation of God's identity and the proof that God is love.

How do you imagine and conceptualize God? The words, images, and ideas our minds reach for when we hear and say "God" is a vitally important part of who we are, perhaps the most defining aspect of our faith and identity. Where to start? Jesus and love are a solid base to begin imagining God.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Terrell Wiebe will begin his ministry as Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries this week.

Finance and Maintenance is pleased to welcome Agustin Alcantara as the new church custodian, replacing Cheryl Harder and Jolene Friesen-Stoesz, effective January 2nd. Agustin and his family live in Altona, where he is employed at Friesens.

Sermon discussion Tuesdays at noon.

Save the Date! Annual general meeting Sunday, February 26.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MCC: Looking for a change of scenery? Want to experience something new, be stretched and grow in yourself and your skills? Apply for SALT! SALT is a year-long cross-cultural service experience for Christian young adults ages 18-30, from Canada and the United States. Explore international opportunities in fields such as education, agriculture, healthcare, community development and more! Visit mccmb.ca/salt for more information and a chance to win \$500!

CMU: Visit CMU - The next CMU Campus Visit Day takes place on February 3, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Enjoy a tour of the campus, meetings with professors and current students, a financial aid presentation, opportunities to ask questions, and a treat from folio café! Visit cmu.ca/campusvisit.

MCM: New Blood Theatre Join MCIS, MCC and MCM for a special event about reconciliation celebrating Blackfoot history and traditions through poetry, music, contemporary and traditional dance with indigenous cast and crew from Alberta. February 19, 2023 7:00pm Jubilee Place Theatre, 173 Talbot, Winnipeg. Tickets \$10 plus fees. www.mennochurch.mb.ca/newblood

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