

Welcome to the Bergthaler Mennonite
Church of Altona

Sunday, July 23, 2023

10:30 am

"But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there
that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."

Philippians 3:20

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Music Guide me, O thou great Jehovah HWB 582

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music I am weak and I need thy strength HWB 553

Most of all (words printed in bulletin)

Offering

Hearing God's Word

Scripture Philippians 3:17- 4:1

Sermon Citizens of heaven

Responding in Trust

Music Renew your church HWB 363

Prayer of the Church and the World

Benediction

Music Beyond a dying sun HWB 323

Sermon: Terrell Wiebe

Worship Leading: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Music: Hilda Franz, Mark Tiessen-Dyck and Tamara Franz

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

Hospitalized: Helen Voth, Bernard Wiebe and Jake Rempel at the Altona Health Centre.

Congratulations to Janna Wiebe on her new position at MCI, manager of communications and marketing!

International Witness: The last weeks in the Israeli-occupied West Bank have been marked by a rise in violence due to growing Israeli settlements and military control. Pray for the safety of Palestinians who live in fear of attacks and harassment. Pray too for the minority Christian communities of the land, that they may be strong and united in their witness to the hope, justice, and peace of the gospel (MC Canada Palestine-Israel Network).

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

Anita Braun July 24 Gavin Wiens July 27

Liam Toews July 24 Doreen Sawatzky July 28

WORSHIP CALENDAR

We are in the midst of a four-week sermon series preaching through Paul's letter to the Philippians.

July 9: Thanksgiving. Speaker: Virginia

July 16: The Imitation of Christ. Speaker: Mark

July 23: What Matters. Speaker: Terrell

July 30: Sunflower Festival community worship service. No service at ABC.

August 6: Endurance: Virginia

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Tuesday, July 25, 10:30 am, Coffee with the church staff.

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Assoc. Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, C 304-6119 virginagr@abchurch.ca

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,
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FROM THE PASTOR: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

On Wednesday Shelby Penner, Nicholas Funk, Leo Dyck, Terrell and myself travelled to Matheson Island, a fishing community of about 150 people. The community is very remote; it is a long drive north along Lake Winnipeg and involves a small ferry crossing onto the island (or an ice road in winter). There is a school in the community that has about 15 students from kindergarten to grade 9 (once students reach high school they must board in Gimli, Selkirk, or Winnipeg). Mennonite Church Manitoba has long standing involvements at Matheson Island and when we met with some local leaders, we heard about their longing for a greater church presence in their community. There is a chapel which Mennonite Church Manitoba technically owns and has been used for worship services for years but currently is empty. When Terrell and Janna were pastors at Springfield Heights Mennonite Church, their youth group led a summer camp for children at Matheson Island for several years in partnership with the community. For Terrell, this trip was a bit of a reunion as he reconnected with a couple of people he knew from years back.

Melanie Neufeld from MCM joined us as well; she has been connecting with Matheson Island over the last year and invited our church and Altona Mennonite Church into the conversation. The purpose of our trip was to explore the possibility of developing a partnership and doing a camp or VBS at the Island next summer. We heard a strong desire for activities and biblical teaching for the children of the community who do not have the opportunities that kids in towns and cities have. We did spend some time playing with kids and youth, who were invited in advance to come for some games. About 20 children came, some of whom did not live on the island but were visiting relatives during summer break. Our time concluded with a meal that people from the community had prepared which included bannock and moose stew, among other dishes.

Most of all: (vs.1) Most of all, let love guide you. Most of all, let love be true. No need to play those games, so make love your greatest aim. Most of all, let love guide you.

(vs. 2) Be aware of what's inside. Be aware of what you hide, Honest with the one who loves you as you are, be aware of what's inside.

(vs. 3) Keep your eyes upon the Lord. Feed upon His living Word. Let the Spirit do, a holy work in you. Keep your eyes upon the Lord. (Repeat verse 1).

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Due to the sunflower festival worship service and Ang taking time off, there will not be a bulletin next week.

Over the summer months the pastors will be taking some vacation time. During the times when pastors are on vacation they will not be at the church, checking emails, or attending to church matters. There will always be at least one of the pastors around in case you need to be in touch.

Pastors vacation time: **Mark:** July 28 – August 3, **Virginia:** July 26-27, August 7-13, **Terrell:** July 23-26, August 2-15. For July and August, the **administrative office** will be open Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. The administrative office will be closed the week of **July 24-29.**

Hello from Finance and Maintenance: Our church has passed the halfway point of our financial calendar year. Based on reports compiled by church accountant Laurie Enns, despite a significant furnace repair, and sizeable insurance hike, our overall expenses continue to track below 2023 budget and 2022 totals, at \$238,976.00. It should also be noted that offering contributions, at the halfway point, are tracking at approx \$31,000 behind the pace of 2022, resulting in an overall deficit to date of \$25,969.75. As a result, Finance made the decision to temporarily scale back our quarterly outreach contributions by 50%. We are gratified for the financial contributions to date provided by those who call Bergthaler Church home and continue to have confidence in a positive 2nd half of 2023. In an unrelated matter, Town of Altona has approved the proposed subdivision of our property to the east of the sanctuary. As the paperwork is completed, it is our intention to reach out to you for a conversation on the appropriate way to proceed (or not). Thank you, Laurie Enns, Elmer Friesen, Al Friesen

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

SPECIAL NOTE: The ABC audio-visual technician team is unable to coordinate livestreaming of Sunday morning worship services during the summer months. Throughout the summer, we plan to record the audio and post that onto our YouTube channel during the following week.

Children's bulletins are back for the summer! During the summer months there will not be a children's feature – we invite you to get a children's bulletin from the ushers. Kids coins count will continue.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sunflower Festival community worship service is taking place July 30 at 10:30 am at the Altona Park. Guest preacher is Sam Tekley from World Serve ministries. Rain location will be at the Altona EMMC. A free will offering in support of World Serve Ministries and YFC Altona will be collected. Cheques can be made out to Altona EMMC.

ABC goes to camp! September 16-17. September 16-17. Please **sign up** either in the foyer or by calling the church office. The cost for overnight and meals is \$86 per adult and \$52 per child. Having a retreat costs money—some people can cover it and it is not a burden, for others it impacts their decision more. We are looking at ways of cost sharing. If you are interested in helping reduce the cost for others, be in touch with one of the pastors.

Steps Toward Reconciliation has an event coming up! Mark your calendars! Please join us on **Saturday July 29th at 1:00 pm** on the grounds of Gallery in the Park for the launch of our Orange Bench! We'll have the chance to hear Elder Peter Atkinson speak about treaties, and the opportunity to share the story about how this new travelling reconciliation bench came to be. Be sure to look out for this bench as it moves throughout the community this summer and fall. Accompanying the bench at each new location will be a variety of changing colourful storyboards with stories from our Indigenous friends and neighbours about resilience, reconciliation, and Indigenous history in Canada.

YFC: Miss Mondays will be hosting an art night led by Lexi Fehr from Pembina Valley Bible Camp! July 24th at 7:00 at YFC (blue building across from Subway). All girls ages 12 - 20 are welcome! Bring your friends.