

Welcome to the Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona



Sunday, June 25, 2023

Worship Service 10:30 am

Therefore, I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me that I did not know... I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you." John 42:3b, 5

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Music God is Here Among Us VT 62
Come, We That Love VT 31

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music I Sing the Mighty Power VT 182
Offering

Hearing God's Word

Children's Story

Scripture Job 10:1-8, 38:1-7

Sermon Honest to God - Honesty from God

Responding in Trust

Music Immortal, Invisible VT 98

Prayer of the Church and the World

Benediction

Music Go Now in Peace VT 829

This morning we welcome Sean Goerzen to lead us in music on the organ. Sean has deep family roots in our church. His Great-Grandfather Jacob Schmidt was a minister, and his grandparents Albert and Marie Schmidt have been longtime members. Sean is a part of Sargent Avenue Mennonite Church in Winnipeg, where he sings in the choir, is on the Music and Worship Committee, accompanies worship on organ and piano, and conducts a worship orchestra a couple times a year.

Sermon: Terrell Wiebe

Worship Leading: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Music: Sean Goerzen and Hilda Franz

Children's Story: Sharon Friesen

FROM THE PASTOR - Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Below is my personal land acknowledgment. I wrote this a couple years ago and shared it here as well. I've placed a copy above my desk as a daily reminder of what I aspire to. At the time I wrote this, the first graves of children buried at residential schools were recently found. In the last couple years, there have been a greater desire for many people of European origin to understand the history of our country, the treaties, and the circumstances of how we came to live here. However, there is consistently resistance or fear of what deeper conversation or knowledge or might entail or demand of us. Conversations about reconciliation and relationships with Indigenous people do not have to be about fear or guilt. Instead, it is better to approach these conversations with hope and possibility. (The film Reserve 107 is an amazing story about hope and relationship between Mennonite and Indigenous people. [Watch it here](#) (if you haven't already seen it).

The land on which I live, work, play, and worship is a generous gift from God my Creator. A gift not for me alone. I acknowledge that Indigenous peoples stewarded this land and called it home before I was born and before my ancestors arrived here. I will abide with gratitude to the people who, through Treaty 1, have granted me the honour of living here. When I breathe the air, run on the paths, eat the fruits of the soil, and encounter beauty in this place I will relinquish an attitude of entitlement and be humble before God as a guest in this place. With Jesus as my guide, I will respect Treaty 1, honour the land, seek reconciliation for the injustices of the past and present, and live toward a future of shalom.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

Hospitalized: Helen Voth at the Altona Health Centre and Bill Bergman at the Boundary Trails Health Centre.

Our love and sympathy to Pete and Verna Heinrichs at the passing of Pete's brother Ray Heinrichs on June 13. There was a private funeral.

Congratulations to Pastor Mark on winning the Camp Assiniboia "Pedal Dash Paddle Adventure Race".

Bill and Dora Driedger and Jake Bergen have moved to the Gardens on Tenth. You will find Bill and Dora in room #311 and Jake in room #411. Jake's updated phone number is his cell number, 204.324.7693

Harold Schlegel & Elaine Erb invite prayers as they prepare for a significant transition. Harold has accepted a call to serve as Interim Pastor of Tavistock Mennonite Church in SW Ontario. They look forward to returning to a community where they have deep roots and being close to siblings. They plan to move later in August.

International Witness: Pray with Mennonite siblings in faith from South Korea and China as they plan to meet to learn from each other and encourage each other. This is the first visit between these two groups. Thank God for this opportunity and pray for visas that will make this possible.

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

Gert Hildebrand June 25 Phyllis Friesen June 27
Edna Martens June 26 Myra Falk June 28

WORSHIP CALENDAR

We are in the midst of a sermon series called "Living Well, Living Wise" based on the Bible's Wisdom Literature.

May 14. Speaker: Mark. Proverbs: "The search for knowledge" part 1.

May 21. Speaker: Mark. Proverbs: "The search for knowledge" part 2.

May 28. Speaker: Virginia. Pentecost celebration with Communion.

June 4. Speaker: Virginia. Ecclesiastes: "The search for meaning" part 1

June 11. Church picnic & POTLUCK. Sharing about beauty

June 18. Speaker: Mark. Ecclesiastes: "The search for Meaning" part 2

June 25. Speaker: Terrell. Job: "The search for justice" part 1

July 2. Speaker: Mark. Job: "The search for justice" part 2.

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THIS WEEK AT ABC

Sunday, June 25, 9:15 am, Discipleship class.

Thursday, June 29, 1:30 pm, Music group appreciation meeting.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Discipleship classes will occur over the summer months, Sunday morning at 9:15, beginning next **Sunday June 25**.

Discipleship classes are for people of all ages interested in exploring what it means to follow Jesus today. Topics include (but are not limited to): understanding the biblical story, what is Anabaptism, Christian convictions and church history, the significance of Jesus, and growing in our journey with him. Classes will include teaching by the pastors and also dialogue and conversation.

SAVE. THE. DATE. ABC goes to camp! September 16-17 at Camp Assiniboia. Saturday we will explore the camp and do some group activities. Overnight we will stay in the cabins and Sunday we will move our worship service to camp, have lunch and enjoy the beautiful setting together. More details to come.

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 3 – July 10 and July 29 – August 7

Virginia: August 7-13

Terrell: July 10-16, 23-26, August 2-15

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MCM: Celebrate the centenary of the Russländer Mennonite immigration to Canada with *Singing our Journey, Sangerfest 2023* on July 15 at 7:00 pm at the Centennial Concert Hall. You can enjoy a traditional Mennonite songfest, featuring choirs and soloists. All offering proceeds will support MCC projects. Tickets are free, and must be reserved. Visit mhsc.ca/soj for event information and to reserve your ticket today.

CMU: “Textured Seeing” – MHC Gallery invites you to “Textured Seeing,” two exhibitions that will appeal to one’s senses and spirit. This exhibit will run from June 23 until September 16 and is located at 610 Shaftesbury Blvd. For more information, visit cmu.ca/gallery.

Mennonite Church Canada: We lift up in prayer Community Peacemaker Teams as they prepare to have a delegation return to Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows First Nation) August 15-25, 2023, on the theme of ‘Unmasking and Dismantling Settler Colonialism’. This delegation will do a deep dive into the historical and current realities of colonialism and explore ways we can get involved in the decolonization process. More info: <https://cpt.org/delegations/tisn>

Cadenza Lunchtime Concerts: Cadenza’s Free Lunchtime Concerts are taking place on July 3-7 from 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall. These concerts feature talented and professional musicians from Cadenza Summer Music Week’s faculty performing a variety of styles on piano, violin, viola, voice, cello, and double bass! All ages are welcome!