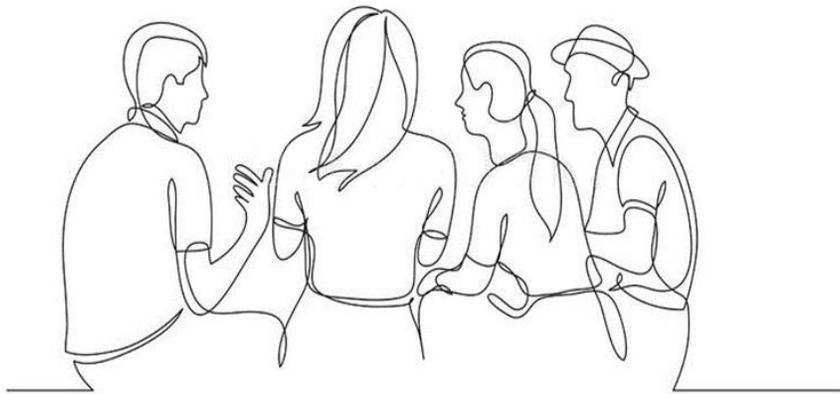


Welcome to the Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona



Brunch Church Sunday, May 7, 2023

“What we have seen and heard we also declare to you so that you also may have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.” 1 John 1:3

Welcome to Brunch Church!

Our gathering will begin at 9:15 am
Brunch begins at 9:30 am
Worship begins at approximately 10:30 am
(The worship time will be livestreamed for those not able to attend in person).

Our worship time will include teaching from **Hebrews 12:1-3** and **1 John 1:1-4** and invite sharing on these questions:

- Which person(s) has impacted your faith the most? Why did they leave such an impression on you?
- Where have you experienced the activity of God in your own life? If this is difficult to articulate it may be helpful to reflect on a time of hardship, a miraculous event, a transition, a time you contributed to something great, or a period of growth.

****Bring your coins, there will be an offering time****

Teaching: Terrell Wiebe
Worship Leading: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert
Music: Mark Tiessen-Dyck
Children's Story: Andrew and Stephanie Rempel

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona: 117 2 Street NW
Altona, MB, R0G 0B1
Web Page Address: abchurchcommunity.ca **Office:** 324.6717
E-mail: office@abchurch.ca **Facebook:** ABC community
Worship Services available online at: abchurchcommunity.ca
Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324.5990, C 204.771.3406, marktd@abchurch.ca
Assoc. Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, C 304-6119
viriniagr@abchurch.ca
Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,
C 204.417.8200, terrellw@abchurch.ca

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Linda Braun and Helen Voth at the Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **Elva Loepky** has moved to 214-10th Av NE.
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** to Susan Dueck and Trudy Enns on the passing away of a sister in law, Selma Enns from Winnipeg on May 5.
- ~ **Pray** for the annual meeting of Friends of Grace Church network that is happening this weekend in Thailand. Pray that the meeting will be fruitful as they discuss vision and plans for the next few years. Pray for unity and good communication. Pray for Witness workers, Tom and Christine Poovong, as well as FGC president Pastor Khampan, as they bring leadership to this group.
- ~ **We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:**

Ben Rempel May 5	Ann Enns May 8
Wilf Hiebert May 7	Dorothy Braun May 9
Jake Sawatzky May 7	Don Fehr May 13
Nick Rempel May 8	

WORSHIP CALENDAR

- Next Sunday** we will begin 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). Speaker: Mark. Ecclesiastes: "The search for meaning" part 2
- June 18.** Speaker: Terrell. Job: "The search for justice" part 1
- June 25.** Speaker: Mark. Job: "The search for justice" part 2

FROM THE PASTOR: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

The "I love My Church" bulletin board has continued to grace our foyer with its presence. Many times I have paused to read some of the notes and been blessed. We'll be taking down the heart-shaped post-it notes, but only to make room for something else!

The "I love my church" bulletin board is becoming an "Encouragement and Gratitude" bulletin board. Everyone is invited to share personalized notes of encouragement and gratitude to specific people (or a group of people) in the church. Perhaps you noticed someone's act of kindness, you appreciated something that someone did, or you value a gift that someone shared. You can now express your appreciation for the person(s) by leaving a note on the bulletin board. This is not only for people whose contributions are more visible, but also to share gratitude for people who are doing things unnoticed and behind the scenes in the church and for the Kingdom of God.

Be sure to include the name of the person to whom you are writing the note so that they will find it. I suggest you sign your own name when writing a note, but you can leave it anonymous too. Notes can be left for the public to read or folded over (leaving the name visible) so that only the person for whom it is written will read it.

The idea of this bulletin board arose at a Church Council meeting some time ago as we discussed the value of celebrating the exciting things happening in our community. The practice of writing encouragement and gratitude notes comes from Camps with Meaning. At camp, there is always a bulletin board for staff and counsellors to write notes of encouragement to one another. This practice does wonders for the ministry of camp and I believe it can be a blessing for our church too.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Sunday, May 7, there will be no Sunday school this week. All are invited to brunch church.

Tuesdays lunch sermon discussion time.

Tuesday, May 9, Personnel meeting at 7 pm.

Wednesday 7-9, Youth (gr.7-12) Photo Scavenger Hunt! We are still looking for another adult or two for assistance with this event.

Sunday, May 14, Adult Sunday school discussion about MCI.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The pastoral staff are calling on all who might be interested in taking a **discipleship class**. The focus of this class would be to explore what it means to be a disciple of Jesus today. Those who are considering baptism might regard this class as an opportunity to explore their faith and help guide them in that decision. Those who are baptized might see this class as a chance to expand their learning, enrich their faith, and speak into the lives of others in the class. The dates and times of the class will be decided when the class is formed. If you are interested, please speak with any of the pastors.

MCI update: This past Tuesday, close to 200 alumni, church representatives / delegates, staff, students and curiosity seekers gathered at Buhler Hall/MCI Gretna at the invitation of the Board of Directors for a discussion regarding the future of MCI, established in 1889, and the longest-serving of some thirty Mennonite schools in Canada today. The frank, emotional, (passionate, and inspirational) conversation included the unveiling of "Renewed Hope for the Future" an ambitious three year strategic plan which highlighted five pillars of commitment: financial sustainability, student retention and recruitment, educational and program excellence, identity, and stakeholder engagement. Those in attendance, including 6 delegates from ABC, were also informed of the need to raise \$450,000 by the end of the school year to replenish endowment funds, and honour financial commitments. While recognizing the tireless efforts of the board and administration to weather the current circumstances and create healing among divisions, those of us in attendance were also left with no doubt that the current circumstances are extremely serious, perhaps the most critical in the school's 134 year history. (CONTINUED)

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

MCI UPDATE continued: Your delegates included Sarah Dueck, Hilda Franz, Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, Mark-Tiessen-Dyck, Kristin Falk, and Al Friesen. Kristin also serves as your church's representative on the MCI Board of Directors. A copy of "Renewed Hope for the Future" is available at the church office (and will be available on the MCI website mciblues.net) Please reach out to any of the above for further information or discussion.

Next Sunday, May 14, during the Sunday School hour (9:15-10:15 in the church basement) there will be an opportunity to talk about Mennonite Collegiate Institute. This is an opportunity to hear more about the situation MCI is in and discuss our church's relationship to the school.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mennonite Church Manitoba: Come enjoy a "Day Away" at Assiniboia Camp and Retreat Centre. Tuesday, May 16, 2023. Cost: \$20. Lunch (soup and buns), hiking, wagon ride, sit by the fireplace and visit, "Knipsbrat" and other table games, singing with Paul Dueck. To reserve a spot, call Linda at 204-864-2159 extension 104 or email carentals@campswithmeaning.org.

MCC: Looking for new golf gear – or have some to give away? Support a Golf Yard Sale for MCC on May 19 (2-7pm) and 20 (9am-3pm) at 7 Mercury Bay! Donations of golf clubs and gear are welcomed at Selkirk (511 Selkirk Ave) or Sargent (644 Burnell St) MCC Thrift Shops, or at 7 Mercury Bay. Contact Ron (204-296-4949) or Connie (204-261-4949) Loeppky for questions or more information.

CMU: CMU Golf Classic will take place on June 14 at Bridges Golf Course. Come as an individual or foursome to support CMU's student athletes and student aid program. To register or for sponsorship opportunities, visit cmu.ca/golf.

Spring Food Drive in support of Altona Rhineland Food bank will be taking place on **Monday May 8th**. Teens will not be knocking on doors asking for donations. If you want to donate, please leave your food items on your front step and they will be picked up between 7-9pm. Most needed items include canned goods such as: vegetables, meat, soup, fruit, and also beans as well as pasta, kraft dinner, rice, oatmeal, peanut butter and juice crystals.