

# BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA

Sunday, November 17, 2024, 10:30 am

*We were saved, not because of any righteous deeds we had done, but because of God's own mercy. Titus 3:5a*

## Gathering and Praise

Announcements

Hymn Come Away from Rush and Hurry VT 9

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn In the Bulb There Is a Flower VT 670

## Entering God's Story

Scripture Genesis 6:5-9:17 (Peace Table)

Offering and Hymn Come On, Children, to the Gospel Feast  
VT 511

Children's Story

Scripture Genesis 9:18-29

Sermon Hope for a Broken World

## Responding in Faith

Hymn Beyond a Dying Sun VT 416

ABC Conversation with Tina Heppner

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn Sing a New World into Being VT 809

\* \* \* \* \*

**Sermon:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

**Worship Leading:** Melissa Tiessen-Dyck **Scripture reader:** Emma Falk

**Music:** ABC Ensemble **Children's Story:** Laurie Enns

\* \* \* \* \*

*Next Sunday, November 24, is Memorial Sunday. This is our annual tradition of remembering loved ones who have died. During the service, everyone will be invited to light a candle in memory of people in our lives who have died in the past year.*

## Worship Calendar:

November 24. Memorial Sunday. Speaker: Mark

December 1. First Advent. Speaker: Virginia

December 8. Second Advent: Mark

## FROM THE PASTOR – Mark Tiessen-Dyck

The role of imagination in faith and discipleship is on my mind again. The gift of Jesus' imagination is on display in his conversation with a legal expert who tested him. After agreeing on the most important aspects of the law and how to walk in such a way as to gain life in the world to come, the expert asks Jesus, "who is my neighbour?" He asked this question because he wanted to "justify himself". When your motivation is to confirm that you are in the right, your imagination is closed; your spirit and mind are not open to growing or seeing new possibilities.

Jesus responded to the question by sharing an imagination exploding story (Luke 10:30-35). And then it is Jesus' turn to ask the questions: "Which of these three was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The legal expert says, "the one who had mercy." He cannot bring himself to say the word 'Samaritan'. His mind cannot yet make a connection between 'Samaritan' and 'neighbour'. Jesus has invited the legal expert to imagine the possibility that a Samaritan could be a neighbour or even a moral icon. The purpose of the story is not only to provide a model of behaviour in the Samaritan, but also to expand the imagination of people like the legal expert who are concerned with drawing limits on love for purposes of self-justification. 'Neighbour' at the time was generally understood to mean fellow Israelites. But the whole exchange has forced the legal expert to rethink who the law asks him to love.

It is often missed that Jesus and his disciples were snubbed by Samaritans shortly before he told this story (Luke 9:51-56). That a Samaritan village did not welcome Jesus is unsurprising. Jesus lived amidst centuries of animosity between Jews and Samaritans. This situation can be traced to the separation of Israel into the Northern and Southern Kingdoms, the North building a capitol and temple at Samaria, the destruction of the Northern Kingdom by Assyria, the small group of remaining Israelites who intermarried with Assyrians adapting different religious and cultural practices and eventually becoming known as "Samaritans". When a remnant of Babylonian Jews returned from exile there was conflict and opposition between them and the Samaritans who lived in the land. Over centuries this separation and hostility hardened. In this context, why did Jesus visit a Samaritan village? And how, after experiencing their rejection, could he tell a story in which a Samaritan is the hero? When the way of Jesus surprises us, we see our need for imagination.

**Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona** 117-2<sup>nd</sup> St NW/ROG 0B1

**Web Page Address:** [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) **Office:** 324.6717

**E-mail:** [office@abchurch.ca](mailto:office@abchurch.ca) **Facebook:** ABC community

**Worship Services available online at:** [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca)

**Lead Pastor:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324.5990, C 1.204.771.3406, [marktd@abchurch.ca](mailto:marktd@abchurch.ca)

**Assoc. Pastor:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, C 304.6119 [virginiagr@abchurch.ca](mailto:virginiagr@abchurch.ca)

**Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries:** Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,

C 204.417.8200, [terrellw@abchurch.ca](mailto:terrellw@abchurch.ca)

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **PRAYER AND PRAISE:**

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

Tina Heppner- Nov. 18, Larry Falk- Nov. 19,

Susan Heinrichs- Nov. 21, Carol Rempel- Nov. 23

**Hospitalized:** Art Dyck, Henry Klassen and Elsie Heide are in the Altona Health Centre.

**International Witness:** Bible Missionary Church Mennonite (Myanmar) is working for peace with armed groups, discipling young believers, and caring for each other in time of turmoil and war. MCEC Mission minister, Norm Dyck, will join a group from Mennonite World Conference for a solidarity visit in Thailand with pastors from this network. Pray for safety in travel and God's spirit of peace and encouragement for these pastors.

### **THIS WEEK AT ABC:**

**Sun. Nov. 17, 9:15 am:** Sunday School for all ages

**Sun. Nov. 17, 10:30 am:** Worship service.

**Tue. Nov. 19, 10:30 am:** Coffee with the Church staff.

**Tue. Nov. 19, 7 pm:** Church council meeting

**Wed. Nov. 20, 7-9 pm** Combined youth event. Menno Run! Come dressed for the weather.

**Wed. Nov. 20, 7-8:15 pm:** Ventures for grades 3-6

**Thur. Nov. 21, 2 pm:** Book study at the Gardens on Tenth MPR.

**Terrell is seeking help** from the congregation for a Menno on the Run youth event on November 20th. Needed are at least three homes within running distance of the church that will serve as "safe houses" for the youth to drop in on over the course of the evening (7:15-8:45ish). Each house will be given some Bible study/Mennonite history material to cover. A snack can be dropped off or the host can prepare a snack to serve. Please let Terrell know if you and your home are available.

**From your Church Council:** Here's a reminder of the upcoming ABC fall meeting on Dec 1. We are planning for the meeting to coincide with the next potluck lunch. This will be primarily an information session and we look forward to sharing and discussing the activities here at ABC. If you have any suggested topics to be included, please reach out to any member of Church Council.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**Climate Action Working Group:** Supper and a presentation on The Upside-down Economics of Jesus: Household Action and Global Change. This is a no-fee event hosted by MCM, Sat. Nov. 23 at The Community Exchange in Altona, supper at 6 pm, program beginning at 7 pm Please register at [mennochurch.mb.ca/events](http://mennochurch.mb.ca/events)

**Cottonwood Community Drama** presents the classic Dickens tale: *A Christmas Carol!* Dec. 5-8 in Buhler Hall, Gretna. Buy your tickets today at [www.mciblues.net](http://www.mciblues.net) or by calling 204-327-5891.

**CMU Discover Day** – Join us for the full day or the afternoon of Nov. 22 to discover what it is like to be a CMU student. Tour the CMU campus, attend a sample lecture, meet professors and current students, and have lunch and treats on us! Visit [cmu.ca/experience](http://cmu.ca/experience) for more information and to register.

**Recovery of Hope** is hosting speaker, Dr. Gordon Neufeld who will be speaking on "What's happening to our kids?: The current crisis of wellbeing" on Nov. 19, 7 pm, at the Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain. Tickets are \$25 and are available on Eventbrite. For more information, call 204-477-4673, or email [info@recoveryofhope.ca](mailto:info@recoveryofhope.ca).

**Southern MB Choral Society** concert "Journeys", Sun. Nov. 17 at 3 pm at ABC. Ben Kroeker, conductor and Loren Hiebert, pianist.

**MCI** invites you to join us on Mon, Nov. 18 at 7 pm for the AGM. We will meet in MCI's chapel. We hope to see you there!

**Empty Stocking Fund** please register by calling 431-342-0525 or email [rhinelandesf@gmail.com](mailto:rhinelandesf@gmail.com). Deadline for registration is Nov 30, 2024, delivery date, Dec 14, 2014. Someone must be home to accept gifts. To donate to the Empty Stocking Fund go to Access Credit Union.

**Pray for our Congregations:** Little Flowers Community continues to serve those on the margins in a time where the needs of the vulnerable are increasingly demanding. We also continue to look for a consistent meeting space for the new year. And prayers for the health of pastoral leader, Jamie Arpin-Ricci.