

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH OF  
ALTONA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023, 10:30 am

*"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."  
John 14:18*

**Gathering and Praise**

Welcome and Announcements

Music Come, now is the time to worship VT 29

Call to worship and prayer

Music New earth, heavens new VT 377

Offering

**Hearing God's Word**

Children's story

Scripture John 14:15-18, Acts 10:44-48

Sermon Wind of chaos: The Holy Spirit and the church

**Responding in Trust**

Music How can we be silent? VT 790

The Lord's table

Benediction

Music The peace of the earth SJ 77

*Everyone is welcome to stay for potluck lunch. Please bring a dish that is large enough for you and your family and to share with others.*

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Everyone is welcome to participate in Communion by sharing the bread and cup. You will be served where you are seated and we invite everyone to hold the bread and cup until everyone has been served so that we may partake in unison. Please raise your hand if you are missed while communion is being served. If you require gluten free bread, it is available in the paper cups on each tray. Wine is red. Juice is clear.

*Sermon: Terrell Wiebe Worship Leading: Mark Tiessen-Dyck  
Music: ABC Ensemble Children's Story: Laurie Enns*

**FROM THE PASTOR: Terrell Wiebe**

This past Sunday our church gifted each Sunday school family with a copy of the new storybook Bible from Herald Press called *The Peace Table*. One area where *The Peace Table* excels is that it presents the biblical story not as a static source of information, but as a narrative to be engaged through a section called 'Wonder & Share,' where the reader and listeners are given the permission to let our curiosity loose and connect the story with our own experience.

Earlier this week, our family read the story of Hagar. After hearing at Sunday School last week about the promised child that came to the elderly Abram and Sarai, it was a bit of a shock to hear about how this same couple mistreated their slave, Hagar, and how it was only by God's salvation in the wilderness that she was saved. The wondering prompts in the book had us consider Hagar's hopeless position and led to conversation about how even Abraham, the father of the faith, was a flawed human. The sharing prompts helped us reflect on times we have felt hopeless, lonely, or scared.

What I love about approaching the biblical text with wonder is that we can come back time after time to these same stories and find something new in the text, or in our connection to the text. In this way, the Bible is not just God's story, it is also our story.

I encourage all of us to employ a spirit of wonder as we engage the biblical text. Even during individual study, a useful question might be to ask how your own wondering about a text has changed through the different seasons of your life.

If we can encourage a sense of wonder, the biblical story can become more than facts to be memorized. It can reveal the wonderful account of God at work in the world, inspiring children and adults to discuss, question and act in response to the biblical message - to not just read the scriptures, but to participate in the enduring story of God and God's people.

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**WORSHIP CALENDAR**

We are in the midst of a sermon series called "Spirituality and the Holy Spirit". Our hope is to develop a deeper appreciation for the identity and work of the Holy Spirit and explore what it means to live as deeply shaped and informed by the Holy Spirit.

Sept. 10. Who is the Holy Spirit? Speaker: Mark

Sept. 17. Spirituality in today's world: An interactive sermon. Speaker: Mark

Sept. 24. The Holy Spirit in you! Speaker: Mark

Oct. 1. The Holy Spirit and the church. Speaker: Terrell

Oct. 8. The Holy Spirit and our transformation. Speaker: Virginia

Oct. 15. The Holy Spirit and the Word. Speaker: Mark

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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

**Gardens on tenth soup and pie fundraiser:** Oct. 5, 5:00-7:00 pm

**Eden Foundation:** "Move for mental health" fundraiser, Oct. 10-17.

**MCI:** MCI is looking to hire someone for a classroom support position. For more information, contact Jennifer Klippenstein, 204-327-5891 or email [jenniferklippenstein@mciblues.net](mailto:jenniferklippenstein@mciblues.net).

**CMU:** CommonWord is Here for You – Google can help you find a million titles; CommonWord can help you find the right one – to buy, borrow, or access online! Providing trusted Anabaptist resources for over 50 years – whether you are an avid reader or church leader, we are here to help. Visit [commonword.ca](http://commonword.ca) for more information.

**MCM: Camps with Meaning Celebration Banquets.** Join us November 4<sup>th</sup> at Emmanuel Church, Winkler and November 5<sup>th</sup> at Douglas Mennonite Church, Winnipeg. Contact the camp office to reserve your free spot. [camps@mennochurch.mb.ca](mailto:camps@mennochurch.mb.ca), 204-895-2267.

**Pembina Valley Bible Camp:** Sat., Oct. 21 "Split'n Stack". Register as a team to take part in a friendly competition. Cut, split and stack wood in a few hours and help PVBC heat their camp this winter! For more info or to register a team visit [pembinavalleybiblecamp.com](http://pembinavalleybiblecamp.com) or call the camp office, 204-246-2008.

### **Mennonite Church Manitoba weekly congregational profile:**

Nordheim Mennonite has been faithfully witnessing to Jesus in Winnipegosis for 90 years. While geographically distant from most of our MCM congregations, they are thankful for the connection and relationships we share together. In the 1960s the congregation moved from a country church into the town of Winnipegosis, deliberately to be among their neighbours and community. This community focus continues still. Worship services are a time for each to bring their gifts of worship—songs, special music, stories, Scripture reading, sermon, and more—and the Spirit weaves them together into a beautiful, united voice of praise to God. Please pray for Nordheim Mennonite to be obedient to the Spirit of God as they look to the needs of their community. Pray also for those working in the fields during this harvest season.

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#### **Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona**

**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 204.771.3406, [marktd@abchurch.ca](mailto:marktd@abchurch.ca)

**Assoc. Pastor:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, C 304-6119 [viriniagr@abchurch.ca](mailto:viriniagr@abchurch.ca)

**Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries:** Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,  
C 204.417.8200, [terrellw@abchurch.ca](mailto:terrellw@abchurch.ca)

## **PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

**Hospitalized:** Bernard Wiebe, Jake Rempel, Bernie Friesen (Edith) and Marge Friesen at the Altona Health Centre.

**Jake and Ann Enns** have made a move to Gardens on Tenth, room #310.

**Craig Neufeld and Courtney Gabrielle** were married on September 30! We join in celebrating their marriage and wish them God's blessing.

**Indigenous Relations:** As communities gather across Canada on Orange Shirt Day (<https://orangeshirtday.org/>), hold in the Light the communities that are grieving and pained by the impact of Canada's past injustices. Showing up to events in your community communicates the urgent need to acknowledge the lasting harms of the residential school program and to embark on a collective journey of truth, reconciliation, and healing.

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



Shirley Funk – Sept. 27, Leah Tiessen-Dyck – Oct. 2,  
Rachel Wahl – Oct. 4, Elvira Friesen – Oct. 5



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

**Sunday, Oct. 1, 9:15-10:15 am,** Sunday school for all ages. Ages 3-*grade 7* are in the basement of the education wing, *the youth* are in the south wing, and *the adults* in the church basement.

**Sunday, Oct. 1,** Potluck lunch after the service.

**Tuesday, Oct. 3, 10:30 am,** Coffee with the church staff.

**Wednesday, Oct. 4, 7:00-8:15 pm,** Ventures registration and start up.

**Wednesday, Oct. 4, 7:00-9:00 pm,** Youth (Gr.7-12) We will be collecting goods for the Rhineland food bank around town. Come dressed to be outdoors. See you there!

### **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS :**

**Pastor Mark** will be travelling to Matheson Island this week with Erika Enns Rodine (pastor at Altona Mennonite Church) and Melanie Neufeld (from Mennonite Church Manitoba). They will be connecting with people at the Island and sharing in a time of worship. Please pray for a trip that is safe and rich in relationship building. Mark will be out of the office Thursday Oct 5 and Friday Oct 6.

**From Finance and Maintenance:** We are pleased to share the news for parents of diaper age children, that a change table has been installed in a bathroom in the foyer. Appropriate signage has also been posted on the bathroom door.