

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH OF
ALTONA
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023, 10:30 am

"For this reason, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in knowledge of God." - Colossians 1:9-10

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Music God is here among us VT 62

Call to worship and prayer

Music Renew your church VT 717

Offering Now thank we all our God VT 114

Hearing God's Word

Children's story

Scripture Galatians 5:13-26

Sermon Celebrating the winds of the Spirit

Responding in Trust

Music Have thy own way HWB 504

ABC Conversations with Grace Harms

Prayer of the Church and the World

Benediction

Music Sing a new world into being VT 809

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Worship Leading: Al Friesen Music: Tena Giesbrecht

Children's Story: Joanna Ginter

WORSHIP CALENDAR

- October 15: The Spirit and the Word. Speaker: Mark
October 22: Guest Speaker: Darryl Loewen, Executive Director of
Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba.
October 29: Speaker: Virginia
November 5: Brunch Church and Blanket Exercise

FROM THE PASTOR: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

I have been doing a lot of thinking lately about why people go to church, or participate in a faith community, and why people don't. There are many articles and studies done on this topic. And there are many reasons and rationalizations that have been given. And there has also been a lot of energy put into ways of "reimagining how we do church."

What strikes me in the conversations that I have had and in the articles that I have read is how pervasive the declining numbers are for church attendance as well as the very individual reasons people give for not attending a church.

It makes me wonder, **why do you attend church?** Why do you participate in our programs or volunteer or step into leadership roles? What value does church participation hold for our community and our society as a whole?

I was talking with a friend recently about why she thought people do or don't attend church, and she said something to the effect that it depends on whether or not the church can meet someone's needs. But that also made me wonder, is church all about meeting our own needs or the needs of others? Is participating in a faith community just for our own benefit?

As you can see there are a lot of questions and I believe a diversity of answers, but I think it is an important topic to reflect on as we navigate the role the church plays in our lives and in the life of our community.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Singin' in the Grain invites you to attend a choral concert in support of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Featuring the Chamber Choir from the Steinbach Regional Secondary School, and the Westgate Mennonite Collegiate Concert Choir. October 28 at 7:00 PM at the Douglas Mennonite Church in Winnipeg, and on October 29 at 3:00 PM at Emmanuel Mennonite in Winkler. foodgrainsbank.ca/singin.

Steps Towards Reconciliation Altona: The Orange Bench will be outside the Altona Civic Centre until October 14th! You'll have the chance to sit and read about truth, reconciliation, and resilience. We have also prepared storyboards featuring Miskogizhigok's story (also known as Marjorie Nelson), as told by her daughter Josephine Hartin. We believe Miskogizhigok's story draws attention to all three themes.

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

Mennonite Church Manitoba weekly congregational profile:

Home Street Mennonite is rooted in our neighbourhood, surrounded by reminders of both the beauty and the challenges of inner-city life. Our Coffee and Conversation group welcomes folks from the neighbourhood each Sunday for a time of fellowship, and our Manitoba Harvest depot (called Home Plate) helps us serve and form relationships with even more neighbours. Aware of the history of our property, Home Street's Indigenous Settler Relations Group works to make the building available to Indigenous groups for gatherings. In our worship life, we are blessed by gifted lay leaders, preachers, and musicians. In our community life, we are blessed with people who have the gifts of hospitality and friendship as we extend an inclusive welcome to all. Pray for Home Street as we seek to reach out to our neighbourhood with the love of Jesus.

THIS WEEK AT ABC

Sunday, Oct. 8, 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.

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

Tuesday, Oct. 10, 7:00 - 9:00 pm – Senior Youth (Gr. 9-12) Worship night. We will engage in some spiritual practices and play some games.

Wednesday, Oct. 11, 7:00 - 9:00 pm – Junior Youth (Gr. 7-8) Worship and games night.

Wednesday, Oct. 11, 7:00-8:15 pm- Ventures in the church basement.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

Hospitalized: Bernard Wiebe, Bernie Friesen (Edith), Marge Friesen and Ben Dyck at the Altona Health Centre.

Jake Rempel has moved to room #218 at Eastview Place.

We rejoice and thank God for the birth of Micah, daughter to Josh and Alyssa Neufeld and sister to Oliver.

International Witness: "Come and See" Holy Land Pilgrimage, May 11-25, 2024. Deadline extended! We need pastors, church leaders, social justice advocates, and concerned individuals like you to sign up and invite others. The new deadline for applications is December 15. There are spaces available. Please visit the pilgrimage site for more information <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/pin/pilgrimage>

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

Riana Voth – Oct. 2, Abby Rempel - Oct. 8, Dayna Wahl – Oct. 8,

Audrey Kehler – Oct. 10, Mark Tiessen-Dyck, Oct. 10,

Melvin Klassen – Oct. 12, Grace Klippenstein – Oct. 13



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

My trip to Matheson Island this week was postponed due to lots of rain in the area and the road being in poor condition as a result. We are working to reschedule the trip for sometime in November. I appreciate the interest that people have shown and the prayers – Mark TD

Small Group Open House, October 16, 2023. The A.B.C. small group that has been meeting for two years is hosting an "open house" on Monday, October 16 at 7:30pm at South Wing. If you're interested in finding out more about small group, you're welcome to join us. Questions? Call Tammy & Jason Driedger.

On November 5, we will be having "Brunch Church" again (potluck brunch beginning at 9:15). During our gathering this day, we will be participating in a Blanket Exercise. A Blanket Exercise is an interactive way of engaging the story of our land from the perspective of Indigenous communities' experience. This is a way for our church to grow in knowledge of our history and our journey of reconciliation. Kerry Saner-Harvey, a staff person from MCC, will be facilitating for us. You can learn more about the Blanket Exercise here: <https://www.kairosCanada.org/what-we-do/indigenous-rights/blanket-exercise>. On this day, you will need to bring a brunch dish to share and a blanket to participate.

The Gardens on Tenth Annual General Meeting will be held Thursday, October 26th at 7:00 PM in The Gardens MPR. Two delegates from ABC are needed in addition to our representatives. If interested, please contact Melvin Klassen or Albert Falk.