



Welcome to the Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

Sunday, September 17,
2023

Worship Service at
10:30 am

"The Lord God formed the human from the topsoil of the fertile land and blew life's breath into his nostrils. The human came to life."

Genesis 2:7

"But you aren't self-centered. Instead you are in the Spirit, if in fact God's Spirit lives in you. If anyone doesn't have the Spirit of Christ, they don't belong to Him."

Romans 8:9



Our service begins at 10:30 am in the main lodge at Camp Assiniboia.

There will be praising God through music, a children's story, and a sermon.

The scripture for the service is Romans 8:5-17.

No livestream available for this service.



Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck
Worship Leading: Terrell Wiebe
Music: The Rempel family
Children's Story: Kristin Falk

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

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

Our love and sympathy to Bill and Carol Bergman at the passing away of Bill's brother, Jake Bergman on September 13. A private family service will be held at a later date.

Elsie Heide has moved to #208 in the Gardens on Tenth apartments.

International Witness: Pray with PeaceBuilders Community (PBCI) as they work toward a sustainable transition of leadership in peace and justice work in Mindanao and other parts of the Philippines. Pray for Witness workers Lakan and Lakambini (Dann and Joji Pantoja) as they work with the group to discern future involvement in social enterprise and peace and reconciliation training. Thank you for being part of this transition process with your gifts and prayers. See the progress on the Malipayon Peace Hub:

<https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/philippines-transition>

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

Ben Dueck September 17

Jolene Friesen-Stoesz September 21

Art Dyck September 23

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.

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

September 17 (**no worship service at our church building**). Spirituality in today's world: An interactive sermon. Speaker: Mark

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

October 1. The Holy Spirit and the church. Speaker: Virginia

October 8. The Holy Spirit and our transformation. Speaker: Terrell

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

FROM THE PASTOR: Terrell Wiebe

In honour of Mennonite Heritage Week – the second week of September as declared by the Canadian parliament in 2019.

In his book, *Mennonites in Canada, 1939-1970*, T.D. Regher tells the story of a conflict that occurred amongst Mennonites in Altona and the surrounding area. The conflict centered on where churches ought to spend their financial resources during times of economic depression. David Shultz, long time elder of the Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Manitoba advocated for church established programs like the *Waisenamt* (Orphan's fund) and *Feuerversicherung* (fire insurance), among others, which the Bergthaler church had established to support the weakest of its members to protect their dignity and self worth. The other option, backed by J.J. Siemens, was secular co-ops like the Rhineland Agricultural Society which owed much to the Mennonite tradition of mutual aid but was based on socialist views that sought to protect community interests. The conflict was framed as a choice between strengthening the congregation (Shultz) or strengthening the rural community (Siemens).

While we are at an entirely different point in history, it strikes me that congregations still wrestle with the decision of support. How much do we spend on programs that give life to our church, and how much do we give programs that provide life to the community? Does it make a difference to us if those outside programs are based on biblical principles or not?

Many of us are gathering at Camp Assiniboia for a weekend of community building and worship this weekend. This can certainly be filed under the "strengthening the congregation" category. Meanwhile, the community meals we support could be filed under the "strengthening the community" category. I see it as encouraging that our congregation finds it important to support both ideologies of strengthening the congregation and strengthening the community. How would you assess where our support goes? What other lessons do we have to learn from Mennonite history in our area?



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THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Tuesday, September 19, 10:30 am, Coffee with the church staff.

Tuesday, September 19, 7:00, Youth talk night (Senior Youth - grades 9-12) We are starting our "God loves your..." series with a session on how God loves our flaws.

Wednesday, September 20, 7:00, Youth talk night: (Junior Youth - grades 7&8). God loves your flaws!

Sunday, September 24, 9:15 am Sunday school and parent's meeting.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS :

We are going to have a regular adult Sunday school class again. The class will begin October 1 and meet regularly in the church basement from 9:15-10:15 on Sunday morning. Pastor Mark will be leading a Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke.

Koinonia Ladies will be beginning their coming year on Monday, September 18 at 2:00 pm. Anyone interested in joining call Joyce Falk at 324.8144.

Fall Book Study. We will read the book Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God, by Lauren Winner. Meeting times will be Thursdays at 2 pm. Let Pastor Virginia know if you are interested by Sept 20, so we can order the books and start in October.

Each week the Mennonite Church Manitoba update profiles one congregation which is part of the MCM community. We'll be including them in our bulletin as a way to help stay connected to our family of churches and remember them in our prayers.

Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship- FGMF was formed in 1967. Its founding members adopted a "team ministry" model for their polity, and instead of a constitution formulated a "covenant." There are no hired pastors, but rather lay ministers who serve for set terms. Most (though not all) of our members fellowship in "K-Groups," ensuring that pastoral and other concerns do not easily fall between the cracks. While the pandemic reduced the scale of our programming, 60-100 people attend services every Sunday, along with a significant group on Zoom. The four-part harmony singing of hymns from Voices Together is a regular feature. We would appreciate prayers for those in our congregation who are unable to attend our worship service in person, and for our children's Sunday School leaders working through post-pandemic challenges.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

MCC: Are you 18-20 and looking for ways to grow in your faith and self? Join Seek – a six-month discipleship program that will help you learn more deeply what it means to be an Anabaptist follower of Jesus. Seek 2024 will be in Cambodia, from January to June 2024. Apply online before September 30! Seek to grow in love. Seek to live and serve like Jesus. mcc.org/seek.

CMU: Xplore offers life-long learning courses that investigate dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it—all without assignments or exams! Join one or more of our offered courses (in-person or online) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. Courses will begin on October 3 and 4. For more information and to register visit cmu.ca/xplore.

MCM: Mennonite Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity invites congregations to support Camp Morgan and Camp Mercedes as they prepare for winter, including: hot food/non-perishable food items, ice, wood (use 1 cord per week/camp at \$350 cost), blankets, winter clothing, hand warmers, and tobacco for sacred fires.

Steps Toward Reconciliation: Inter-National treaty making through Anishinaabe law with Dawnis Kennedy. This takes place Thursday, Sept. 21, 7 pm at the MEC.

Altona and District Palliative Care Volunteer Team is looking for new volunteers to support people in our community who are dealing with serious illness and loss. There is a Palliative Care Training Program upcoming Oct. 16th and 23rd in Morden. If interested in becoming a volunteer, contact Maria Nickel at 204-324-4480 or altonapalliativecare@gmail.com

The Rhineland Area Food Bank needs volunteers for regular, once a month, shifts to serve clients. The hours are on Monday from 10-11 am, and 7-8 pm. We are also in need of volunteers who are willing to be on the sub list. If you are interested in volunteering and need more information, please email Hilda Klassen at: Hildaklassen28@gmail.com.

Winkler Bible Camp's fall supper will be Tuesday, September 19 from 4:30-6:00 pm.

Pembina Valley Bible Camp: Sept. 23 and 24 from 2-6 pm. Come get your "Pies & Fries" to raise money for a commercial oven. Cost by donation.