

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH OF
ALTONA
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

*"Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything;
hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil."*

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

*"But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God
dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong
to him." ~ Romans 8:9*

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Music God is here among us HWB 16

Call to worship and prayer

Music Holy Spirit, come with power HWB 26

Offering Breathe on me, breath of God HWB 356

Hearing God's Word

Children's story

Sunday School teachers blessing

Scripture Act 19:1-10. Romans 8:9

Sermon Creativity. Energy. Wisdom.

Signs of the Holy Spirit in you?

Responding in Trust

Music Come, Holy Spirit, dove divine HWB 445

Prayer of the Church and the World

Benediction

Music Spirit of God! Descend HWB 502

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck Worship Leading: Janna Wiebe

Music: Glenys Voth and Lorraine Hamm Children's Story: Terrell Wiebe

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

FROM THE PASTOR: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Last week I watched a video called "Everything is Spiritual" by Rob Bell. He has written a book of the same name, but I didn't have time to read it, but you could.

Rob Bell is a theological rockstar known for his preaching, videos, and writings. I have an affinity for him because I heard him speak at the Festival of Homiletics in San Antonio and his message changed my life. He is also a controversial figure due to his book "Love Wins", which challenged the prevailing understandings of heaven, hell, and salvation in Evangelical Christianity.

"Everything is Spiritual" explores cosmology, what makes us human, and why spirituality is unavoidable. His audience is more the spiritual seeker than the committed disciple of Jesus. I found Bell's reflections to be thought provoking and insightful. In light of how the universe grew from atoms and molecules into cells and organisms, he invites people to recognize that materiality alone cannot explain the development of our cosmos and our nature as human beings. Bell highlights our human thirst for healing, connection, and purpose in the world. The renewed interest in spirituality in the world today is not surprising for Christians considering we believe that God loves people and desires people to respond to this love. Finding our spiritual home in the Triune God is what Christian spirituality is all about. I like to think about the merging of our spirit with the Holy Spirit as the ultimate goal, however unattainable it may seem, of our spiritual lives.

It is also important to remember that our spirituality is not a separate compartment from the rest of our life. Everything *is* Spiritual. We see the integration of spiritual and material living in Paul's writing about the fruits of the Spirit and the works of the flesh. Some of the fruits of the Spirit have very material expressions such as self-control, peace, patience and generosity, while some of the works of the flesh originate and are primarily expressed in our spirits such as jealousy, hatred, and idolatry. The question is not whether we are spiritual or material (we are always both!), but which sphere of influence are we within?

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

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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: "The last radio show" – an evening of fun and laughter, Sept. 29 and 30. "Move for mental health" fundraiser, Oct. 10-17.

The Rhineland Area Food Bank needs volunteers for regular, once a month, shifts to serve clients as well as substitutes. The hours are on Monday from 10-11 am, and 7-8 pm. If you are interested in volunteering please email Hilda Klassen at: Hildaklassen28@gmail.com.

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

MCI: Please pray for our annual Christian Life Retreat to Red Rock Bible Camp on Sept. 27-29. May this be a time of connection and community building. MCI is looking to hire someone for a classroom support position. For more information, contact Jennifer Klippenstein, by calling the school (204-327-5891) or email jenniferklippenstein@mciblues.net.

CMU: J.J. Thiessen Lecture – You are invited to hear Dr. Willie James Jennings of Yale Divinity School present his talk entitled, *Gathering the pieces that remain: Weaving life together from the fragments of faith, race, and land*. October 27 at 7:00 PM in Marpeck Commons or via livestream. Visit cmu.ca/jjt for details and livestream.

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.

Aberdeen Mennonite is a small church that has been located in the North End of Winnipeg for over 60 years. We have a semi-liturgical style of worship, where adults and kids worship together. Aberdeen has a heart for social justice and has had many connections to various organizations throughout Winnipeg and beyond over the years. Please pray with us as we begin exploring the possibility of becoming an officially affirming congregation this fall and as we look to grow our children and youth programs.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

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

Pray for Pastor Virginia as she is travelling this week to go to a friend's funeral. She will be back in the office on Oct 3.

Indigenous Relations: Hold in prayer the organizers and planners of the 'We are All Treaty People' event that was held Sept. 17th in Winnipeg. The event was an opportunity for settlers and newcomers to join together with Indigenous People in celebrating the kinship relationship forged by the signing of the Treaties, to share in the richness of these cultures through the arts, and to honour the Treaty commitment to share the land together in a good way. <https://mcc.org/events/we-are-all-treaty-people-celebration>

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

Frank Kehler – Sept. 25, Ivan Wiebe – Sept. 25, Helen Dueck – Sept. 27,
Marge Loepky – Sept. 29, Henry Kehler – Sept. 29,
Sara Stoesz – Sept. 30

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Sunday, Sept. 24, 9:15, Parents Sunday school meeting

Sunday, Sept. 24, 9:15-10:15, Sunday school for ages 3-18 in the basement of the education wing, youth are in the south wing.

Tuesday, Sept. 26, 10:30 am, Coffee with the church staff.

Wednesday Sept. 27, 6:30 - 9:00. Youth (gr. 7-12) are heading to Elvaro Escape Rooms in Winkler. Pick up and drop off at the church. Note the earlier start time. Bring \$10 if you are able.

Thursday, Sept. 28, 7:00 pm Church Council meeting

Oct. 1, Potluck lunch.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS :

Next Sunday, October 1, Our worship service will include communion.

Oct 1 Church Potluck! We are bringing back the monthly potluck. Please bring a dish that is large enough for you and your family and to share with others.

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.

DRIVE AWAY HUNGER 2023

Rhineland Area Food Bank



There will be a Drive Away Hunger Food Drive for the Rhineland Area Food Bank on **Wednesday, October 4**. Youth will be canvassing the town from **6:30 pm to 8:30 pm**. The weekly client visits have increased greatly in the past year. The basic items in the "Top Ten Needs" list are the ones that are most needed. Receipts will be issued for monetary donations. Please double check your items for the expiry date.

Rhineland Area Food Bank Ten Most Needed Items:

- Canned vegetables
- Canned meat and fish
- Canned soups: vegetable, chicken noodle, tomato
- Canned fruit
- Canned beans in tomato sauce
- Pasta, Kraft dinner, Mr. Noodle and Pasta sauce
- Rice (small bags)
- Oatmeal and non-sugared Cereals
- Peanut Butter
- Juice (powdered)

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

2023

AGE 3-4

AMANDA WIENS & JULIE NIEMCZAK

KINDERGARTEN & GRADE 1

TAMMY DRIEDGER, KELSEY DRIEDGER & VIRGINIA GERBRANDT RICHERT

GRADE 2-4

JOANNA GINTER & LISA HIEBERT-PENNER

GRADE 5-7

SHARON FRIESEN

GRADE 8-12

BYRON LOEPPKY

