

Welcome to the Bergthaler Mennonite
Church of Altona
September 3, 2023
10:30 am



Sunday, September 3, 2023
Worship Service at 10:30 am

"Would you strike those whom you have taken
captive with your sword and with your bow?
Set food and water before them so that they
may eat and drink, and let them go to their
master."
2 Kings 6:22

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Music I'm pressing on the upward way STJ 96

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music If you believe and I believe (3x) STJ 32

We will follow STS 40

Offering

Hearing God's Word

Music Put peace into each other's hands STJ 87

Scripture 2 Kings 6:8-23

Sermon How to treat an enemy

Responding in Trust

Music Be a sower (lyrics in bulletin)

Prayer of the Church and the World

Benediction

Music Now may the Lord of peace
(lyrics in bulletin)

Sermon: Terrell Wiebe
Worship Leading: Sharon Friesen
Music: Hilda Franz and Imy Rempel

*Rose Tryon and Pastor Virginia will be serving at Eastview and GOT
apartments on our behalf this morning.*

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

Hospitalized: Helen Voth, Bernard Wiebe and Jake Rempel at the Altona Health Centre. Bernie Friesen (Edith) is at the Boundary Trails Health Centre.

International Witness: Northeast Asia is an area of the world where the potential for armed conflict is growing. Bock Ki Kim and Sook Kyoung Park, Witness workers in South Korea, see signs of potential for armed conflict in their country and their community. Join with them in prayers for peace as they work for peaceful resolution of conflict in homes, schools, communities and churches. For more information on the military crises in the Korean peninsula: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2023/july-web-only/christians-north-south-korea-united-states-military.html>

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

Gail Braun	September 5	Tammy Driedger	September 8
Ken Penner	September 5	Amanda Wiens	September 8
Irene Friesen	September 6	Wendy Friesen	September 9
Larry A. Friesen	September 7		

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Today we conclude our four-week sermon series called "**Seeking Peace Together**" exploring a different Biblical character and how they modeled peace through their actions and how we are called to do the same.

Sept 3. Speaker: Terrell

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

Sept. 17. (At Camp Assiniboia, no worship service at our church building). 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: Virginia

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

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

FROM THE PASTOR: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Next Sunday we are embarking on a sermon series called "Spirituality and the Holy Spirit."

Even as religiosity has been declining in Western societies, interest in spirituality endures and the options for seeking spiritual fulfillment have increased. For Christians, authentic spirituality begins with the Holy Spirit. Yet we sometimes treat the Holy Spirit as the forgotten person of the Trinity. In our Anabaptist Mennonite tradition we have emphasized discipleship and following Christ but have sometimes forgotten that discipleship is a Holy Spirit inspired process. I also think that some of our hesitancy to talk about the Holy Spirit is a resistance or fear of more Spirit inspired traditions and practices like speaking in tongues. We are also afflicted with the worry of being perceived as too "spiritual" or "holy" if we share our encounters with the Holy Spirit. But we cannot throw the baby out with the bathwater. We need the Holy Spirit! If it weren't for the Holy Spirit there would be no church, no Bible, no salvation, and no incarnation. Some scripture texts we will be exploring are Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit (John 16), stories from Acts which recount the Holy Spirit's work, the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5) and others.

My hope is that through these sermons we will gain a deeper understanding of who the Holy Spirit is and how we can live with a greater connection to the Holy Spirit.

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

MCM: Save the date for Saturday, Sept 23, 2pm MB time, for a Zoom visit with Josué and Denise from the Burkina Faso Mennonite Church. They will be sharing on the topic of "Family", an area where the Burkinabé have strong gifts and values which keep families connected and offer members an essential support system. Zoom link to come. RSVP to Melanie Neufeld, mneufeld@mennochurch.mb.ca

Canadian Mennonite is evolving. You can read about it in Tobi Thiessen's August 25 editorial. Help shape the next chapter by completing their survey. Go to: www.surveymonkey.com/r/CM_mag_ideas.

Support Eden Foundation's 21st annual Head for the Hills cycling event on Saturday, September 9, 2023. Information and registration online at www.edenhealthcare.ca.

Southern Manitoba Choral Society invites adults of all ages to join in singing together this winter. Contact Sarah Dueck at 324.7144.

Care Partner Support Groups are being offered at Gardens on Tenth, the third Monday of the month, beginning September 18.

The Community Exchange is hosting an evening of poetry with Gareth Brandt on Sunday, September 10th at 7pm.

YFC will be starting their breakfast program at Miller again this coming school year, which means they will need baking very soon. Muffins, biscuits, cinnamon buns, or cookies, etc. Please contact Kendra at kendra.fehr@yfc.ca. It is run on Wednesday mornings and Tuesday mornings are a great day to drop it off.

Pavilion Project at the Altona Community Garden grand opening! Saturday, September 9, at 11 am.

Generation Rising is hosting a free concert with Rosemary Siemens & Eli Bennett on Friday, Sept 15, 7 pm at the Winkler MB Church. Admission is free with a freewill offering to help children in Latin America living in poverty go to school as well as providing educational scholarships.

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Tuesday, September 5, 10:30 am, Coffee with the church staff.

Wednesday, September 6, 7-8:15 pm, is grade 7 day! All grade 7's are invited to come to the youth building to kick off the youth year a little early by checking out our space and doing a few activities.

Wednesday, September 13th 7:00 - 9:00. Youth kickoff for all grades!

Sunday, September 10, noon, YFC fundraising lunch.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Mark is taking the weekend off. He will be back in the office Tuesday, September 5.

Visuals: We would like to say a huge thank you to Imy Rempel for the meaningful and beautiful visuals she has created for our sanctuary over the past ten years. We really appreciate all the effort and work that has gone into so many of the pieces. We are now looking for someone to take over the visuals for our services. *We are open to people bringing their style of creativity.* If you are interested, please contact Virginia or Delores.

Next Sunday, September 10, Youth For Christ will be here serving us lunch from their BBQ truck. Lunch is by donation as a fundraiser for YFC. Bring lawn chairs and picnic stuff as we will be eating outside weather permitting.



Now may the Lord of Peace - Camps with Meaning
(Chorus)

Now may the Lord of peace give to you peace always
In every way, in every place, God is with you.

Be a Sower VT 789

Vs. 1 Be a sower, plant a seed. Let it grow into a tree.
Give it water, watch it grow, and give it the love that it needs.

Chorus:

Be humble, and gentle, and always keep looking for peace
God makes the sun rise, on the good and the evil.

Rain fall, on the rocks and the weeds.

Let's be loving, to one another. Join in God's circle of peace.

Vs. 2 Be a listener, listen close, when you find a friend in need.
Talk to Jesus, Jesus knows, and He'll give you comfort and peace.

Chorus

Vs. 3 Be a dreamer, work for peace. Turn your sword into a plow.
With our neighbours, we will seek to make change as God shows us how.

Chorus