

*Welcome to the  
Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
of Altona*



*by Miranda Mittelstet*

*Sunday, January 19, 2020*

*Worship Service 10:30 a.m.*

**BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH OF ALTONA**

**January 19, 2020**

**WORSHIP SERVICE - 10:30 am**

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Worship Leader: Ken Doell

Music: ABC Ensemble

Children's Story: Jolene Friesen-Stoesz

Scripture Reader: Dave Harms

*"The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful"*

*~ Matthew 13: 22*

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

Musical Interlude

**I heard the voice of Jesus say HWB 493**

**GATHERING**

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

Hymn

**What is this place HWB 1**

**GIVING THANKS**

Prayer for the Offering

Offering

**Be thou my vision HWB 545**

**LISTENING**

Children's Story

Scripture

Sermon

**Praise, praise, praise the Lord! STJ 11**

**James 1: 1-18**

**"Facing trials and temptations in Jesus way"**

**RESPONDING**

Song of Response

Prayer of the Church and the World

**When we are tempted STS 81**

**SENDING**

Benediction

Hymn

**Go, my friends, in grace STS 57**

## **PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Rick Friesen at Boundary Trails Health Centre.
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** to Bill & Dora Driedger, Lori Driedger, Jason & Tammy Driedger, and families, at the passing of Elizabeth [Betty] Friesen.
- ~ **Josh Janzen** will begin his ministry among us as Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry on Feb 4. Pray for safe travels for Josh as he travels and works through the many arrangements of moving to a new country.
- ~ **Flying Free** is serving at Eastview/Gardens on Tenth this morning.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada:** Pray for wisdom and discernment as Bock Ki Kim continues his peace work in South Korea this year. After three lectures given to teachers in the Chuncheon School Division on conflict transformation and restorative discipline, he's received requests from school principals to do lectures like this in individual schools. Also, Praise God that an editorial chair has been found for the Peace Journal.

### **From the Pastor:**

This week we begin a sermon series on the book of James, called, *A Faith that Works: Following Jesus Wholeheartedly and Concretely*. The letter of James is a 'kick in the butt'. It is an urgent call for Christians to live in ways consistent with the new life God has given us with the wisdom and teaching of Jesus as our guide. James writes, "But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves" (James 1:22, the NIV translation does not include the phrase "doers of the word," but in this instance I prefer the more literal translation). To be a doer is to be someone committed to action and getting things done. James contrasts doers of the word with those who merely listen. To listen to the teachings of Jesus and not live them is deception according to James. Throughout this series, we will be incorporating the teachings of Jesus and using James as a guide for how to follow Jesus' teaching more closely.

Sometimes we need a wakeup call or a summons to action. May this series on James remind us that following Jesus is something we do with our whole hearts and we do it concretely.

## **WORSHIP CALENDAR**

January 26: Faith and works. James 1:22-26, 2:14-26  
February 2: Favouritism and oppression. James 2:1-7, 5:1-6  
February 9: The tongue. James 3:1-11, 1:19, 5:12  
February 16: Wisdom for living. James 3:13-4:17  
February 23: The power of patience and prayer. James 5:7-20

**Feb 16** we will have a service of Covenanting and Commissioning for Pastor Josh. The service will be followed by a time of coffee & fellowship.

## **Introducing our Congregational Sharing and Prayer Time**

Over the next while, we will be having open times of congregational sharing and prayer on the last Sunday of each month, beginning next Sunday, Jan 26. We are giving this a try after discernment by pastors and Spiritual Advisory Committee in an effort to foster a deeper emphasis on prayer in our congregation and to encourage each other as a community in our lives of faith.

**The purpose of our time of sharing and prayer is: to provide a venue for people in our church to share prayer concerns and matters of praise, to support and uphold one another in prayer, and to build us more fully into the body of Christ.**

Here is some additional information to help us prepare for this: The sharing and prayer time will be facilitated by one of the pastors. Ushers will be available with microphones in the aisles and the balcony and will pass the microphones to people who share. The sharing time will not be included in the online recordings of our services. However, it is important to remember that the sharing time is a public venue and the congregational prayer following the sharing will be included in the online recordings of our services. When you share, please say your name and when sharing about someone else, ensure you have their permission to do so. If you have a prayer concern or matter of praise to share with the congregation but do not feel comfortable doing so, you may be in touch with the pastors the week before who will share on your behalf.

Here are examples of prayer and praise items to share:

- Major life events, milestones or transitions: retirement, graduation, birth of a child or grandchild, death of a loved one, new job etc...
- Health concerns you or a loved one has.
- A testimony of how you have experienced God recently.
- A concern that is on your heart for the community or the world.

In order for the sharing time to fulfill its purpose (see above), there are some things that should not be shared in this venue such as:

- Excessive details about your or someone else's health situation.
- Issues that will cause tensions or divisions in the congregation (there is an appropriate time for these conversations, but our sharing and prayer time is for upholding each other in unity and prayer).
- Items which are more appropriate for the announcement time such as upcoming events.

When we initiate new practices, it always takes time for us to become comfortable with them and appreciate how they form us. We may not get this entirely right initially (or ever) but we will continue to discern and seek ways to grow as a community of disciples of Jesus. It is our hope that we may find encouragement in praying for each other and receiving prayer and that we grow in community and faithfulness to God through our congregational sharing and prayer.

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Save the date:** Our Annual General Meeting will be held **February 23**.
- **Ladies Book Study** now meeting on Thursday 10-11:30. We are starting a new book [Jan 23] and invite you to join. If interested call Amanda.
- **Next Sunday, Jan 26**, all of our Hospital Visitors and Special Visitors and anyone interested in joining our visitation team[s] are invited to a time of coffee and conversation at 9:30 am in the church basement. This is an opportunity to share about our experiences of being a visitor and discuss further opportunities for resourcing and growth.
- **Feb 2, 9:30am**, there will be an adult Sunday school class as a follow up to Joanna Hiebert Bergen's visit and her sharing about the conflict in the Middle East. This is a chance to converse about what we learned and next steps we may take. Everyone is invited to join the conversation.
- **Feb 9, 3pm – CMU Choir Concert** at Altona Bergthaler Church.
- **March 7**, our church is hosting the Mennonite Church Manitoba Annual Gathering [AGM]. If you are interested in being a delegate there is a sign-up sheet in the foyer or call the Church Office. It has never been easier since the event is right here! **We also require** a few people willing to billet out of town attendees the night of March 6-7....call the office if willing. There will be additional ways to help host this event, stay tuned.
- **Volunteer[s]** needed to open/close the church for Ida's weekend[s] off in January and February. Call the church office to volunteer. Thanks.
- **If you give to the church electronically**, you can still participate in our offering time by placing an "I'm Giving Electronically" card in the offering basket. You do not need to write on the card, the purpose of this card is to provide a tangible way for people who give electronically to participate in our time of offering. The offering is a time of worship, where we are invited to reflect upon the generosity of God and how we give to God.
- **I'm inviting everyone**, people of all ages, to have a conversation with me about the next steps in your walk with God. For anyone interested in exploring and preparing for baptism, let's begin by having a conversation. I'd also welcome conversation with anyone who is pondering becoming a member of this church. And, of course, If you have been baptized some time ago and wish to study and explore our faith anew. I encourage you to be in touch with me. Yes, these conversations can be intimidating, but they need not be! In sharing together we will be encouraged and strengthened. I'd love to hear from you. ~ Mark Tiessen-Dyck
- **Project: Josh & Stephanie Housewarming**  
Our incoming Youth Pastor, Josh Janzen, will be moving to Altona soon and his future wife Stephanie will be joining him after the wedding in April. As an act of love/welcome we would like to help furnish their first home together by sharing new or gently used items. Items still needed: 1 or 2 book shelves and 1 stool or chair. Financial donations also accepted to purchase IGA or Co-op gift cards, to go towards pantry or household items. Contact Rachel Wahl: 204-216-0148/rachel\_wahl@hotmail.com .

- **It is with great pride and excitement** that we share with you that Mona Al Khatib and her three children - Maram, Mohammad and Mahmoud AlSaid Hammoud - all received their Canadian Citizenship status and certificates on Jan 10<sup>th</sup>. It was an exciting afternoon for everyone!
- **Another exciting announcement**, this time in regards to the newest Syrian family in our community. As you may know, Frank & Irene Kehler and I are a part of the group that is supporting Khaled and Safaa and their 5 children. Safaa was 4 months pregnant when she arrived in Canada but had not received any prenatal care at this point. Soon after her first doctor's appointment in Altona, an ultrasound was arranged. During the scan they found out she is having twin boys! Khaled and Safaa, like other newcomer families, come to Canada with next to nothing and rely on help from support teams like Build a Village, Regional Connections, local churches and the community in general. We will definitely show our support to the family by holding a baby shower for Safaa once the babies are born but for now there are a few needs that must be met before the babies arrive. Like car seats so they can come home from the hospital, a bed for the babies to sleep in, and a stroller to help with appointments. I was lucky enough to find all of these items, in like new condition, on Kijiji. Even when purchased second hand the cost is high. If you are willing to donate cash to help pay for these items please contact Stephanie Friesen at 204-319-0377. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

## **Youth**

- **Jan 19, 6-8pm** – Sushi making with Trevor Friesen-Stoesz.

## **VENTURES – Wednesdays 7-8:15pm**

- **Girls** – Sock animals.
- **Boys** – Fire hall tour.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Jan 21, 9am–3pm** - Enjoy a "**Day Away**" at Assiniboia Camp and Retreat Centre. Lunch, hiking, outdoor activities, music, sit by the fire, visit, play "Knipsbrat and other table games. Cost: \$20. Reserve a spot - call Linda at 204-864-2159 ext. 104 or Elizabeth at 204-895-2267.
- **Jan 27, 2pm** - Altona **MCC Annual General Meeting** will be held at the Altona EMM Church. Jackie Nickel recently participated in the Manitoba to Zimbabwe learning tour and will be sharing about her experiences there. Soup and pie supper to follow.
- **Feb 13, 7pm** – A short documentary video "Common Strengths" [Women farmers in Kenya], produced by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, will be shown in the multi-purpose room at The Gardens on Tenth in Altona. Join Gordon Janzen, Foodgrains Rep, and Kevin Nickel, local Project Coordinator, and become informed about farming in Kenya.

**Mennonite Church Manitoba** [www.mennochurch.mb.ca](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca) 896-1616

- **Camp Registration is open!** Visit [www.campswithmeaning.org](http://www.campswithmeaning.org)

**Canadian Mennonite University** – [www.cmu.ca](http://www.cmu.ca) See foyer poster

- **Jan 31, 8:45am–2:45pm.** CMU Campus Visit Day. The day includes a campus and residence tour, interaction with faculty, participation in a class and chapel, free lunch. Go to [cmu.ca/campusvisit](http://cmu.ca/campusvisit) for details.
- **Jan 31 & Feb 1, 7pm** - CMU Opera & Musical Theatre Workshop present scenes from the *Broadway* musical 'Godspell'. See [cmu.ca/events](http://cmu.ca/events) .

**Mennonite Collegiate Institute** – [info@mciblues.net](mailto:info@mciblues.net) 327-5891

- **Jan 28** - Prospective students and families are invited to MCI for dinner on Jan 28 to learn what MCI has to offer. Dinner at 6pm, Presentation at 7pm. Register by emailing [info@mciblues.net](mailto:info@mciblues.net) or calling (204)327-5891.
- **Mar 5, 6 & 7, 7:30pm** - MCI's Musical *Annie*. There will also be a matinee performance on Mar 7 at 2pm. Join us 1 hour before each show time for an MCI Open House. Prospective students receive a FREE musical ticket! Please email: [info@mciblues.net](mailto:info@mciblues.net) for more information. Tickets for *Annie* can be purchased at [www.mciblues.net](http://www.mciblues.net)

**Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona** 117 2<sup>ND</sup> Street NW Altona, MB R0G 0B1

**Web Page Address:** [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) **Office:** 324-6717 **E-mail:** [abchurch@mymts.net](mailto:abchurch@mymts.net)

**Worship Services available online at:** [abchurch.libsyn.com](http://abchurch.libsyn.com)

**Lead Pastor:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990/cell 1-204-771-3406 [abcmark@mymts.net](mailto:abcmark@mymts.net).

**Asst Pastor & Children's Ministry Coordinator:** Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 [abcamanda@mymts.net](mailto:abcamanda@mymts.net)