

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

Worship Service

October 23, 2022, 10:30 am

"This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

~ 1 Timothy 2:3-4

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome and announcements

Music **For God so loved us** HWB 167

Call to worship and prayer

Music **Praise to the living God** VT 204

LISTENING

Offering and prayer

Children's story

Scripture reading Matthew 19:16-30

Sermon Are you saved?

RESPONDING

Music **Love divine all loves excelling** VT 638

ABC Conversation with Tara Funke-Friesen

Prayer for the church and the world

SENDING

Benediction

Music **I bind my heart** HWB 411

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

~ **Hospitalized:** Katie Krahn, Ben Dyck and Mary Sawatsky at the Altona Health Centre.

~ **Clara Kehler** would like to thank everyone for their prayers of support. The latest bone scan showed that things were good and stable.

~ **International Witness:** MC Canada International Witness and PIN networks host lecture series by Bethlehem Bible College. Hosted together with colleges and seminaries across the country from 2022-23, the four-lecture series will share Palestinian perspectives on faith and action and feature college president Jack Sara and other instructors. The first lecture is Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. at Bethel Mennonite Church in Winnipeg, Man. <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/press-release/14417-mc-canada-witness-and-pin-networks-co-host-lecture-series-by-bethlehem-bible-college>

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

Helen Voth (Hugo) October 24

Peter Heinrichs October 25

Bill Driedger October 29

"A THIRD WAY" SERMON SERIES

September 18: Exploring fundamentalism: its origins, development and problems. Speaker: Mark

September 25: Exploring secularism: its origins, development and problems. Speaker: Mark

October 2: A Third Way of understanding traditions and rituals. Speaker: Virginia

October 9: A Third Way of reading the Bible: Speaker: Virginia

October 16: A Third Way eschatology (last things): heaven, hell, and the end of the world. Speaker: Mark

October 23: A Third Way of understanding salvation: Atonement, the death of Jesus, and eternal life. Speaker: Mark

October 30: A Third Way politics. Speaker: Mark

ABC Youth: Wed. Nov. 2. Bowling – details to follow!

Ventures Club – Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:15 in the church basement

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona: 117 2ND Street NW Altona, MB, R0G 0B1

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Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990, (C) 1-204-771-3406, marktd@abchurch.ca

Assoc. Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 viriniagr@abchurch.ca

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck
Worship Leader: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert
Children's story: Laurie Enns
Music: Samantha Fehr

FROM THE PASTOR: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

The Balcony Transition

Last spring, I made the suggestion to people who regularly sit in the balcony that we all begin sitting on the main level. For the most part, people accepted the suggestion. From the perspective of the preacher, it has been nice to have people on the same level. The quality of our singing has improved as well.

I expected this transition to come with some challenges. We are creatures of habit and everyone has their seats. It was my hope that eventually the balcony atmosphere and conversations would happen on the main level as people found one another and connected with friends. How has this transition been for you?

I've wondered if we should create a transposed balcony by designating one section of the main level as the place for people to sit who used to sit in the balcony. If this idea interests you, consider all former balcony dwellers invited to the new balcony in the middle two sections rows 4-7.

Also, if you feel strange or unsettled in your new spot, I encourage you to explore other places, sit near someone with whom you would be interested in visiting with after the service.

Another suggestion for everyone: Consider venturing out of the cave. "The cave" is what I call the area under the balcony because when I sit there, I feel like I am hiding in a cave. From the perspective of the preacher, sometimes it looks like people are taking shelter in a rain storm because so many people are hiding in the cave instead of stepping into the open. The acoustics are poor in the cave; the music and singing will sound better outside the cave and it is easier to read the words on the screen when you are closer to the front.

A note about children and other distractions: Children are welcome in worship. There are many churches without children so when we hear children we must rejoice. When people of all ages are together, there are going to be noises and other distractions. If children's noises bother you, it is your responsibility to find a different place to sit.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

In response to the affirmation from you, the congregation, regarding the importance of youth ministry, and in the absence of a Personnel Commission, Church Council is currently acting as the search committee and has begun the process of searching for a candidate for the position of Associate Pastor primarily responsible for leading the youth ministry at ABC. This could potentially be a part time position depending on the candidate and how discussions go. An advertisement will be posted for the position but I am also happy to inform you that we do have an interested party and we are working on exploring what that partnership might look like. Updates will follow as needed and as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me. - Stephanie Friesen

Nov 6: Church potluck

Join the pastors for a sermon response discussion! Throughout the "Third Way" sermon series there will be an opportunity to engage the sermon by asking questions, discussing implications, and diving deeper. This will be like an adult Sunday school class except not on Sunday. Discussions will be Tuesdays over the lunch hour beginning at 12 noon, with discussion beginning at 12:10. During this time period Tuesday morning coffee will not be happening. Bring a bag lunch to the church library and join the conversation.

ABC annual Soup and Pie fundraiser – Thursday, November 10.

Work continues on the restoration of the Education Wing Basement following this spring's water event. Despite many other similar claims in the region, Corner 2 Corner, our restoration team has replaced the damaged drywall. Most recently, the work has been focused on mudding, and painting. Carpet has been ordered, and we expect that to arrive before the end of the month. Thanks for your patience and encouragement.

Attention Cookie Bakers! ABC Youth are looking for some snacks for our youth nights. We'd love to have some cookies in our freezer to share. If you'd like to bake us a bucket of cookies, we would love that a lot! Your edible donations can be dropped off at the church office & labeled "Youth". Need more info? Contact Stephanie R @ 324-1741

Book study will be starting up again this fall, reading the book "the Naked Anabaptist: the bare essentials of a radical faith" by Stuart Murray. Discussions will happen Thursday afternoons at 2 pm. If you still want to participate, be in touch with pastor Virginia ASAP.

The Christmas season is just around the corner and we are looking for a few volunteers to help with the Children's Christmas program. Please contact Pastor Virginia if you might be willing to help.

ABC is accepting tenders for walkway, sidewalk, entryway/steps and emergency exit snow removal for the winter season. This involves shoveling and snow blowing. If interested please contact Cheryl.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mennonite Church Manitoba: Resilient Minority: Stories of Palestinian Christians living under occupation Visitors to the Holy Land experience the ancient stones of sites where Jesus walked. But do they encounter the people--the "living stones"? Come and hear firsthand from Palestinian Christians living and serving God within the beauty and challenges the region. Dr. Jack Sara, President of Bethlehem Bible College, and interreligious facilitator John Munayer are special guests at an evening of storytelling, poetry, and conversation around plates of kanafe (Palestinian dessert) on Sunday, October 30, 7 p.m., at Bethel Mennonite Church, 465 Stafford Street, Winnipeg. The event is free; donations will be invited to support the partnership of Mennonite Church Canada with Bethlehem Bible College.

CMU: CommonWord Book Launch – Believers Church Bible Commentary: Joel, Obadiah, Micah by Dan Epp-Tiessen. Join us in person or via livestream on Wednesday, October 26 at 7:00 PM (CDT) as Epp-Tiessen introduces the prophetic books Joel, Obadiah, Micah as “survival literature” that gave voice to post-exilic Judah’s disorientation, trauma, and rage and can offer grace and healing in our time. For more information, visit commonword.ca/go/3063.

Indigenous stories: A community book club: In partnership with South Central Regional Library in Altona, and in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 94 calls to action, join us for an evening with award winning author David A. Robertson. Thursday, Oct. 27, 7 pm – free at the Altona library.

The Gardens on Tenth Annual General Meeting will be held Thursday, October 27th at 7:00 PM in The Gardens MPR. If you are interested in being a delegate please talk to Albert Falk – ABC representative to Gardens on Tenth.

MCI Soup & Pie and Fall Concert – November 4th. Please join us for soup & pie (by donation) from 5-7pm and concert at 7:30pm.

Winkler Bible Camp Fall Drive Thru Fundraising Meal - It is happening Tuesday October 25 from 4:30 - 5:30 pm. No reservations are required. For more information, please visit winklerbiblecamp.com.

