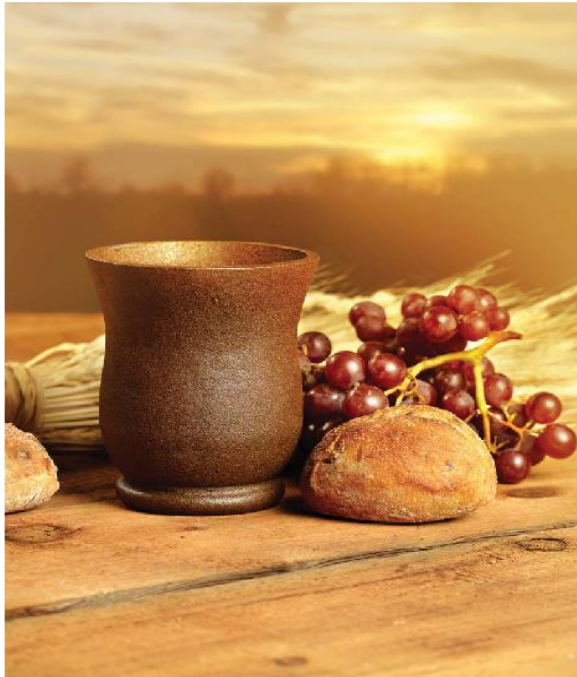


*Welcome to the  
Bergthaler Mennonite Church  
of Altona*



"Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." - John 14:5-6

*Sunday, October 3, 2021*

*Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona*

*WORSHIP SERVICE*

*October 3, 2021 10:30 A.M.*

*"We love because he first loved us".*

*~ 1 John 4: 19*

**GATHERING and PRAISE**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Music **Praise the Lord, sing hallelujah** HWB 50

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music **Break Thou the bread of life** HWB 360

**LISTENING**

Children's Story

Scripture **1 John 4: 7-21**

Sermon **"God is Love"**

Music **The love of God** STJ 44

Communion

Music **Let us break bread together** HWB 453

**SENDING**

Benediction **Sent forth by God's blessing** HWB 478

Music

**Sermon:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert **Worship Leader:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck

**Children's Story:** Heidi Toews **Scripture:** Carol Neufeld

**Music:** Anne Friesen, Lorraine Hamm

**Our worship service** will be live-streamed Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. and continue to be available on the church website at [\[abchurchcommunity.ca\]](http://abchurchcommunity.ca)

## **PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER**

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Frieda Sawatzky, Harold Sawatzky and Helen Schulz at Altona Health Centre.
- ~ **Congratulations** to new grandma Myrla Friesen! Jaxon Rick Friesen was born on September 24, in Nairobi, Kenya, to parents Nathan and Stephannie Friesen.
- ~ **Engagement congratulations** to Joshua Driedger, son of Jason & Tammy Driedger, and Rebecca Barber, daughter of Brian & Wendy Barber of Winnipeg.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**  
**Pray** - Witness workers Werner and Joanne De Jong hope to leave for Ethiopia within the next few weeks. Please pray that their visa and transportation details will be arranged in a timely way so that they can arrive for the start of the semester at Meserete Kristos Seminary.  
**Praise** God for the meetings of the North American Vietnamese Evangelical Fellowship that took place at the Winnipeg Vietnamese Mennonite Church during September long weekend. Leadership from the Evangelical Mennonite Church Vietnam joined the meetings (online) on Saturday evening. Participants shared stories of God's work in changing lives in Vietnam and in Canada.

## **WORSHIP CALENDAR**

Today we begin a sermon series about love. We'll be taking a deep dive into what love is and why the "greatest of these is love". In addition to a sermon, each week we will share an exercise which we expect everyone to do as a way to help train our 'love muscles.'

- Oct 10 ~ Exploring our misconceptions about love. Speaker: Mark
- Oct 17 ~ Learning to trust. Speaker: Mark
- Oct 24 ~ Love series takes a break to welcome George and Tobia Veith
- Oct 31 ~ Being vulnerable and transparent. Speaker: Virginia
- Nov 7 ~ From boredom to laughter. Speaker: Mark

## **LOVE EXERCISE #1**

**Create 'stumbling stones' of God's love:** place post-it notes that say things like "You are loved," or "God loves you" around your home or office where you will "stumble over" them. Or set an alarm to beep every hour. Each time it goes off or you stumble over a note, pause for 5-seconds to take a deep breath and say to yourself: "I will breathe out the tensions within and I will breathe in God's love," or simply "I am loved by God."

## **FROM the PASTOR** ~ Josh Janzen

Today, you may notice that my outfit for church is a bit different. In fact, you might say that I am dressed rather ridiculously. I am dressed this way because of a bunch of acts of kindness. This past spring, the Junior and Senior Youth competed to see who would complete the most random acts of kindness over the course of a couple of months. It was a close contest, but the Senior High won out in the end. They were given three choices for their prize: I get a pie in the face, I eat something gross, or I wear a ridiculous outfit to church.... Obviously, you know which option was chosen. A few of the youth have decided on one more act of kindness for this challenge, as they too are dressed quite ridiculously this morning, if my ridiculous outfit makes you laugh, give thanks for our junior and senior youth. If my outfit makes you feel embarrassed for me, give thanks for our junior and senior youth all the more. I'm blessed to work with so many awesome kids and I will gladly keep doing embarrassing things for their sake as we all seek to grow more like Christ!

## **Sr Youth**

- **Oct 5 [Tues], 7pm** – Bible study.

## **Jr Youth**

- **Oct 6 [Wed], 7pm** – Bible study.

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: [office@abchurch.ca](mailto:office@abchurch.ca)  
Worship Services available online at: [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) Facebook: ABC community  
Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990 cell 1-204-771-3406 [marktd@abchurch.ca](mailto:marktd@abchurch.ca)  
Assoc Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 [virginiagr@abchurch.ca](mailto:virginiagr@abchurch.ca)  
Assoc Pastor of Youth Min: Josh Janzen, 204-502-1991, cell 1-402-631-3481 [joshj@abchurch.ca](mailto:joshj@abchurch.ca)  
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 [amandaw@abchurch.ca](mailto:amandaw@abchurch.ca)

## **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **As we express our gratitude to God**, let's celebrate Thanksgiving by sharing food with our community, by bringing a food item or monetary donation for the Rhineland Area Food Bank. A bin will be placed in the church foyer on October 3 and 10.
- **Oct 13 - Youth Food Drive** - In the past, there has regularly been a Fall Food Drive right around Thanksgiving. This would involve youth going door-to-door asking for donations. This year, because of COVID and Public health measures, we are going to do something a bit different; we will be asking you to leave your food bank donations on your front door step, as four Altona area Youth Groups work together to canvas the entire town. The Food Drive will take place Wednesday, October 13, and youth will be out from 7-9pm.
- **Free hymn books and music!** The Worship and Music Commission have been sorting through our music storage room and have culled some books that we don't need anymore. They are free for the taking and can be picked up in the foyer after the worship service.
- **Free wooden chairs** – 35 metal framed/wooden stacking chairs available for free. Check with Cheryl or Jolene.
- **Note: Check the Lost & Found Box** for items that may belong to you. Unclaimed items will be taken to MCC.
- **We request** that people wear masks for entering, exiting, moving about the church building, and singing. Thanks for doing your part to ensure that our worship services are safer and consistent with public health guidelines.
- **Tuesday morning Coffee Time**, 10am, indoors. Coffee provided.
- **Reminder:** Live-stream will continue and be available Sundays at 10:30am at <http://www.abchurchcommunity.ca>. If you are using a handheld device [phone or tablet] you may get a message that says "video unavailable", but if you click on the line "watch this video on YouTube", it will reload and play for you.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Oct 14, 7pm - The Gardens on Tenth Annual General Meeting.** On Monday Oct 11<sup>th</sup> we will email you a zoom link to the meeting and you can choose to join remotely if you do not want to attend in person. Due to current Public Health orders masks remain mandatory within the Gardens on Tenth and for the duration of the meeting. Your Board representative [Albert Falk, Ben Dueck] will be looking for delegates to represent your church, talk to them if you are interested.
- **Oct 16, 8pm - virtual Singin' in the Grain** concert - join 3 groups of Manitoba musicians to raise funds for MCC programs in Haiti through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank - at [www.foodgrainsbank.ca/singing](http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca/singing). Join us from the comfort of your home, and reach out with your gifts to share some of that comfort with those less fortunate.

**Mennonite Church Canada** – [office@mennonitechurchcanada.ca](mailto:office@mennonitechurchcanada.ca)

**Mennonite Church Manitoba** – [mennochurch.mb.ca](http://mennochurch.mb.ca) 204-896-1616

- **Oct 4, 4:30pm** - Join a vigil in honour of Manitoba Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit and their families at the MMIWG2S monument at the Forks (near the Oodena Circle).
- **Join an MCM Gratitude Group.** Every second week for six weeks on Zoom. 40 minutes of joining others in encouragement and sharing gratitude. Led by Laura Funk, MCM Spiritual Director-in-residence [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/events](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/events) for more info and to register.

**Canadian Mennonite University** – [cmu.ca](http://cmu.ca)

- **Xplore:** At the Intersection of Faith and Life, a 55-Plus Enrichment Program, offers courses that investigate dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it, in a six-week block, with online courses on Tues, Wed, and Thurs mornings, beginning Oct 5. [cmu.ca/xplore](http://cmu.ca/xplore).
- **Oct 26-27 - J.J.Thiessen Lectures.** Dr. Edith M. Humphrey, prof at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will provide three lectures in a series on "Mediation and the Immediate God". This year, the lecture series will be held entirely online, through Zoom. Visit our [cmu.ca/jjt](http://cmu.ca/jjt) for info.

**Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba** – [manitoba@mccmb.ca](mailto:manitoba@mccmb.ca)

- **Oct 16, 8pm** - Enjoy Singin' in the Grain from the comfort of your home! This virtual concert will premiere on World Food Day, raising funds for MCC food projects in Haiti, supported through Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Join at [foodgrainsbank.ca/singing](http://foodgrainsbank.ca/singing) and enjoy the musical talents of Kim Thiessen, Darryl Neustaedter Barg and more.
- **Pack a Bucket of Thanks** with MCC this fall. Fill a bucket with essential relief supplies and help support vulnerable families impacted by emergency and disaster. Learn more at [mccmb.ca/buckets-thanks](http://mccmb.ca/buckets-thanks).
- **Are you a recent high school grad?** In January, MCC will be offering a six-month discipleship program for 18–20-year-olds. Based in Bethlehem, the Seek program will help you discover the beauty and brokenness of the world, while living in community and ministering to others. Find out more and apply by Oct 31 [here](#) or at [mccmb.ca/seek](http://mccmb.ca/seek).
- **MCC is hiring!** We're looking for an Advocacy Research Intern and a Refugee Sponsorship Monitoring and Evaluation Associate. For more information, visit [mccmb.ca/openings](http://mccmb.ca/openings).

**Mennonite Disaster Service** - [mdscanada@mds.org](mailto:mdscanada@mds.org)

- The Sept edition of *On the Level* is now available from MDS. In this issue: Canadian farmers work together to battle drought conditions, thanks to MDS volunteers, a family goes home in British Columbia, and a derelict house becomes home for a Syrian refugee family. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3hA0o73>