

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA

Sunday, August 11, 2024, 10:30 am

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Gathering and Praise

Announcements

Hymn Will You Come And Follow Me STS 39

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn When We Are Tempted STS 81

Entering God's Story

Offering I Will Raise You Up On Eagle's Wings (bulletin)

Scripture Luke 3:21-22; 4:1-15

Sermon Identity and Christ

Responding in Faith

Hymn Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley STS 80

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn May The Grace Of Christ The Saviour HWB 423

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert **Worship Leading:** Amanda Wiens

Music: ABC Ensemble

Hymns will not be projected. You can find songs in the hymnbook or the bulletin. *Children's bulletins* are available in the foyer.

Pastor Mark is preaching at Morden Mennonite Church this Sunday

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We are in the midst of a 5-week series called Identity, Purpose,

Baptism: Finding Our Place in God's Story. We will explore various call and identity forming passages from the Bible in preparation for our Baptism service on Sept 8.

August 4. Esther 4:1-17. Speaker: Virginia

August 11. Luke 4:1-13. Speaker: Virginia

August 18. Speaker: Mark

August 25. Speaker: Mark

September 1. Speaker: Terrell

FROM THE PASTOR: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Many of you may know that the Olympics are on right now in Paris. I am sure some of you are following them closely, while others are not paying any attention. I love the Olympics but don't have as much time as I would like to sit and watch them, so I rely on CBC news to give me the highlights and tell me where Canada won medals so that I can then watch those events.

I have been especially impressed with gymnastics and the hammer throw. I have always loved watching Gymnastics, but what has been even more interesting this year is seeing the strength of spirit and integrity that the gymnast's have. The Canadian, Felix Dolci, fell off the high bar when his grip equipment broke, then he got back on to try to finish his routine. Then he fell off again likely because he had lost his flow or concentration. But he got back on the bar a third time to finish. He knew he would not win a medal at that point, but he still finished his routine. And the hammer throw is something completely new to me, but since Canada won gold, I watched the replay of Camryn Rogers throw the hammer almost 76.97 m! But what amazed me more than the distance was the sense of joy and celebration that she shared with the other hammer throwers who did not win, or even medal. They were all hugging and celebrating her achievement. The commentator even said they have a sisterhood among the hammer throwers.

In his letter to the Corinthian church Paul uses an athletic analogy for the spiritual life. (1 Corinthians 9: 24). Well, these Olympics have shown us that in athletics just like in the Spiritual life, one needs to be willing to get back up after a set back, sometimes more than once, even in front of others. And that celebrating other's achievements, even when they did better than us, is just as important as celebrating our own achievements.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

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I WILL RAISE YOU UP ON EAGLE'S WINGS

Vs. 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
Who abide in His shadow for life
Say to the Lord, "My refuge
My rock, in whom I trust!"

[Chorus]

And I will raise you up on eagle's wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand

Vs. 2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you
And famine will bring you no fear
Under His wings, your refuge
His faithfulness, your shield

Chorus

Vs. 3 You need not fear the terror of the night
Nor the arrow that flies by day
Though thousands fall about you
Near you it shall not come

Chorus

Vs. 4 For to the angels God's given
a command to guard you in all of your ways,
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Chorus

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER AND PRAISE:

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

Byron Loeppky- August 11, Menno Friesen- August 12,
John Martens- August 13, Helen (Ed) Voth- August 13,
Ellen Friesen- August 14, Helen Thiessen- Aug. 16

Hospitalized: Mary Dyck is in the Altona Health Centre.

Our sympathy and love are extended to Carol Bergman at the passing of her sister-in-law Martha Bergman who died on August 1. A committal service will be held at a later date in Winkler.

Hilda Wiebe of our church family passed away on August 1. We are invited to join in gratitude for her life and pray for her husband Dave and their family and extended family. Her funeral service was held on August 7.

International Witness: Prayer requests from the Mennonite Church in Burkina Faso give us a glimpse into their lives and concerns. Pray with them: Praise God for the improved security situation in Orodara and that people are able to leave their homes. Pray for areas of continued violence in the eastern and northern regions. Praise God for cooling rains and a good start to the rainy season. Pray for the students' facing exams. Pray for the list of expectant mothers, for health and safety in childbirth. God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Sun. Aug. 11, 10:30 am: Worship service

Tue. Aug. 13: Coffee with the Church staff

Staff summer vacations: Terrell will be on vacation from July 29-Aug. 11 and Aug. 19-25. Virginia will be on vacation from Aug. 24-31.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MCM: Over halfway through the camp summer! Pray for staff and campers at Camp Assiniboia and Camp Koinonia. Staff have made it over halfway through the summer... three weeks left.

Photo: After supper, staff sit with small groups of campers to read a short story, think about its connection to faith, and pray. The time is called "Reflect".



MCC: Sponsor an acre of Manitoba farmland and provide essential food to displaced families across the world! Your sponsorship of Grow Hope acres in Manitoba can help distribute food to families in vulnerable circumstances and equip farmers with access to the tools and seeds they need for sustainable farming. For more information and to donate, visit mcc.org/manitoba/growhope