

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of  
ALTONA

Sunday, August 18, 2024, 10:30 am

Then the Lord came and stood there, calling just as before, "Samuel,  
Samuel!" Samuel said, "Speak. Your servant is listening."

1 Samuel 3:20

**Gathering and Praise**

Announcements

Hymn Sweet Hour Of Prayer HWB 11

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn God, Whose Giving HWB 383

**Entering God's Story**

Offering

Scripture 1 Samuel 3

Sermon Who's Calling?

**Responding in Faith**

Hymn We Walk By Faith HWB 570

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn Heart With Loving Heart United HWB 420

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**Sermon:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leading:** Terrell Wiebe

**Music:** Tena Giesbrecht

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

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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. 1 Samuel 3. Speaker: Mark

August 25. Speaker: Mark

September 1. Philippians 3:17-22. Speaker: Terrell

**FROM THE PASTOR: Terrell Wiebe**

"Terrell, at the beginning of the week I was really mad at you!" These words from one of our young people were understandable. Only the day before we left for our Matheson Island camp had I made known that there would not be any showers during our week there and that we would all be bathing in the lake. There were more than a few unimpressed teenagers. And yet, this youth continued to say, "But now I'm not as mad, and that was really fun." They then proceeded to have a conversation with fellow teens about doing it again next year.

The Matheson Island experience is hard, exhausting, uncomfortable, dirty, smelly, and ... oh so good! As I drove home at the end of our Matheson Island camp week, alone for the first time in 5 days, I reflected on the words of the youth from earlier that day and their journey from anger, fear, and nervousness at the beginning of the week, to joy and excitement by the end of the week. I wondered to myself, "why does this work?" Why does a physically and emotionally draining week with no showers make someone say at the end of the week that they want to do it all over again?

There are, of course, several reasons, but a new one struck me as I drove home. It was a week of being present 100 percent of the time. No cell phones to communicate with people elsewhere, no internet or any other technology to distract from what was going on in that moment. We were together as a community, focused only on our relationships with each other and discovering God's love together. We were living out Psalm 118:24, "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

As we embraced each new day together, we did so as sweaty, unwashed individuals, uncaring of the fact that we were not at our hygienic peak, nor looking our best. This, too, was a gift from our time at Matheson Island that makes one want to return. It is the gift of leaving behind pressures of appearance, and the opinions of others and rejoicing in the day the Lord has made.

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**Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona**

**Web Page Address:** [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) **Office:** 324.6717

**E-mail:** [office@abchurch.ca](mailto:office@abchurch.ca) **Facebook:** ABC community

**Worship Services available online at:** [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca)

**Lead Pastor:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324.5990, C 1.204.771.3406, [marktd@abchurch.ca](mailto:marktd@abchurch.ca)

**Assoc. Pastor:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, C 304.6119 [virginiaagr@abchurch.ca](mailto:virginiaagr@abchurch.ca)

**Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries:** Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,

C 204.417.8200, [terrellw@abchurch.ca](mailto:terrellw@abchurch.ca)

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **PRAYER AND PRAISE:**

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

Jason Driedger- August 18, Tina Klassen- August 20,  
Anne Schellenberg- August 21, Terrell Wiebe- August 21,  
Ryley Niemczak- August 22, Julie Niemczak- August 23,  
Vern Friesen- August 23, Carter Penner- August 24,  
Dora Driedger- August 24

**Hospitalized:** Mary Dyck is in the Altona Health Centre. Pete Schroeder is at the Health Sciences Centre.

**Our condolences** to Alyssa and Josh, Oliver and Micah Neufeld on the passing of Alyssa's Grandma, Tina Derksen, of Winkler on August 7. The funeral took place this week.

**Karen Schellenberg - thoughts and pastoral transitions:** You might think that the summer is a quieter season for staff at MCM. This being my 2<sup>nd</sup> summer in my position as Co-Director of Leadership Ministries, I can tell you with confidence this is absolutely not true. Camps with Meaning has been in full gear all summer, and Jeff and I are happily busy with pastoral transition things, installation planning, ordination preparation for some of our pastors, scheduling cluster dates, and other learning events. It has been an absolute joy to watch and participate as God's Spirit continues to do what Jesus said the Spirit would do, that being to empower, equip and guide the church as it seeks to faithfully proclaim the Almighty Name and Love of God. Without knowing how, who or when, we trust in our God who by "the power at work within us who is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine." Eph 3: 20. Blessings of confidence in Christ as you and we all anticipate that which lies ahead.

### **THIS WEEK AT ABC:**

**Sun. Aug. 18, 10:30 am:** Worship service

**Tue. Aug. 20:** Coffee with the Church staff

**From the Audio-Visual Technicians:** The speakers under the balcony are currently not working. Sitting in front of the balcony will offer the best quality sound until the repair is completed.

**Staff summer vacations:** Terrell will be on vacation from Aug. 22-25. Virginia will be on vacation from Aug. 24-31.

On Sunday, September 8, we will be celebrating baptism. We will be baptizing and welcoming into church membership five individuals: Abby Rempel, Esme Ginter, Jacob Friesen-Stoesz, Shelby Penner, and Nick Rempel. We will have a worship service in our sanctuary, followed by baptisms on the church lawn (weather permitting), and a potluck lunch (instructions on the potluck forthcoming). Please plan to join us for this most holy and joyful day in the life of our church community.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**MCM:** Secret Treaty Tour and Book Launch #2. September 7. Westside Community Church, Morden. Sharing stories of the West Reserve before Mennonite Settlement and first encounters between Ojibway and latecomers. How do we forge a different way of sharing this land? Info and registration at [www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcis](http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/mcis).

**MCC:** Stand in solidarity with refugees at the launch of Darcy Ataman's *Travel Safe* project on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 12 pm at Odeon Park (outside the Burton Cummings Theatre, 364 Smith St., Winnipeg), and see it before it moves to Parliament Hill. This powerful 2.5-storey art installation uses over 3,000 discarded shoes to depict the struggles of displaced persons. Please note, the installation and program address sensitive themes related to conflict, child displacement and death.

**CMU's Xplore** extended education program investigates dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it – all without assignments or exams! Courses begin October 1 and topics include the Sermon on the Mount and the rise and fall of the Soviet Union. Churches may consider hosting an Xplore watch party with people from the community. For course information and to register, visit [cmu.ca/xplore](http://cmu.ca/xplore).

**Katie Cares Celebration of Life Fashion show** will be held on September 28, at 6:30 pm Meridian Exhibition Center, 1045 Grandeur Ave. Winkler. Tickets will go on sale August 15 at 9:00 am. Please call to purchase tickets at 204.312.8445 or 204.362.1173 or email [ruth@katiecares.ca](mailto:ruth@katiecares.ca). Tickets are \$75.00 and will include a charcuterie board, dessert, Katie Cares raffle, live music and fashion show.