

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA

Sunday, August 25, 2024, 10:30 am

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:

The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

Gathering and Praise

Announcements

Hymn Come Let Us All Unite To Sing HWB 12

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn Great Is Thy Faithfulness HWB 327

Entering God's Story

Offering Blessed Assurance HWB 332

Scripture 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Sermon Jesus Makes All things New, Beginning With You!

Responding in Faith

Hymn 'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus HWB 340

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn The Love Of God STJ 44

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Worship Leading: Mary Anne Loeppky

Music: Glenys Voth and Lorraine Hamm

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. 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. Speaker: Mark

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

FROM THE PASTOR: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

In response to the Sunflower Festival worship service, people are wondering about the Rhineland Area Ministerial (RAM). Where is it? RAM ceased to function a few years ago. When I came to Altona in 2018 and began attending meetings, RAM was a poorly functioning group without purpose or agenda (being here longer, Virginia remembers a time when the group functioned more cohesively and productively). Most churches were not represented, pastors attended sporadically, there were conflicts among pastors (myself included), and nobody was willing to be the chair. We hobbled along for a few years, but with pandemic conflicts, the ongoing challenge of discerning how to invest our time, and dwindling participation, it was decided to cease functioning. Some pastors continue to represent churches in various roles in the community and perform some of the tasks that RAM once did such as planning the Sunflower Festival worship service.

I do believe that a ministerial could be valuable to our community and our churches. I believe that God calls churches to seek unity and partnerships. However, at the time when RAM ended, we were in consensus that there was not a path toward revitalizing our group and so the call to unity was left to other avenues. I've been considering the possibility of Altona having a ministerial again. Conversations have indicated that it will take great effort to resurrect it. I would welcome your responses and thoughts on all this:

Is it important that Altona have a ministerial?
What would its purpose and focus be?

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

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Assoc. Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, C 304.6119 viriniagr@abchurch.ca

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,
C 204.417.8200, terrellw@abchurch.ca

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER AND PRAISE:

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

Ruth Stoesz- August 25, Evelyn Friesen- August 26,
Verna Heinrichs (Peter)- August 30, Martha Friesen- August 31,
Marge Hiebert- August 31

Hospitalized: Mary Dyck is in the Altona Health Centre

Jake Rempel from our congregation passed away on August 17. We are invited to join in gratitude for his life and remember his family in our prayers. The funeral for Jake was held on Saturday, August 24 at ABC.

Our love, sympathy and prayers go to Bill and Dora Driedger, Jason and Tammy Driedger, Kelsey Driedger, Lori Driedger, Gord and Val Sawatzky and their families for the passing of Corrine Sawatzky – a daughter, sister, sister-in-law and aunt. Corrine passed away on August 21. The funeral service will be held on August 27 at 10:30 am at EMMC.

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Sun. Aug. 25, 10:30 am: Worship service

Tue. Aug. 27, 10:30 am: Coffee with the Church staff

ABC goes to Camp! September 28-29. The date has been set for a while, now we need to start making concrete plans and know how many people are coming! The cost for overnight and meals is \$100 for adults and \$60 for children 11 and under (4 and under free). This includes the use of the camp and most activities. People can also come out for worship and the day on Sunday, the cost for Sunday is \$30 and includes lunch.

We need to know who is all coming for the night and payment by **Fri. Sept 6**. Those just coming for Sunday have an extra week to decide. Having a retreat costs money—for some it is not a burden, for others it impacts their decision more. We have some funds to help those who need it and we are also looking at ways of cost sharing. If you are interested in helping reduce the cost for others, be in touch with one of the pastors.

Staff summer vacations: Pastor Terrell will be on vacation from Aug. 22-25. Pastor Virginia will be on vacation from Aug. 24-Sept. 1. Pastor Mark will be taking some time off from August 29 to September 1.

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.

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. Please plan to join us for this most holy and joyful day in the life of our church community.

Potluck instructions: We are expecting lots of visitors and would like our potluck table to be an illustration of the abundance of God's goodness and love. We are encouraging people to bring generous sized casseroles or large salads to share. (Dessert will be provided).

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MCC: Join us at the *We Are All Treaty People* celebration on Sunday, Sept. 15 from 1-4 p.m. at the Forks National Historic Site in Winnipeg. Enjoy performances by Fontine, Duncan Mercredi, Scott Nolan and Island Breeze Manitoba Pacific Islands dance. There will be a Pipe and Water ceremony at 12 noon, free food, crafts and family activities. For more information visit mcc.org/WeAreAllTreatyPeople

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. Tickets are \$75.00 and will include a charcuterie board, dessert, Katie Cares raffle, live music and fashion show.

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.