

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA

Sunday, August 4, 2024, 10:30 am

"Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this."

Esther 4:14b

Gathering and Praise

Announcements

Hymn For the Fruit of all Creation HWB 90

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn Lord, You Give the Great Commission SJ 63

Entering God's Story

Offering For We Are Strangers No More HWB 322

Scripture Esther 4:1-17

Sermon For Such A Time As This

Responding in Faith

Hymn God, Who Stretched HWB 414

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn The Lord Lift You Up SJ 73

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Worship Leading: Melissa Tiessen-Dyck

Music: Glenys Voth

Mark Tiessen-Dyck, Joyce Falk, Verna Heinrichs, Hilda Klassen and
Elfrieda Teichbrob are serving at Gardens on Tenth and Eastview this
morning.

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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This Sunday we begin 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: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

We will have a Matheson Island centred service on September 15 where
a fuller report of our time will be shared, but since it is still fresh on my
mind, I'll use this space to offer a few of my personal highlights from the
week.

One evening, two couples took us on a boat ride to show us some of the
sights on the lake. The pelicans, bald eagles, and rock formations were
astounding. We also learned all about the local commercial fishing
business.

All of the songs that we choose were new for the kids, but the
enthusiasm for "Not be Shaken" and "Get in the Boat" was wonderful.
"Get in the boat" is a Camps with Meaning song that we chose because
it uses the metaphor of boating to talk about discipleship which is a very
relevant image for the people of the Island who know boating. You can
listen to the song [here](https://campswithmeaning.org/res/pub/Media/song-mp3s/Get-in-the-boat-video-mix.mp3).

<https://campswithmeaning.org/res/pub/Media/song-mp3s/Get-in-the-boat-video-mix.mp3>

I had the opportunity to visit with several people from the community
including a foster dad to five of the children who came to camp. I was
moved to see the dedication that this aging couple has for raising their
foster children.

Our youth were gifted ministers to the campers. They led games and
crafts, cared for children who had injuries, and faithfully served with their
time and talents.

Upon returning home I believe that the Holy Spirit was at work upon us
and through us and our camp is worthwhile endeavor to continue as it
benefits the community of Matheson Island and our youth and our
church. I also hope we can continue building this relationship in ways
beyond camp.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

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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:

Martin Vallejos- August 5, Leroy Friesen- August 7

Hospitalized: Mary Dyck is in the Altona Health Centre.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Shirley Schellenberg for the passing of her husband Rey Schellenberg, as well as sister-in-law Lena Schellenberg. Rey passed away on July 31.

International Witness: Pray for Benedikt Isert Bender from MCEC as he spends a year in internship in Mindanao, Philippines with PeaceBuilders Community. This internship is an intense, hands-on learning of peacebuilding, sustainable development, and social enterprise with a little barista training on the side. Pray that Benedikt's interactions with local indigenous leaders, young "farmpreneurs" and grassroots peace builders will be formative as he seeks to follow Jesus in the way of peace. Thank God for his willingness to learn in this way.

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Sun. Aug. 2, 10:30 am: Worship service

Tue. Aug. 4: *No coffee time this week*

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS:

Sun. Sept. 8: Baptism.

Fri-Sat. Sept. 28-29: Church retreat at Camp Assiniboia.

Sun. Oct. 27: Brunch Church with David Scott.

Hello from the Finance and Maintenance committee: We hope you are experiencing an enjoyable summer. Here are some financial and other highlights on the most recent happenings at ABC. The South West porch which is in need of replacement, should be completed this fall when the contractor has time. Agustin has completed upgrades in the South Wing in preparation for the return of our youth programming this fall. You may also have noticed additional activity from the Love Well Drop In group as we have expanded their lease to include Mondays (in addition to Thursday and Friday) The most recent rainfall events fortunately did not cause any damages in the basement due to the installation of a new sump pump.

Financially, the summer season has also resulted in a drop off in offering donations with year-to-date contributions approximately \$18,000 behind 2023 contributions. We are pleased to report that rental income is tracking approximately \$5000 ahead of 2023. ABC is also current with its budgeted Outreach ministries. Overall expenses are \$25,000 higher than 2023 which is resulting in a concerning current shortfall. As always, we have faith that our ABC family and God will navigate a path to allow us to continue his earthly ministry. If you have any questions, please reach out to *Laurie Enns, Elmer Friesen or Al Friesen*.

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

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

Altona Gospel Festival: Altona park on August 17 starting at 12 pm. Admission is free, and we have offerings during the day. All net proceeds will go to Youth for Christ, Altona. There will be at least 2 food booths this year.

MCM: Join Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission friends from near and far at Canad Inns Fort Gary, 1824 Pembina Highway, Winnipeg, to hear John Fumana and Bruce Yoder, Co-Executive Coordinators for AIMM, give updates on Mennonite Church Canada Witness ministries with African churches in Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Africa. Friday, Sept 20, 6:30-8pm. The evening will include hot drinks and light desserts. RSVP to Melanie Neufeld at mneufeld@mennochurch.mb.ca

MCC: Save the date and 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 free food, crafts and family activities. For more information visit mcc.org/wearealltreatypeople