

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA

Sunday, July 21, 2024, 10:30 am

"As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the Lord, "so will your name and descendants endure. From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all humanity will come and bow down before me," says the Lord." Isaiah 66:22-23

Gathering and Praise

Announcements

Hymn God of Our Strength HWB 36

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn Holy God, We Praise Thy Name HWB 121

Entering God's Story

Offering

Scripture Isaiah 56:1-8; 65:17-25, Zechariah 8:1-8, 20-23; 9:9-10

Sermon A Message of Hope for a Beleaguered Community

Responding in Faith

Hymn For God So Loved Us HWB 167

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn My Jesus, I Love Thee HWB 522

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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Today we conclude our series on the prophets. You can see an outline of the series including sermon topics in previous bulletins. In a couple weeks we will be starting a sermon series called "Identity, Purpose, Baptism: Finding Our Place in God's Story."

FROM THE PASTOR: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Every two months one of our services is played on CFAM Sunday morning. This is paid for from our church budget and we have done this many years (I'm not sure when it started). As pastors, we typically choose one of our recent services depending on various factors. To be honest, since covid I've often wondered whether this is a good investment in a world with youtube, podcasts, and where we are accustomed to watching worship services online because our church, and every other one, posts everything on the internet. Does it still make sense to have our services on the old-fashioned radio? I do know, however, that our radio service had a big impact for one person.

This individual went for a drive, turned on the radio, and heard me preaching about anger. They contacted CFAM to find out who was preaching, CFAM told them it was a service from Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church, and they reached out through our website to see if there was a way they could listen to the service again and hear the whole sermon. Since our services are all on youtube, this was no problem and I also let them know about the other sermons in our series on emotions.

Here is an excerpt of what they wrote to me: "Thank you so much for sending those links. I've already listened to each of the ones you mentioned and was uplifted again. That anger message especially, it was just as impactful the second and third time hearing it, and in fact I cannot tell you how many times I had to hit pause to take notes. Your message confirmed what Holy Spirit was already trying to convince me of, and I was hardly daring to believe. But now I DO! I broke down and wept when you said "lack of anger is not a sign of spiritual maturity, it's a sign of ignorance", and "what makes us angry says a lot about who we are". I could feel my heart almost exploding out of my chest."

It's a deep honour when my preaching resonates with the Holy Spirit's activity in people's lives. In this case, my biblical reflections on anger encouraged someone who was struggling with exhaustion, rejection, and the cost of following Christ, while seeking God's regenerating work in their life. Preaching is not a one-person performance, but requires a congregation. I hope therefore that this can be an encouragement for you too, the community that calls me to preach. I wouldn't be a preacher without you. It can be hard to receive such feedback without becoming prideful and boasting; we need to give the Holy Spirit the glory. I also received this event as a Holy Spirit reminder of why we preach. May we all continue to live and preach the good news of Jesus.

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:

James Enns- July 22, Anita Braun- July 24,
Liam Toews- July 24, Gavin Wiens- July 27

Art and Mary Dyck will be celebrating their 72-wedding anniversary on July 27!

Hospitalized: Shirley Shellenberg is at the Altona Health Centre.

Matheson Island camp is this week! You are invited to pray for health, safety, growing opportunities, new friendships, opportunities to both discover faith and share about faith, good weather, and fun! Thank you to the congregation for all the ways you have supported and encouraged this venture. In September there will be a Sunday morning service where you will get to hear from those who went. Below are the names of all who will be going and serving at camp.

Jacob Friesen-Stoesz	Natalie Brais
Leo Dyck	Emily Redecop
Nicholas Funk	Micah Friesen
Shelby Penner	Erika Enns-Rodine
Natalie Enns	Mark Tiessen-Dyck
Sydney Hildebrand	Karl Enns
Kaylee Hildebrand	Terrell Wiebe

International Witness: Leaders from North American Vietnamese Evangelical Fellowship will be gathering in Vancouver in early August. Nguyen Thi Hong (photo centre, click on photo to enlarge), president of Evangelical Mennonite Church Vietnam, will join the gathering. Pray for Pastors Nhien Pham (photo right) and Garry Janzen, liaison workers for Mennonite Church Canada Witness, as they deepen relationships with these leaders and discern direction for working together with Mennonites in Vietnam.

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Sun. July 21, 10:30: Church service.

Tue. July 23, 10:30 am: Coffee with the church staff.

Sun. July 28: No service at ABC

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS:

Sun, July 28, 9-10 am: Informal gathering with coffee in the church library (and possibly some sharing about Matheson Island by Mark and Terrell). *Sunflower festival worship service at 10:30 in the park.*

Sun. Sept. 8: Baptism.

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

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MCC: Do you know an 18- to 20-year-old seeking to grow in their faith and personal development? Encourage them to join Seek – a transformative six-month discipleship program designed to deepen their understanding of what it means to be an Anabaptist follower of Jesus in a complicated world. The next Seek cohort will be travelling to Cambodia in January 2025. [Apply online](#) today! mcc.org/seek

MCM - Pastoral letter from Michael Pahl: Polarization and division continue to increase among us as a society, especially in light of recent world events. Read Executive Minister Michael Pahl's letter to MCM congregations in light of this reality. May God give us grace to pursue peace and strive for unity in Christ, empowered by the Spirit. Read the letter here:

<https://mennochurch.mb.ca/article/15795-pastoral-letter-division-and-polarization-july-2024>

Camps with Meaning: Camps with Meaning needs you these dates: ASSINIBOIA Kitchen Help: July 28 to August 2- one or two; August 5 to 9- one; August 11 to 16-one or two. Camp Pastor August 5 to 9. Contact the office at 204-895-2267 or visit www.campswithmeaning.org/staff

Sunflower Festival Community Worship service is taking place Sunday July 28th 10:30 am at the festival main stage in the park. A freewill offering in support of Union Gospel Mission Winnipeg and Youth for Christ Altona will be taken. Cheques can be written out to Altona EMMC. *Before worship you're welcome to come to ABC for coffee from 9 – 10 am.*