

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA

Sunday, May 26, 2024 10:30 am

"When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick." Matthew 14:14

Gathering and Praise

Announcements

Hymn Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah VT 606

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn Precious Lord, Take My Hand VT 610

Entering God's Story

Prayer for the Offering, Church and World

Offering Bless the Arms That Comfort VT 527

Children's Story

Scripture Hosea 11:7-9

Sermon It's a Give and Take Sort of Thing

Responding in Faith

Hymn There is in Every Person VT 751

Celebration of Communion

Benediction

Hymn God Be With Us VT 613

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert Worship Leading: Delores Enns

Music: Flying Free Children's Story: Josh Neufeld

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Everyone is welcome to participate in Communion by sharing the bread and cup. We will share Communion in pairs at the front and back of the sanctuary, you will be invited to come to the tables from the side aisles. If you are unable to travel to either table, we will serve you where you are seated. Further instructions will be given verbally. If you require gluten free bread, it is available in the paper cups on each tray.

Wine is red. Juice is clear.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

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Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324.5990, C 1.204.771.3406, marktd@abchurch.ca

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

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,

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FROM THE PASTOR: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

It has been a few years since we had a baptism at our church. However, I am rejoicing that there is a growing interest among our youth in being baptized. We have also had a number of conversations in the last few months about baptism – as pastors, as the Spiritual Advisory Committee, and with pastors from other congregations. The Holy Spirit is at work.

In years past, people were required to participate in a catechism class which emphasized the ability to correctly answer biblical and theological questions (I think there may have even been a test involved). More recently, baptism preparation classes sought to teach the biblical story and Christian theology emphasizing personal desire and commitment to following Christ. We are asking once again, "What does the church expect of people who are baptized?" There is certainly broad agreement that a person's heart and desire to follow Christ is what really matters, not knowledge about any topic or having the correct answers. Baptism in the Anabaptist/Mennonite tradition is upon confession of faith; when people are baptized it is important that they share their faith publicly with the church. Baptism is a personal 'Yes' to God that is affirmed and celebrated publicly in a ritual that belongs to the Church.

Terrell and myself will be having a retreat next weekend with some of our youth to explore baptism and Christian faith and life more broadly. This retreat is a different way of doing 'catechism' but we hope one that will be encouraging and helpful in preparing for a life of saying 'Yes' to Jesus. My hope is that as a congregation we will be open to baptism (and the process involved) looking different. Even amidst change, we will continue to encourage and practice this sacred ritual in ways that embrace its true and full meaning.

The invitation to baptism is extended to people of all ages. As pastors, we are always open to talking about it!

We are continuing our worship series about emotions. We'll be reflecting on the emotions of God and exploring our own emotions from a theological perspective. What do our emotions reveal about ourselves? How do we express emotions faithfully? How do our emotions bring us closer to God or farther from God? This sermon series arises from some fruitful conversations about emotions that took place at youth.

May 12: Anger (rage, hatred, frustration, jealousy). Speaker: Mark

May 19: Sorrow (sadness, heartache, grief, hopelessness). Speaker: Mark

May 26 (Communion): Compassion (empathy, mercy, pity, tender-heartedness). Speaker: Virginia

June 2: Fear (worry, uncertainty, apprehension, anxiety). Speaker: Terrell

June 9 (church picnic): Joy (happiness, bliss, delight, wonder)

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER AND PRAISE:

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

Kathy Dyck- May 27, Elva Loeppky- May 27, Dawson Wiens- May 28,
Fran Friesen- May 29, Erna Doell- May 31, Albert Friesen- June 1,
Henry Klassen- June 1

Hospitalized: Dorothy Friesen is at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

Pete Heinrichs from our church family passed away on May 19. We are invited to join in gratitude for his life and to remember his wife Verna and their family in our prayers. The funeral for Pete was held on Wednesday.

Mennonite Church Canada: Doug Klassen, executive minister of Mennonite Church Canada, joined church leaders from Anglican, Evangelical Lutheran, and United Churches, as well as KAIROS (the organizer) for a pilgrimage in Ottawa on May 22 (<https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/article/44834>). The leaders' pilgrimage to Parliament Hill marks the culmination of Gaza ceasefire pilgrimages that have been taking place in 173 cities around the world during Lent (<https://www.kairoscanada.org/gaza-ceasefire-pilgrimage>).

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Sun. May 26, 9:15: Sunday School for all ages.

Tue. May 28, 10:30 am: Coffee with the church staff.

Tue. May 28, 7-9 pm: Senior Youth - Youth Talk Night: God is love. Games and snacks to follow.

Wed. May 29, 7-8:30 pm: Junior Youth - Youth Talk Night: God is love. Games and snacks to follow.

We are encouraging those who sit in the *back several rows of pews (under the balcony)* to stay for a brief conversation following this morning's service. Others are welcome to stay as well, but this is a specific invitation for those who prefer to sit in this area.

Rejoice: If you would like to renew or receive the "Rejoice" magazine, please contact Ang at the office. The deadline for this subscription is June 4. The cost is \$54.72.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Camps with Meaning is 75. Come out to Camp Assiniboia June 21-23 to celebrate. Events for all ages. Come for a day, come for the weekend, come for the worship service. Detailed schedule and registration for accommodations and food (please register for the free Sunday lunch) on the website. www.campswithmeaning.org/75

MCC: Tee off for a cause in support of MCC's global disaster relief efforts. Join us for MCC Manitoba's Golf Tournament on Thursday, July 4 at Bridges Golf Course. Experience our Texas Scramble tournament featuring on-course challenges, complemented by a delicious BBQ lunch and Mennonite-style supper. Visit mcc.org/Manitoba/golf to learn more and secure your spot today!

MCI: Mennonite Collegiate Institute invites you to join us at Saengerfest on Sunday, June 2nd in Buhler Hall! Join us for a time of worship and a celebration of song, centered on the theme "Joy, Joy, Joy!" The worship service begins at 10:30 am, with lunch (by donation) to follow, and an afternoon concert at 2:00 pm. All are welcome!

Registration is now open for *MCI's 10th Annual Golf Classic* at Minnewasta Golf and Country Club in Morden on Saturday, June 8th, 2024. Whether you are a beginner or avid golfer, we look forward to seeing all of you at the golf course. Register online today by visiting our website (mciblues.net) or email info@mciblues.net with any questions. We look forward to seeing you on the links!

CMU: Join us for CMU's Faspa on the Lawn, a fundraising garden party with food from local Hutterite communities, lawn games, music, and mingling. Tours of Poettker Hall, the original student residence that will soon undergo renovation, will also be offered. Thursday, June 20 at 6:00 PM on CMU's south side lawn. We will gather to celebrate and call CMU forward together. Register at cmu.ca/faspa.

You are invited to hear Gracia Burnham, the author of the New York Times bestselling book "In the Presence of My Enemies", Friday, June 14, 7 pm at EMMC in Altona. Gracia Burnham and her husband were serving as missionaries in the Philippines and were kidnapped by terrorists and spent the next 13 months as hostages in the Philippine jungle. Their story of faith in the midst of terror and tragedy is known to millions.