

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA

Sunday, November 3, 2024, 10:30 am

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:36-39

Gathering and Praise

Announcements

Hymn Have Thine Own Way Lord HWB 504

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn Here I Am, Lord VT 545

Entering God’s Story

Offering This Little Light Of Mine HWB 401

Time with Children

Scripture Matthew 5:13-16; John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 3:6-9

Sermon Evangelism: A Mission In Love

Responding in Faith

Hymn Faith Of Our Martyrs HWB 413

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn Take My Life HWB 389

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Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Worship Leading: Byron Loeppky

Music: Glenys Voth and Lorraine Hamm

Children’s Story: Grace Harms

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Worship Calendar:

November 3. Speaker: Virginia

November 10. Peace Sunday. Speaker: Mark

November 17. Speaker: Virginia

November 24. Memorial Sunday. Speaker: Mark

FROM THE PASTOR – Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

I am guessing some of you have heard me talk about Halloween before, but it struck me again this week how rich the tradition of celebrating Halloween is. Kids and teenagers and sometimes adults get dressed up, some go to great lengths even, and then walk around in the evening stopping at people’s houses and receiving candy or other treats. Perfect strangers open their doors with a smile on their face, comment on the creativity or cuteness or scariness of the costumes, and graciously fill the waiting bags. Sometimes a few words are exchanged between the adults, thanks you’s are said all around and then everyone moves on.

It feels like a momentary suspension of our normal individual and isolated ways of doing things. And I love it! For one night everyone (or those who choose to participate) can be a part of the community ritual by giving and receiving or receiving and giving without expectation or obligations. I even gave candy out to some teenagers that weren’t all wearing costumes. But it was Halloween and if someone comes to your door you give them treats, that is how the ritual works.

I know there are some reasons that people are opposed to Halloween and see it as problematic. But the vast majority of people simply see it as a fun activity before we all hunker down for winter.

One of my daughters commented that she wished we could have Halloween every month. If so, I would want to modify the prominence of sugar. But I agree, I wish we could find a way to engage with our neighbours and share so freely on a more regular basis.

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## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **PRAYER AND PRAISE:**

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

Ed Rempel- Nov. 5, Ang Loepky- Nov. 5, Susan (Ben) Dueck- Nov. 7

**Hospitalized:** Art Dyck and Ann Enns are in the Altona Health Centre.

**Our love and sympathy** are extended to Wayne and Mary Anne Loepky for the loss of their brother-in-law, Hans Miller who passed away on Oct. 25. The funeral service for him was on Oct. 28 in Winnipeg.

**Our love and sympathy** are extended to Albert Falk and Sarah Dueck for the passing away of Albert's brother, Ben Falk. There was a private family funeral service.

**International Witness:** Celebrate with PeaceBuilders Community (PBCI), Witness workers, and the Indigenous communities surrounding the Malipayon Peace Hub. Pray for the official opening of the peace and reconciliation training and coffee processing centre on November 16th. Leamington United Mennonite Church and MC Canada Witness are sending representatives, Matt Tiessen and Norm Dyck, to join the celebration. Watch for photos and videos on Facebook and Instagram!

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

**Sun. Nov. 3, 9:15 am:** Sunday School for ages 3-grade 12. No adult Sunday school.

**Sun. Nov. 3, 10:30 am:** Worship service.

**Tue. Nov. 5, 10:30 am:** Coffee with the Church staff.

**Wed. Nov. 6, 7-9** Combined Youth - Teen and Adult Challenge worship night. Drop off and pick up at the South Park MB Church.

**Wed. Nov. 6, 7-8:15:** Ventures for grades 3-6 at Buffalo apartments for games night.

**Thur. Nov. 7, 2 pm:** Book study at the Gardens on Tenth MPR.

**Pastor Mark** is on vacation from October 30 – November 5.

**Save the date:** Sunday, Dec. 1 – annual fall meeting and potluck.

**If you are interested** in purchasing the book, "The Secret Treaty" at a cost of \$10.50, please contact Ang at the office by Nov. 8. We will make a group order from our congregation.

**The updated Contact List booklets** are ready. They are available in the sanctuary lobby as well as the office lobby for pick up.

**The Home and World commission's** annual soup and pie fundraiser is Thur. Nov. 14 from 4:30-6:30. If you are willing to be a pie maker, please call or text Marilyn @324.3814. Other volunteers are needed as well for a variety of tasks and there is a sign-up sheet provided in the lobby.

**From Finance and Maintenance:** Sept 30 marked the end of the third quarter for the ABC fiscal calendar. As per our general practice, here is a quarterly year to date update from the Finance and Trusteeship commission. The gap between revenue and expenses continues to widen. Offering is approximately \$5000.00 behind 2023 year to date totals at \$257,164.00 while expenses are tracking at \$41,000 dollars ahead of the 2023 fiscal year largely due to the release of third quarter outreach payments and salaries. It should be noted that most commission figures are well within budget, while rental revenue is well ahead of 2023 totals. Historically, congregational giving increased significantly in the fourth quarter leading up to Christmas. We invite you to support the worship and outreach here at ABC.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**MCC:** The annual Christmas Quilt and Craft Sale presented by *Piece It Together* will take place on Saturday, Nov. 23 at Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship from 9 am to 3 pm. Discover a treasure trove of beautiful handicrafts, lovingly made and donated by local volunteers. Your contributions will directly support MCC's humanitarian relief efforts.

**The Altona and area youth groups** invite people of all ages to a story and worship night with Adult and Teen Challenge on Wednesday, November 6th from 7:00 - 8:30 at the South Park Mennonite Brethren Church. Join us to worship together and hear testimonies. No cost, but there will be an opportunity for donation.

**Pray for our Congregations: Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship** Please pray for us at FGMF as we seek to care for and support those in our congregation who are aging, facing new limitations and health challenges; engage in the journey of reconciliation with our Indigenous brothers and sisters; work to take seriously our responsibility to care for the earth; and seek to be a vibrant multigenerational community, involving youth and young adults, and those of all ages within our congregation.