

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA

Sunday, October 13, 2024, 10:30 am

“They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune” Isaiah 65:23a

Gathering and Praise

Announcements

Hymn Mountain Of God VT 11

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn 10,000 Reasons VT 111

Entering God’s Story

Offering Waymaker

Time with Children

Scripture Genesis 2:4b-9, 15; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

Sermon Working For God’s Kingdom All The Time

Responding in Faith

Hymn Blessed Be Your Name VT 637

ABC Conversation with Kristin Falk

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn We Are One In The Spirit VT 387

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Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Worship Leading: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Music: ABC Youth **Children’s Story:** Kristin Falk

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We are in the midst of a 5-week sermon series called, “Realities for the Church to grapple with”. This series will help us to name and explore realities that impact the Church and everyone who is part of the Church while calling us to be a community where we all grow together as Jesus’ disciples.

Sept. 22 (Communion): People have different spiritual styles or languages. Speaker: Mark

Sept. 29. Faith formation is a lifelong process. Speaker: Virginia

Oct. 6. Church can be a difficult place for men. Speaker: Mark

Oct. 13. 95% of your life is outside church. Speaker: Mark

Oct. 20. We live in a secular age. Speaker: Terrell

Oct. 27. Brunch Church with David Scott

FROM THE PASTOR – Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

I have been doing a lot of thinking about conflict lately. Conflict in the world, conflict in our community, in our church and between individuals. And I am not the only one. The book study group at church chose to read a book about transforming conflict. I was very hesitant to lead our group through this book because I know that talking about conflict is hard, it usually involves vulnerability and a need for trust.

We are not the only ones talking about conflict, in the September 2024 issue of the *Canadian Mennonite* titled “Exit Interviews: in search of healing, wholeness and God” many of the articles talk about conflict in the church. These comments are usually about the poor ways that the church has dealt with conflict in the past and the divisions and hurts that have resulted.

The book we are studying is “The Space Between us: Conversations about Transforming Conflict” by Betty Pries. The author explains the many ways that big conflicts can consume our lives and have detrimental effects on us. In response we often try to avoid conflict or create artificial harmony without actually dealing with any issues, only to have the disagreements flare up much stronger at a later date. Instead, the author suggests that we need to find ways to disagree with one another better. She says we need more and better disagreements so that we know how to disagree well and then our disagreements or differences are less likely to turn into conflicts.

Personally, this feels like a big ask. And I am not sure where to start. But if we want to avoid the divisions of the past, if we want to be a better example to those around us, and if we truly seek to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, I guess we need to learn how and find ways to disagree better.

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:

Tara Funke-Friesen- Oct. 5, Grace Klippenstein- Oct. 13,
Atlas Friesen- Oct. 14, Jack Wiens- Oct. 15

Art and Mary Dyck have made a slight move again. They are now at #9, 223-5th St. NW.

International Witness: As Werner and Joanne De Jong, Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers in Ethiopia, finish the last month of their assignment at the Meserete Kristos Seminary, pray that the deep relationships that they have cultivated with students will continue to have impact on their lives. Pray for peace, joy, and energy to finish the semester classes and work on transition. Watch announcements in Mennonite Church Alberta for a chance to see them in person in late November.

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Sun. Oct. 13, 9:15 am: Sunday School for all ages
Sun. Oct. 13, 10:30 am: Worship service
Tue. Oct. 15, 10:30 am: Coffee with the Church staff
Tue. Oct. 15, 7-9: Senior Youth Game Show Night
Wed. Oct. 16, 7-8:30: Junior Youth Game Show Night
Wed. Oct. 16, 7-8:15: Ventures for grades 3-6.
Thur. Oct 17, 2 pm: Book study in the Gardens on Tenth multi purpose room
Thur. Oct. 17, 7 pm: Church council meeting

MCI board representative needed: If you are interested in representing our church on the MCI board, please speak with any member of Church council, or with Kristin Falk. ABC is a founding (and funding) member of MCI, and as such has a position on the MCI Board. Thanks for your consideration.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MCI wishes to announce that Mr. Chris Harms has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer MCI, effective November 18, 2024. Chris brings with him 17 years of leadership experience in business and ministry, including roles as Executive Director of Pembina Valley Bible Camp and Family Life Pastor at Harvest Christian Fellowship. Chris is passionate about faith-based community building and is excited to contribute to MCI's mission.

MCC: Join us for Singin' in the Grain, a live choral concert supporting the work of Canadian Foodgrains Bank and MCC. Enjoy an evening of inspiring music on Saturday, Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. at Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Winkler, or Sunday, Oct. 27 at 3 p.m. at Douglas Mennonite Church, Winnipeg. Admission is free. Donations are welcome. Learn more at foodgrainsbank.ca/events/singin-in-the-grain-2024

Camps with Meaning Celebration Banquets. Join Paul Dueck and other camp staff in singing the songs of 1949 - 2024, enjoying a delicious supper, celebrating summer 2024, and supporting kids in coming to camp. Contact the camp office or go online to register your free seat. Nov 2 - Winkler; Nov 3 - Winnipeg.

www.campswithmeaning.org/events

CMU: Anabaptist Community Bible – Have you pre-ordered your copy of the Anabaptist Community Bible? Available in three editions at a special discounted price until October 15. Visit commonword.ca/go/bible500 for more information and to place your order.

Pray for our congregations: Home Street Mennonite Church continues to foster deep and meaningful connections with those who commute to church and those who live in our neighbourhood. Whether we are sharing a meal and enjoying life together, or gathering for worship, or sharing challenges and grieving together, we continue to discover what it means for a diverse group of people to share life and be the church. Pray that our commitment to one another might be a witness to the Spirit's desire to bring people together.