

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of
ALTONA

Sunday, October 20, 2024, 10:30 am

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."
John 1:14

Gathering and Praise

Announcements

Hymn Come, Christians, Join To Sing VT 28

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn Thy Word Is A Lamp VT 398

Entering God's Story

Offering

Time with Children

Scripture John 1:1-14

Sermon Sacred Time In A Secular Age

Responding in Faith

Hymn Together VT 389

ABC Conversation with Colin and Laura Reimer

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn In Christ There Is No East Or West VT 390

* * * * *

Sermon: Terrell Wiebe

Worship Leading: Jolene Friesen-Stoesz and Jacob Friesen-Stoesz

Music: Flying Free

Children's Story: Delores Enns

* * * * *

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

Web Page Address: abchurchcommunity.ca **Office:** 324.6717

E-mail: office@abchurch.ca **Facebook:** ABC community

Worship Services available online at: abchurchcommunity.ca

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

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

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,
C 204.417.8200, terrellw@abchurch.ca

FROM THE PASTOR – Mark Tiessen-Dyck

As many know, our church has now experienced two incidents of vandalism in the last month. It's disappointing, saddening, and raises lots of questions. It's not my department to speak to the questions of insurance, repair costs, conversations with police, and security measures; these questions are best directed to the Finance and Maintenance Committee.

Perhaps I can speak to the other wonderings these events have raised; questions about human nature, justice, and community.

The arbitrary and totally non-sensical nature of such acts of vandalism lead us to ask the question, why would someone do this? It's a question we can't answer; we can only recognize that human behaviour sometimes defies not only morals but reason. In our adult Sunday school class it was suggested that we pray for the person(s) who broke our windows. It's possible that they face substantial struggles or burdens which may have contributed to their behaviour (even though this does not excuse it). Jesus says that in loving and praying for our enemies we are acting like God (Matthew 6:43-48). "Love" does not mean warm mushy feelings in your heart, but an orientation and commitment to the good of someone. Let's continue to pray for the people who broke our windows.

Another person in our adult Sunday school class asked, "how would we respond if the person(s) was caught?" My hope is that our church would choose a restorative justice process. Restorative justice focuses on repairing harms not punishing offenders. I believe that a restorative justice approach could provide more healing for us than if the offender was punished by the justice system and the case closed. Restorative justice encourages offenders to rectify the harm they have caused; this encourages changed behaviour in the future and contributes to the victim's healing.

The grief and loss of such incidents is more than broken glass and money. There is a loss of trust in our community. We now doubt things we took for granted. Even if we were not specifically targeted and we know that this does not represent who our community is, something has changed and it feels miserable.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER AND PRAISE:

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

Edna Klippenstein- Sept. 16, Myrla Friesen- Oct. 21,

Joyce Falk- Oct. 22, Helen Voth- Oct. 24

Our prayer and condolences for Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, Andrew Richert, Maida, Cora and family at the loss of Virginia's grandmother, Susan Gerbrandt who passed away on October 13. The funeral will be held at Bethel Mennonite Church in Winnipeg on October 26.

Indigenous Relations: Tany Warkentin, Mennonite Church Canada Liaison worker for ministry in Africa, will be meeting with global companions in South Africa, Burkina Faso, and Togo from Oct. 15 - Nov. 3. This will include the annual meetings for Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission. Pray for the church leaders of D.R. Congo, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Sierra Leone and Angola as they gather to share, pray and plan together. Some will travel to this gathering through areas that risk violence, so pray for safety in travel, wisdom in discernment and joy as they come together as siblings in faith.

THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Sun. Oct. 20, 9:15 am: Sunday School for all ages

Sun. Oct. 20, 10:30 am: Worship service

Tue. Oct. 22, 10:30 am: Coffee with the Church staff

Wed. Oct. 23, 7-9 pm, Combined youth event (gr.7-12) - Church wide games!

Wed. Oct. 23, 7-8:15: Ventures for grades 3-6.

Sun. Oct. 27, 9:15: Brunch Church with David Scott. No Sunday School.

Next week is Brunch Church! The event begins at 9:15. Brunch is a potluck. Please bring brunch food to share. After a time of eating and visiting, we will have a time of worship including a land acknowledgment, singing, prayer, and children's story. Our speaker is David Scott, who is an Ojibwe Traditional Knowledge Keeper and Indigenous environmental expert from Swan Lake First Nation. David will be speaking to us about the significance of our land for Indigenous people, the historic relationships between Mennonites and Indigenous people, and how we can take steps toward reconciliation. It is our hope that David's sharing will guide us on the learning journey we began with

the Blanket Exercise a year ago. There will be an opportunity for questions and responses to David's sharing.

Pastor Virginia is on vacation from Oct. 19-26.

From Finance and Maintenance: Thank you for your expressions of concern following the most recent occurrence of vandalism at ABC. For those who were not here last Sunday, the north and east entrances were damaged Saturday night (with one window broken) We have held discussions with Altona Police Service, which has provided some advice, and committed to more regular patrolling. Replacement glass will be installed in approximately one month at a cost of approximately \$1000.00. We are also actively researching the installation of surveillance cameras overlooking the parking lot, and entrance area. Obviously, we are disappointed, and frustrated. If you have any further questions or suggestions, please reach out to Elmer, Laurie or Al.

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.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MCI's Soup & Pie and Fall Concert – Nov. 8. Come for soup, buns and pie from 5:30-7:00 in the gymnasium, and stay for our fall concert at 7:30 in Buhler Hall with performances by MCI's ensembles and choirs. Meal is by donation. We look forward to seeing you there!

MCC: With the escalating violence in Lebanon, people's lives are in danger and the need for basic necessities is great. MCC partners in central Lebanon and Beirut are providing food, water, shelter, hygiene items, medicine and psychosocial support for children. Every donation made is matched by the Canadian government until Nov. 3. *Donate today to double your impact* at mcc.org/LebanonEmergency