-BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA-
Sunday, October 12, 2025, 10:30 am

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 1 John 4:7-8

Praising God

Hymn Summoned by the God Who Made Us VT 1
Call to Worship and Prayer
Hymn The Love of God VT 162
Offering Be a Sower VT 789

Hearing God's Story

Children's Story
Hymn My Life Flows On VT 605
Scripture 1 Corinthians 13
Sermon Some Things Never Change

Living in Hope

Hymn Jesus Christ Is Love Divine VT 749
Congregational Prayer
Benediction
Hymn Felix Culpa

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert
Worship Leading: Mark Tiessen-Dyck
Music: Andrew Richert and Hilda Franz
Children's Story: Sharon Friesen

Over the following two Sundays, our sermons will explore the theme "Jesus and Truth". We are reminded often that we live in a polarized world and what is "true" is contested. How do we follow Jesus in such an environment? There are no easy answers or obvious solutions, but we hope these sermons will help us think theologically about these dilemmas.

Oct 19: Jesus and Truth part 1. Speaker: Mark
Oct 26: Jesus and Truth part 2. Speaker: Mark
Nov 2: Brunch Church with Neill and Edith von Gunten
Nov 9: Peace Sunday. Speaker: Mark

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PRAYER AND PRAISE –

Hospitalized: Shirley Schellenberg is in the Altona Health Centre.

We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:
Melvin Klassen- Oct. 12, Grace Klippenstein- Oct. 13,
Atlas Friesen-Oct. 14, Jack Wiens- Oct. 15

International Witness: Thailand - Global Companion of the Month: More than a hundred house churches and congregations work together in the Friends of Grace network to build communities of faith rooted in the local soil of Thailand. Leadership development and Bible study are key parts of what they do together. Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers Tom and Christine Poovong provide support for local leaders in income generation ministry and community development. Most recently this has meant building opportunities for farming families to stay on the land and still support their families while forming communities of faith.

- THIS WEEK AT ABC –

Sun. Oct. 12: No Sunday school this morning
Sun. Oct. 12, 10:30 am: Worship service
Tues. Oct. 14, 10:30 am: Coffee with the church staff
Tues. Oct 14. 7-9 pm: Senior youth worship night:
Encountering God through all our senses.
Wed., Oct. 15, 7-8:30 pm: Junior youth talk night:
Peer pressure and healthy friendships. Games and snacks to follow.
Wed. Oct. 15. 7-8:15 pm: Ventures

From the Church Council: Many of you were in church last Sunday as Virginia shared that her last Sunday at ABC will be November 2. Church Council also made a promise to hold a congregational meeting to share information and provide the opportunity for discussion, sooner rather than later. That meeting has been scheduled for Sunday October 19, following the morning worship. Thank you.

Library News - a selection of new books for both adults and children has arrived in the church library. Please come and check them out!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are posters on the foyer bulletin board for more information and additional community announcements.

How did we get from the Bible to a genocide in Gaza? Oct. 22, 29 and Nov. 5, join Dr. Dan Epp-Tiessen for this 3-part webinar series as he explores the historical causes and biblical interpretations that have given rise to the current conflict in Gaza. Learn more and register at mcc.org/events/webinar-series-how-did-we-get-bible-genocide-gaza**.**

Blue Sky Opportunities annual fall fundraiser. This will be a catered event with entertainment by Patrick Gregoire, Magician, and raffle ticket prizes. Thursday, November 6th @ 6:00 pm at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre. Tickets are $50 per person, available in person at Blue Sky Opportunities, Prairie Insurance, call/email 204.324.5401 or admin@blueskyopp.com or online.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank: The Prairie Singers and The Accent Singers will be presenting in Winkler Oct. 25, 7 pm at Emmanuel Mennonite and in Steinbach October 26, 3 pm at Steinbach Evangelical Mennonite Church. The concerts are free with an opportunity for donation. The focus this year is on East Africa, including countries like South Sudan.

We would like to invite you to attend our upcoming AGM in the Gardens dining room Oct. 30, 7 pm. Your continued support and partnership are deeply appreciated, and we value your input as part of the wider faith community that sustains our mission.

Camps with Meaning banquets: Sat., Nov. 1. The Community Exchange, Altona, Sun., Nov. 2. Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg. Visit www.campswithmeaning.org/news to learn more and register for your free tickets.

FROM THE PASTOR – Terrell Wiebe

The dangers of thanks giving

In the past weeks my news feed has been filled with acts of nonviolent resistance both abroad and closer to home. The Global Sumud Flotilla is a coordinated, nonviolent fleet of vessels sailing to break the illegal Israeli blockade of Gaza in order to establish a humanitarian corridor by sea so that aid might reach Gaza. As of earlier this week, all flotilla's have been intercepted by Israeli military.

South of the border, there has been a largely nonviolent response to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids. Peaceful protest rallies in the face of the dangers of deportation and detainment are common. Chicago Mayor, Brandon Johnson, asked his residents to "operate in the long tradition of nonviolent resistance while we organize our communities and push back against the tyranny we are experiencing right now."

As I read these accounts, I find myself giving thanks for those who are so courageously committed to bringing justice and peace into our world. At huge personal risk, these resisters are bringing awareness to the world and seeking to offer salvation to those in need.
What does it mean for me to be thankful for these acts of nonviolent resistance? If all it amounts to is to absolve me from my own acts of resistance or words of protest, then giving thanks becomes a dangerous thing to do. "Thank you for people who push back against injustice so that I can get on with my comfortable guilt free life."

In the Bible, thankfulness is usually accompanied by actions: Praise, sharing what God has done, prayer, sharing about the characteristics of God, forgiveness, sacrifice, to be emboldened to speak out.
While most of us will not likely be joining a flotilla anytime soon, how can our thankfulness spur us on to action rather than excuse us from living out the active call of God on our lives?

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