



Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite
Church of Altona

Sunday, September
10, 2023
Worship Service at
10:30 am

"All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

John 14:25-26

Gathering and Praise

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing by YFC

Call to Worship and Prayer

Music All who are thirsty
10,000 reasons

Offering Create in me

Hearing God's Word

Children's story

Scripture John 14:15-17, 16:7-15

Sermon Who is the Holy Spirit?

Responding in Trust

Music Blessed be your name

Prayer of the Church and the World

Benediction

Music Amazing grace, my chains are gone

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Worship Leading: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Music: Worship Team

Children's Story: Amanda Wiens

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

Hospitalized: Helen Voth, Bernard Wiebe, Jake Rempel and Bernie Friesen (Edith) at the Altona Health Centre.

We congratulate Lucas Driedger and Kenna Traweek who will be married on Sept. 16 in Fort Macleod, AB! They'll be making their home in Lethbridge, AB.

Representatives from at least 8 Mennonite Church Manitoba

congregations gathered with members of at least five denominations at the Brady Road Landfill to stand together with family members and friends persisting in the call to all levels of government to search the landfills for the bodies of Morgan Harris and Mercedes Myran. This immediate call reflects a deeper concern of violence against Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit people. *Call to prayer* from the faith communities who gathered at Camp Morgan, at the entrance to the Brady Road Landfill outside of Winnipeg, MB! Praying for a broad acknowledgement that Indigenous women and girls continue to be violated in society and that God is weeping with those who suffer. May there be an outpouring of justice born from the realization that our communities have a role to play in coming alongside human suffering and extending healing and hope through presence, encouragement, and advocacy. May our collective attention to injustice waged against indigenous communities not be as short sighted as the media cycle but sustained and focused on the good way of reconciliation.

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

Bonnie Friesen September 10 Margaret Klassen September 13
Imy Rempel September 12 Brian Enns September 16

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Today we begin a sermon series called "Spirituality and the Holy Spirit". Our hope is to develop a deeper appreciation for the identity and work of the Holy Spirit and explore what it means to live as deeply shaped and informed by the Holy Spirit.

September 10. Who is the Holy Spirit? Speaker: Mark

September 17 (**no worship service at our church building**). Spirituality in today's world: An interactive sermon. Speaker: Mark

September 24. The Holy Spirit in you! Speaker: Mark

October 1. The Holy Spirit and the church. Speaker: Virginia

October 8. The Holy Spirit and our transformation. Speaker: Terrell

October 15. The Holy Spirit and the Word. Speaker: Mark

FROM THE PASTOR: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Passing on the faith.

I am getting very excited for the start of Sunday school this year. On Thursday I was helped to get all the Sunday school rooms ready. Now they all have the appropriate pencils and markers and scissors and glue sticks and chairs. This morning I met with all the teachers, and we shared ideas as well as encouragement for the year ahead.

Part of my excitement is because my children will both be able to experience Sunday school this year. But a bigger part of my excitement is that we as a church, and specifically those who have volunteered to teach, are prioritizing sharing our faith with children. For that is what Sunday school is all about—**passing on the faith**. This is done through bible stories and crafts, having fun and eating together, feeling safe and developing relationships with caring Christian adults.

I would love it if we could find more ways for the children and young people of our church to build relationships with other adults in the church. This can happen in so many ways; formally, like in Sunday school, ventures and youth and informally like at potlucks, and after worship. If this is something that you are interested in doing more intentionally, please come talk to me. And may we all find ways to share and pass on the greatest gift we have been given.

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THIS WEEK AT ABC:

Tuesday, September 12, 10:30 am, Coffee with the church staff.

Wednesday, September 13th 7:00 - 9:00, Youth kick off at the church! (Grades 7-12) - Sharing about our summers, outdoor games, rock painting, campfire, smores, etc. Bring a lawn chair. See you there!

Saturday, September 16, Retreat at Camp Assiniboia begins

Sunday, September 17, Worship at Camp Assiniboia

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS :

Welcome to Youth for Christ who are visiting us today. We will hear an update from YFC staff during our service, and they will serve us lunch. Lunch is by donation as a fundraiser for YFC. Cheques can be made out to "YFC Altona." Donations over \$20 will be receipted. We encourage people to eat outside (bring lawn chairs and picnic stuff). There will also be a couple tables set up in the church basement for those who wish to eat indoors.

Sunday school will be starting up on Sunday, Sept 24. Let us praise God that we have enough teachers!

Koinonia Ladies will be beginning their coming year on Monday, September 18 at 2:00 pm. Anyone interested in joining call Joyce Falk at 324.8144.

Our worship services will return to regular livestreaming time.

Fall Book Study. We will read the book Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God, by Lauren Winner. Meeting times will be Thursdays at 2 pm. Let Pastor Virginia know if you are interested by Sept 20, so we can order the books and start in October.

Visuals: We are looking for someone to take over the visuals for our services. *We are open to people bringing their style of creativity.* If you are interested, please contact Virginia or Delores.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

MCC: Join us on Sunday, September 17 for [We Are All Treaty People Celebration](#), 1:00–4:00pm at Forks Centre Field in Winnipeg. Come out for an afternoon of music and dance by Indigenous and non-Indigenous performers, information about Treaties, Indigenous arts and crafts, free food, family-friendly games and fun! For more event information visit mcc.org/events.

CMU: Xplore offers life-long learning courses that investigate dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it—all without assignments or exams! Join one or more of our offered courses (in-person or online) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. Courses will begin on October 3 and 4. For more information and to register visit cmu.ca/xplore.

MCM: Come hear about ministries in Africa, with which our MC Manitoba churches partner through Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission (AIMM). John Fumana from DR Congo will share about collaborative ministries of adult literacy, African missionary initiatives, Bible translation, and agricultural development. John is AIMM's Co-Executive Coordinator, and active in global Anabaptist networks. All are invited to meet John and his wife Lucie and to hear from John. Friday, September 22, 6:30pm at Canad Inn (1824 Pembina Hwy, Winnipeg) RSVP to Melanie Neufeld, mneufeld@mennochurch.mb.ca

The Community Exchange is hosting an evening of poetry with Gareth Brandt tonight, Sunday, September 10th at 7pm.

The Altona Gospel Festival committee would like to thank those who participated in their festival. The net proceeds of just over \$8,400 went to Altona Youth for Christ.

The Love Well Centre is having a fundraiser, sharing the funds between the Hijos de Dios Community Centre in Guatemala. and the Altona Love Well Centre, Saturday September 23 starting at 10 am. This is a walk or a bike around the Altona Park followed by a fiesta at the drop in centre. For more information call or text 204.304.0044 or email lovewelldropin@gmail.com