

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA

Sunday, September 15, 2024, 10:30 am

Though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. Romans 12:5

**Gathering and Praise**

Announcements

Song Not Be Shaken

Call to Worship and Prayer

Song Lord, I lift Your Name On High – VT 365

**Entering God’s Story**

Scripture Romans 12:4-8

Offering and Song Colossians 3:12

Song with the kids There’s No One In This World Like Jesus

Children’s Story

Slideshow

Matheson Island sharing time

**Responding in Faith**

Song We Are One Body

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Song Go In Peace

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Today we will sing songs, hear stories and see images from the Matheson Island camp week in July. Youth who served at camp: Jacob Friesen-Stoesz, Leo Dyck, Nicholas Funk, Shelby Penner, Natalie Enns, Sydney Hildebrand, Kayley Hildebrand, Natalie Brais, Emily Redecop and Micah Friesen

**Next Sunday, September 22, we will have Communion as part of our worship service.**

Next Sunday, September 22, we begin 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**

The kids went back to school last week and children’s Sunday school begins today, so I thought it would be appropriate to share this back to school blessing from Kate Bowler. Please share it with the children and teachers in your life. And pray for our Sunday school program and the teachers who lead it: Amanda Wiens, Tammy Driedger, Joanna Ginter, Lisa Hiebert-Penner, Sharon Friesen, Byron Loeppky, Virginia Gerbrandt Richert and Andrew Richert.

**Blessing the Backpacks**

God, bless this school year, this new season, this chance to discover the world anew.

We sense the anticipation of something about to happen, of all our preparation and worry and excitement for new friendships and challenges and opportunities.

God, bless these backpacks, these symbols of a fresh beginning. And bless every kid who carries their heavy load, as all the new questions rise up in their hearts and minds.

God, bless this new environment and everyone in it. The teachers and professors who ready their classrooms, creating opportunities for learning and belonging. The administrators and staff as they stretch hearts and minds, and feel their own stretching too. The parents and caregivers who carry the weight of loving, protecting, and raising these kids.

God, bless all who begin this journey of a new year, with every step they take, may they feel your presence and hear you say, "I see you. I am with you. You are loved." *Each and every one.*

**Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona**

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## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYER AND PRAISE:

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

Brian Enns- Sept. 16, Ben Dueck- Sept. 17,

Jolene Friesen-Stoesz- Sept. 21

**Pastor Virginia** and Flying Free are leading worship at Eastview and Gardens on Tenth this morning.

**Hospitalized:** Shirley Schellenberg is at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

**Art and Mary Dyck** have moved to the Gardens on Tenth Manor, room #12.

**Our love and sympathy** are extended to Carol Bergman for the loss of her sister-in-law, Lena Harder who passed away on Sept. 9.

**Our love and sympathy** are extended to Myriam Arias, Pablo Vallejos, Martin and Valentina for the loss of Myriam's grandfather, Angel Serafin Ortega Semanate, who passed away in Ecuador on Sept. 3.

**Thank you** everyone for all the gifts, cards and well wishes last Sunday!  
– Shelby, Esme, Abby, Jacob and Nick.

**International Witness:** Join with Mennonite World Conference in praying for violence to end in Burkina Faso. With 2 million people displaced and news of violent attacks every week, Siaka Traore, MWC regional representative, asks us to pray for God's healing.

<https://mwc-cmm.org/en/prayers>

### THIS WEEK AT ABC:

**Sun. Sept. 15, 9:15 am:** Sunday School for ages 3-18.

**Sun. Sept. 15, 10:30 am:** Worship service

**Tue. Sept. 17, 10:30 am:** Coffee with the Church staff

**Tue. Sept. 17, 7-9 pm:** Welcome to senior youth! Being called by Jesus: conversation and games.

**Wed. Sept. 18, 7-8:30:** Welcome to junior youth! Being called by Jesus: conversation and games.

**Thur. Sept. 19, 7 pm:** Church Council meeting

**Sun. Sept. 22, 9:20 am:** Sunday school parents meeting

**Adult Sunday school** will resume on September 29. We will be continuing our study of Luke.

**Church Retreat Alternative – Sat. Sept. 28** at Noah and Joanna Ginter's! Gathering begins at 2 pm, Disc golf tee off at 3. Fellowship and fire and lawn games all afternoon. BBQ supper at 5. All ages welcome! Please bring lawn chairs, lawn games and a salad or dessert for supper. Hot dogs and buns will be provided. RSVP to pastor Virginia.

**Koinonia Ladies** will begin their coming year on Monday, Sept. 23. Anyone interested in joining, call Joyce Falk at 324.7231.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**MCC Manitoba** invites you to its AGM on Thur., Sept. 26 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Sam's Place, 100-140 Bannatyne in Winnipeg. RSVP at [mcc.org/manitoba/agm](http://mcc.org/manitoba/agm)

**"Subjects, Settlers, Citizens:** The 1870 Mennonites in Historical Context" a conference hosted by the Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies at the University of Winnipeg, Oct. 4-5, Convocation Hall (and livestreamed). Free admission. Visit [ctms.uwinnipeg.ca](http://ctms.uwinnipeg.ca) for program and registration.

**Steve Bell** will be in Morden for a solo concert on Sat., Oct. 5, 7:30 pm at the Morden Alliance Church. Tickets \$25. Visit [www.stevebell.com/events](http://www.stevebell.com/events).

**Pembina Valley Bible Camp** is hosting their annual "Pies and Fries" fundraiser on September 21-22 & 28-29 from 2:00 to 6:00. Payment is by donation and all proceeds will go towards adding bathrooms to their horse facilities.

**Winkler Bible Camp:** Join us for a Car Show Fundraiser on Sept. 8 from 12 pm- 4 pm. Also, the annual Fall Supper will be on Tuesday Sept. 17 from 4:30-6:00 pm. We are offering both dine in and drive-thru options. More information is available on our website.

**Southern MB Choral Society** is inviting adults of all ages to come and join us this fall as we sing together in harmony. Practices are Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 pm starting Sept. 10 in the WC Miller music room. Ben Kroeker is the conductor and Loren Hiebert is the pianist. Cost is \$35 and auditioning is not required. Contact Sarah Dueck at 324.7144 for further information.

**Eden's Recovery of Hope** cycling event and help make counselling services accessible and affordable for Manitobans on Sat. Sept. at Ft. Garry MB Church, Winnipeg, 1771 Pembina Hwy. Register or donate online at [www.edenhealthcare.ca](http://www.edenhealthcare.ca)

**Mennonite Church Manitoba - Pray for Our Congregations:**

**Altona Bergthaler Mennonite:** On September 8, our church celebrated the baptism of five individuals: Abby, Esme, Jacob, Nick and Shelby. Join us in prayers of gratitude and rejoicing for their 'yes' to God and the gifts they will continue to share with our church. We pray that the joy our church experienced at the baptisms sustains our walk with Christ as we grow together with our five new members.