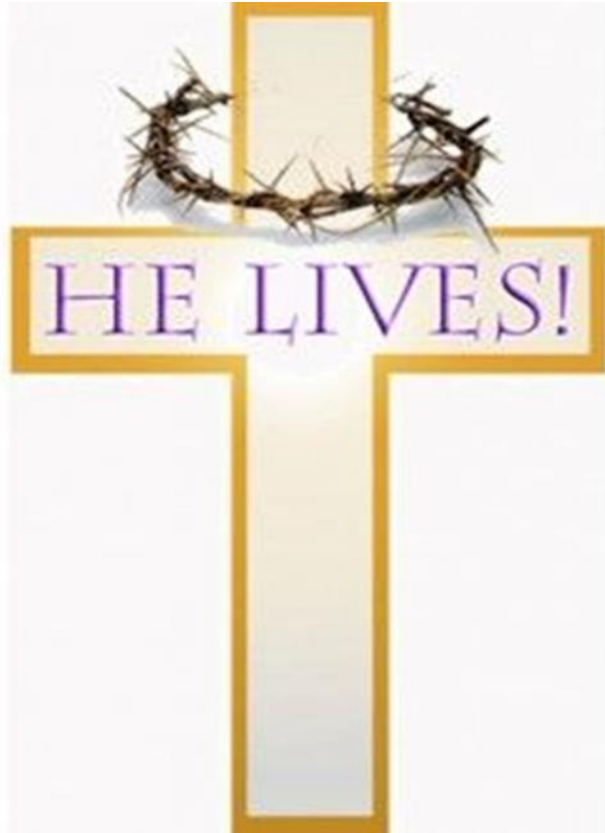


*Welcome to the
Bergthaler Mennonite Church
of Altona*



Sunday, April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona

WORSHIP SERVICE

April 4, 2021

In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation." ~ Isaiah 25:9

GATHERING

Prelude

Readers Theatre *"The Empty Tomb"*

Music **Low in the grave he lay HWB 273**

Welcome, Call to Worship & Prayer

LISTENING

Music

Christ the Lord is risen today HWB 280

Lift your glad voices HWB 275

Children's Story

Scripture

Mark 16: 1-8; Isaiah 25: 6-9

Sermon

"Living from the empty tomb [not the big stone]"

RESPONSE

Music

Rejoice, the Lord is King HWB 288

Offering Prayer & Prayer of the Church

Sending benediction

Music

Sing with all the saints in glory SS 92

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leader:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert
Children's Story: Andrew & Stephanie Rempel **Scripture Reader:** Josh Janzen
Music: Teresa Hamm, Recorded Artists

Our worship service will be available on the church website
[abchurchcommunity.ca] Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

PRAYER & PRAISE CORNER

- ~ **Hospitalized:** Waldo Schulz and Harold Sawatzky at Altona Health Centre, Anne Kehler at Notre Dame de Lourdes Hospital, and Henry and Helen Thiessen at Morris Hospital.
- ~ **Condolences** to Dave and Hilda Wiebe, and extended family, at the passing away of brother Henry N. Wiebe of Altona.
- ~ **Our love and sympathy** to Elmer & Elaine Friesen, family and extended family, at the passing away on March 27, of their newborn grandson James Elmer Friesen Wiebe, son of Sara Jane & Jeremy Wiebe of Winnipeg. James was a brother to Adam and Annie.
- ~ **Helen Schulz** has moved to 213 Gardens On Tenth Apartments.
- ~ **Mennonite Church Canada**
Pray: PeaceBuilders Community, Inc., in Mindanao, Philippines, invites you to pray with them as they plan with Witness workers, Dann and Joji Pantoja, a sustainable future of training for peace and reconciliation and economic development with marginalized communities. Pray for wisdom as they seek God's vision for peace and harmony with the people and the land.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Apr 11	Speaker Virginia Gerbrandt Richert
Apr 18	Speaker Mark Tiessen-Dyck
Apr 25	Speaker Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Jr Youth

- April 6, 7pm, - Forever Bible study week 1.

Sr Youth

- April 7, 7pm, - Forever Bible study week 1.

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona 117 2ND Street NW Altona, MB R0G 0B1
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Worship Services available online at: abchurch.libsyn.com Facebook: ABC community
Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324-5990 cell 1-204-771-3406 marktd@abchurch.ca
Assoc Pastor: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, cell 304-6119 virginiaagr@abchurch.ca
Assoc Pastor of Youth Min: Josh Janzen, 204-502-1991, cell 1-402-631-3481 joshi@abchurch.ca
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Wiens, 324-6719 amandaw@abchurch.ca

FROM the PASTOR: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

This Easter, my preparations have been based upon the Gospel of Mark's account of the resurrection. This is somewhat unusual because we tend to reach for John on holy days. We often use the lectionary for preaching at ABC, which is a three-year cycle of scripture readings. Each year focuses on one of Matthew, Mark or Luke, with readings from John interspersed throughout each year particularly on important occasions. We are currently in the 'year of Mark', and so I accept the challenge of preaching from Mark this Easter. While Mark doesn't include the footrace to the tomb or Mary Magdalene's sudden recognition of Jesus and her sharing the news with the disciples as John does, Mark offers us something astounding as well; the opportunity to be the end of the story ourselves.

The ending of Mark has been one of the most debated matters in scholarship of the Bible. Because the best and oldest manuscripts of the New Testament do not contain verses 9-20, and even writers in the early Church recognized this, it is universally accepted that verses 9-20 were later additions. Translations of the Bible now acknowledge this by including verses 9-20 in brackets or adding a note that these verses are not included in the earliest manuscripts (flip to the end of Mark to see how your translation responds). It's possible that a Gospel ending with the women's fear (see verse 8) was too unsatisfactory for people familiar with the stories of Jesus' resurrection appearances that they were compelled to include them at a later time.

What has been debated over the centuries and still today, however, is whether the ending of Mark was lost or whether Mark intended to end his Gospel at verse 8 with the women's fear and trembling. Proponents of the former view note the fragility of papyri scrolls (with the end easily falling off) and suggest that Mark would have been familiar with Jesus' resurrection appearances and would have surely included them. But others say that ending with the women's' fear and failure to tell the disciples matches Mark's message and style.

I don't have an answer and don't need one. I stand in awe at the way the Holy Spirit works through humans to share the Good News. I trust that the resurrection accounts, each in their own way, reveal the truth that Christ has been raised from the dead. This Easter, I accept verse 8 and the women's trembling as the end of the written Gospel. Mark knows that it is not the end, the Gospel continues in our lives. How do you continue the story of resurrection? We have the opportunity to write the ending with our lives.

Christ is risen indeed!

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Tuesday morning coffee** – join us at 10am via ZOOM.
- **We hope** you have been enjoying the enhanced experience with our new visual and audio system. The installation of the system required a slight configuration of the choir loft which has resulted in a surplus of two benches, which are currently being stored at the back of the loft. We are making them available to anyone who can make use of them. Please note: they are heavy! If interested, please contact the church office to arrange pickup.
- **This Easter** the World/Home Ministries Commission is inviting us to make a donation to MCC to help in their efforts to respond to crises around the globe. These funds help provide emergency food to displaced families and support long-term recovery and rebuilding that make a difference for communities for months or years to come. You can make your donation online or put it in a basket which will be set up in the foyer Easter Sunday.

Please consider filling one of these Commission positions:

Church Council Vice-Chair	- 1 for a 2-year term
Church Council Member at Large	- 1 for a 2-year term
Personnel Commission	- 2 for a 3-year term
Education Commission	- 2 for a 3-year term
Finance Commission	- 1 for a 3-year term
Worship & Music Commission	- 1 for a 3-year term
Home Ministries Commission	- 2 for a 3-year term
World Ministries Commission	- 2 for a 3-year term

To volunteer to serve the church in this capacity contact Byron Loeppky or Stephanie Friesen.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **April 5, 7 pm - Eden Foundation** Virtual Concert for viewing online on Easter Monday. The concert will feature Danny Plett of 'Teach Beyond' (a Janz Team program) along with musicians presenting contemporary Christian worship music. A number of people will share stories of their personal mental health journeys. Info and the concert at: <https://edenhealthcare.ca/springconcert2021/>. Donations may be made on-line, by e-transfer or by regular mail.
- **YFC/The Station Altona** is hiring a full-time female staff for this summer. For info contact Sheridan Sawatzky - email sheridan.sawatzky@yfc.ca or call or text 204 304 6521.

Mennonite Church Manitoba – mennochurch.mb.ca 204-896-1616

- **Campers** are registering for summer camps and this means we also need staff and volunteers! Kitchen and maintenance help, camp pastors and health officers are needed for one-day pop-up camps in various

locations and week-long day camps at both camps. Head to www.campswithmeaning.org Summer

- **Do you know** a university student who is still deciding where to live in Winnipeg this summer or in the fall? Then pass this on! Emmaus House has openings for summer/fall 2021. It is a place that immediately feels like home and where you'll find good food, friends, and lots of laughter. Seriously, check it out at www.emmaushousewinnipeg.ca or call 204-272-9191 and ask for Rod or Susan.
- **MCM invites** applications for the position of 0.5FTE Director of Church Engagement. For info: mennochurch.mb.ca/news or contact office@mennochurch.mb.ca.
- **MC Canada invites** applications for the position of FT Executive Asst. beginning May 2021, [in Winnipeg, MB]. Job description at <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/article/11096-help-us-spread-the-word-were-hiring>

Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba – manitoba@mccmb.ca

- **MCC's Grow Hope farmers** are starting to work their fields for the planting season, and they need your help. When you sponsor an acre of Manitoba farmland, you're joining a community of people working to end global hunger AND every \$1 you give can grow up to \$5! Join together with your church or small group and create a giving registry to watch your funds grow through the season. Visit mccmb.ca/GrowHope to find out how to [create a giving registry](#) or to access resources such as [this interactive guide](#).

Canadian Mennonite University – cmu.ca

- **Apr 13, 7pm - Spring at CMU online** at www.cmu.ca/springatcmu. Hear stories from students, faculty, and alumni including a spotlight on Science; CMU Singers' premiere of *Breathe* by Leonard Enns; and some campus humour. Following the event, participate in an optional Zoom conversation with President Cheryl Pauls and others at 8:00 PM. RSVP to development@cmu.ca by April 9 to receive the Zoom link.