

-BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA-

Sunday, April 13, 2025, 10:30 am

Lent 6 Christ Collides with our Expectations

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.

Luke 19:41-42

Gathering

Announcements

Hymn Hosanna, Loud Hosanna VT 313

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn Holy Lord VT 314

Offering Ride On, Ride On in Majesty VT 316

Engaging God's Word

Children's Story

Confession and Words of Assurance

Scripture Luke 19: 28-44

Sermon A King who Cries

Hymn Christ Has No Body Here but Ours VT 568

Prayer of the Church and the World

Sending

Benediction

Hymn All Glory, Laud and Honour VT 315

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Worship Leading: James Friesen

Music: Flying Free **Children's Story:** Trevor Friesen-Stoesz

We are in the midst of our Lent series. The theme is **Christ Collides**.

March 9 Lent 1 Our Bias: Speaker Virginia, Luke, 10:25-42,

March 16 Lent 2 Our Condemnation: Speaker Mark, Luke 13:1-9

March 23 Lent 3 Our Priorities: Speaker Virginia, Luke 15:1-32

March 30 Lent 4 Our Selfishness: Speaker Mark, Luke 16:19-33

April 6 Lent 5 Our Blinders: Speaker Virginia, Luke 18:31-19:10

April 13 Lent 6 Our Expectations: Speaker Mark, Luke 19:29-44

April 18 Good Friday, 10:30 am, Communion and Foot Washing

April 20 Easter Luke 24:1-12, Speaker Terrell

CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

All: Loving and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you.

Leader: We have not loved you with all our thoughts, words, and actions.

Many: We have sinned through what we have chosen to do and what we have chosen to neglect.

Leader: We have not fully accepted your love for us. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Many: We cling to our expectations, and we do not make space for you to challenge them.

All: We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to your love. Help us let go of our narrow expectations so we may better share your peace in your world, rejoicing in your name. Amen.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PRAYER AND PRAISE -

Congratulations to Heidi and Lyndon Toews on their momentous 20-year wedding anniversary on April 9!

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

Larry D. Friesen- April 13, Hazel Ginter- April 13,
Andrew Rempel- April 14, Glenys Voth- April 15, Tim Fast- April 19.

Hospitalized: Henry Klassen and Gert Hildebrand are in the Altona Health Centre.

- THIS WEEK AT ABC -

Sun. April 13, 9:15-10:15 am: Sunday school for all ages

Sun. April 13, 10:30 am: Worship service.

Tue. April 15, 10:30 am: Coffee with the Church staff

Wed. April 16, 6:45 - 9:00: Combined youth Photo Scavenger Hunt! Dress for the weather!

Fri. April 18, 10:30 am: Good Friday Service

Sun. April 20: Brunch and Easter worship service

Church Membership: We are preparing to receive new members during a worship service later this spring. If you are part of our church community and desire to become a member, please talk to one of the pastors.

Easter Sunday Continental Breakfast will begin at 9:30 am – the choir members may come at 9:15 am. Come and celebrate our risen Christ. No need to bring any food items. There will be a donation jar available to help cover the costs.

Easter Sunday Choir: Come be a part of the Easter Sunday morning choir! We will begin at 9:40 in the sanctuary. Contact Hilda Franz for more information. Printed out songs from the Voices Together can be picked up from Ang in the office.

Here's an update from Finance and Maintenance: Thank you for your continued financial support of ABC. We have just completed the first quarter of 2025 and have distributed quarterly outreach contributions which were formally approved at the most recent AGM. We have also renewed our annual insurance policy, which in excess of \$21,000, is one of our largest annual financial commitments. It should also be noted that the most recent YTD offering total is lagging behind 2024 figures by approximately \$9,000. We are again hopeful of continued financial blessings for ABC which allow us to backstop the work of valuable near and far organizations like MDS and the Gardens on Tenth chaplaincy service. Please reach out to any member of our Commission for further explanation and discussion. - Prayerfully submitted, Elmer Friesen, Laurie Enns, Al Friesen

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

May 9, 7:30 pm– A night of story and song with Steve Bell for MCI's Spring Fundraiser! Join us in Buhler Hall, Gretna. Admission by donation & rush seating with doors opening at 7:00 pm. Coffee, tea and fellowship to follow in the foyer.

MCM Spring Bible Study. Join Michael Pahl for a six-session series on Paul's letter to the Colossians, called "Rooted in Jesus." Participate as an individual, couple, or form a group with others from your congregation! Register here: www.mennochurch.mb.ca/biblestudy. May 8-June 12, 2025, Thursdays at 7:00pm via Zoom.

Pray for our Congregations - Living Word Church, Cross Lake: We have interest in seeing more people attend our church and would like to start a meal program. Until the end of March our building was rented during the week by Jordan's Principle. An older missionary couple from Alberta leads worship twice a month. Our prayer request is for the general wellbeing of the people who participate in our church.

FROM THE PASTOR – Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

In the past few months, I have been a part of more political conversations than I am used to. This is partially due to the upcoming Canadian election, but mostly because of events south of the border. Inevitably questions come up like: is this true? Did the person who told me or the online source that I got this information from know all the details or the whole picture? What does this mean? For me, for others in Altona and across Canada? Why? What is the goal or purpose of such actions? And of course, what can we do? Or is there anything we can do? These conversations are happening everywhere. And there is often a sense of fear or anxiety accompanying them.

I subscribe to Richard Rohr's weekly devotional emails, and the theme and reflections last week seemed especially appropriate for the times we are in. The theme was how do we practice non-conformity? Or how do we resist conformity (to this world)? Which I understand as how do we resist the fear and anger that can so quickly swell up inside of us and dictate our actions? How do we resist the temptation to "other" our neighbours? And how do we stop ourselves from forgetting the hope that Jesus calls us to embrace?

Some of the points that stood out for me in these devotionals were: It may not be within our power to determine the outcome. Our power might only be able to control how we act or how we respond to the events around us.

God has called us to live lives of integrity, to love always, to bless those who persecute us and to choose nonviolence in the face of violence. This may not change the world, but sometimes it is important to do things simply because they are the right things to do.

Not everyone is called to lead marches or protests for the causes they believe in. Working together in community to seek healing for ourselves and others is a vital role in healing the brokenness in our world. Our outward behaviors and our actions are only as strong as the internal energy that drives them.

And lastly, our calling as believers is to restore our sense of God's presence within our hearts. Only then will we be able to resist the fear and hatred so widespread in our world today.

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MATHESON ISLAND CAMP INVITATION

Sunday, May 5th – A lunch fundraiser will be held for Matheson Island camp at the Altona Mennonite Church. You are invited to support us through donation or by helping to prepare and serve the meal.

Friday, May 23 – Sunday May 25 - A work weekend at Matheson Island. We are looking for general labourers to paint, build, clean, or cook. All ages and skills levels welcome! This work weekend will help create a better camp environment for years to come. We hope to have at least a dozen people. Come experience the island!

July 21-25 – Camp week! Youth who have graduated grade 9 are invited to be counsellors. Kids (grades 1-6) are invited to attend camp. Adults are invited to fill roles of camp nurse, camp cook, relationship builders, faith sharers, outdoor skill leaders, and more!

If you are interested in helping out with any of the above, please speak with Terrell.

