

**-BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA-**

**Sunday, April 20, 2025, 10:30 am**

**Easter Sunday**

*Why do you look for the living among the dead?*

*Luke 24:5*

**Praising God**

Hymn Low in the Grave He Lay VT 333

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymns Christ Who Left His Home in Glory VT 361

Come On, Children, to the Gospel Feast VT 511

Offering

**Hearing God's Story**

Children's Story

Scripture Luke 24:1-12

Sermon A Beautiful Collision

**Living in Hope**

Hymn Who Are These VT 360

Congregational Prayer

Hymn Christ the Lord Is Risen Today VT 346

**Sermon:** Terrell Wiebe **Worship Leading:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck

**Music:** Hilda Franz and Choir

**Children's Story:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

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**Worship Calendar**

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

**April 27.** Christ is Risen, so what? Speaker: Mark

**May 4.** Guest Speaker: Cheryl Pauls, president of Canadian Mennonite University

**CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**- PRAYER AND PRAISE -**

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

Gord Sawatzky- April 21, Al Giesbrecht- April 23,

Elmer Friesen- April 24, Tom Braun- April 26

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

**- THIS WEEK AT ABC -**

**Sun. April 20,9:30 am:** Breakfast

**Sun. April 20, 9:40 am:** Easter choir rehearsal

**Sun. April 20, 10:30 am:** Worship service.

**Tue. April 22, 10:30 am:** Coffee with the Church staff

**Tue. April 22, 7-9 pm:** Senior Youth - Youth talk Night

**Wed. April 23, 7:00 - 8:30:** Junior Youth - Youth Talk Night

**Thur. April 24, 7 pm:** Church council meeting

**Sat. April 26, 5-6:30 pm:** Community Meal at the Exchange

**Easter greeting from Doug Klassen, MC Canada Executive Minister:**

Early in the morning, while it was still dark" (John 20:1), God was at work. With the stone rolled away, the disciples glimpsed the first day of New Creation. While the old world is still dying today, the resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us the assurance that the powers and principalities will one day fall, and the Reign of God will come in its fullness. Let us celebrate this day! Celebrate our Lord and Saviour who is true to his word. "He is not here; He has risen, just as He said" (Matthew 28:6).

**Matheson Island partnership dates:** Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> – A lunch fundraiser at the Altona Mennonite Church following our service at ABC. May 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> - A work weekend at Matheson Island. All ages and skills levels welcome! July 21-25 – Camp week! If you are interested in helping with any of the above, please speak with Terrell.

**We are bringing back ABC conversations!** Please reach out to one of the pastors if you have something to talk about or share with the church. ABC conversations is a valuable contribution to our worship services but can also be a hassle to arrange and schedule. You can help out by reaching out.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**The Altona Palliative Volunteer Team** will be accepting donations for a new recliner chair for families while they stay with loved ones at the Altona Health Centre on May 5 and 9 in the Altona Mall near the IGA front door. The goal is to raise \$4,000. Donate in person or online: [altonapalliativecare@gmail.com](mailto:altonapalliativecare@gmail.com). Tax receipts for donations over \$25.

**Altona Health Care Ladies Auxiliary** invites you to a Taco Buffet Fundraiser, Wednesday, May 7 from 4:30 – 6:30, at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre. Cost: By Donation. All proceeds to support the needs of our hospital and PCH. Tax deductible receipts available upon request. We look forward to your support.

**Southman Gleaners** fundraising pancake breakfast: Saturday April 26th from 8-10 am. 24 Reinfeld St. N. Reinfeld. Come explore mission opportunities with us including volunteering, financial assistance, growing vegetables. Funds \$20 and over will be tax receipted. If you are not familiar with Southman Gleaners, here is a link to their website <https://www.southmangleaners.ca/>

**Altona EMMC:** African Children Choir “Just as I am” hymns tour on Sunday April 27 at 10:30 am. Join us for an immersive worship experience through song, dance & video story telling. The tour combines traditional hymns with African cultural sounds and a stunning visual story of God’s faithfulness.

**Winkler Bible Camp:** Spring Drive Thru Fundraising Meal on April 29th from 5-6 pm. No reservations are needed, everyone is welcome!

**Pray for our Congregations - Bethel Mennonite Church:** we give thanks for an upcoming service of Baptism and Membership on May 4, at which we will welcome 9 new members into the congregation. This is exciting! We would welcome prayer as we work at building relationships and forming faith in a congregation with many seniors, but also a growing collection of younger families and children.

This week I participated in a focus group discussion as part of Mennonite Church Manitoba’s visioning process. There were eight of us, mostly pastors, who shared about our congregations while discussing the future of our family of churches in Manitoba. The first question we were each asked is, “What do you value about your church?”. Here’s what I said:

- We support witness opportunities. Community Meal. Interest in Matheson Island is skyrocketing.
- Youth Ministry. Kid’s club. Sunday School. With gifted and dedicated volunteers we continue to invest in the young. These “traditional” ministries have been informed by creativity and new ideas.
- We are open to exploration while being rooted. Brunch Church, new methods of sharing Communion, baptism, ABC conversations.

We also discussed challenges that our churches are experiencing. Here is what people shared:

- Demographics, buildings, irregular Sunday morning participation, finances.
- A larger collection of issues concerning our faith and spirituality. Struggles in talking about our faith. Lack of vision for evangelism and inviting people to faith. Prioritizing church amidst busy lives.

It is always good to know that we aren’t alone in our challenges. I added to the conversation my hope that we can articulate and live a Jesus centred faith in a context where the pull of fundamentalism is strong, secularism is progressing, and it seems increasingly difficult to navigate amidst them.

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**Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona** 117-2<sup>nd</sup> St NW/ROG 0B1  
**Web Page Address:** [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca) **Office:** 324.6717  
**E-mail:** [office@abchurch.ca](mailto:office@abchurch.ca) **Facebook:** ABC community  
**Worship Services available online at:** [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca)  
**Lead Pastor:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck: 324.5990, C 1.204.771.3406, [marktd@abchurch.ca](mailto:marktd@abchurch.ca)  
**Associate Pastor:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, C 304.6119 [virginiagr@abchurch.ca](mailto:virginiagr@abchurch.ca)  
**Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries:** Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,  
C 204.417.8200, [terrellw@abchurch.ca](mailto:terrellw@abchurch.ca)