

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of  
ALTONA

Sunday, April 21, 2024 10:30 am

*"Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."*

*John 24:39*

**Gathering and Praise**

Announcements

Hymn All Who Are Thirsty VT 49

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn Lord I Lift Your Name On High VT 365

**Entering God's Story**

Offering Waymaker

Children's Story

Scripture John 24: 36b-43

Sermon Embodying Our Faith

**Responding in Faith**

Hymn Not Be Shaken

ABC Conversations with Melissa Tiessen-Dyck

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn Build Your Kingdom Here VT 393

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**Sermon:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert **Worship Leading:** James Friesen

**Music:** ABC Youth **Children's Story:** Janna Wiebe

**Art:** Jolene Friesen-Stoesz

Our current worship series explores the question: Christ is Risen, so what? This is an opportunity to delve into what the resurrection of Jesus means for our lives, for the church, and for the world.

April 7. Speaker: Rick Neufeld

April 14. Speaker: Mark

April 21: Speaker: Virginia

April 28: Speaker: Terrell

**FROM THE PASTOR: Mark Tiessen-Dyck**

David Scott, from Swan Lake First Nation, is an Elder, Knowledge Keeper, and a very sought-after speaker. He has spoken widely on Indigenous history including land claims, the Indian Act, and traditional Indigenous knowledge. He speaks Ojibwe, Cree, and English. I'm very grateful and honoured that he has agreed to come to Brunch Church and speak to our congregation.

I first heard about David Scott by learning of his knowledge of a treaty between the Ojibwe and the Mennonites (this story was shared with him by previous Elders and Knowledge Keepers). In preparation for Brunch Church, I encourage you to read the graphic retelling of a June 2023 tour which is attached to the bulletin email.

David's sharing with us will not be a sermon, as in our typical worship practice, but it will be an opportunity for us to continue learning part of our history, the history of our land, and the journey toward reconciliation. As is David's practice, there will be an opportunity for questions and responses to his sharing.

Awareness of "The Secret Treaty" gives me hope. Even though our history is filled with wrongs and the relationships between Mennonites and Indigenous people have not always been just, there was a moment when Mennonites and Ojibwe entered a Treaty of peace as equals. If it can happen in the past, it can happen in the future too. I encourage everyone to come to Brunch Church, and engage with the teachings of David Scott with curiosity, hope, and love in the spirit of Jesus.

Brunch Church is in two weeks on May 5. It begins at 9:15. Brunch is provided by our youth. This is a fundraiser for summer camp at Matheson Island. Altona Mennonite Church will be joining us.

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**Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona**

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**Lead Pastor:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck, 324.5990, C 1.204.771.3406, [marktd@abchurch.ca](mailto:marktd@abchurch.ca)

**Assoc. Pastor:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, C 304.6119 [viriniagr@abchurch.ca](mailto:viriniagr@abchurch.ca)

**Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries:** Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058, C 204.417.8200, [terrellw@abchurch.ca](mailto:terrellw@abchurch.ca)

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Prayer and Praise:**

**We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:** Gord Sawatzky- Apr. 21,  
Al Giesbrecht- Apr. 23, Elmer Friesen- Apr. 24, Tom Braun- Apr. 26

**Hospitalized:** Pete Heinrichs at the Altona Health Centre.

**Thank you** to the many people at ABC for the cards, visits, flowers, and expressions of sympathy we received during this difficult time following Bill's passing. Your expressions of empathy and care have been, and continue to be, a source of great comfort. – Carol Bergman and family.

**Kids Coin Offering:** In the past 3 months we have raised over **\$1110** for the MCC Education Fund in Ethiopia. We chose Ethiopia because that is where our partners Werner and Joanne DeJong serve. These funds are used by MCC to offer school supplies for children and provide essential hygiene for girls that allow them to continue attending school. Thank you for your generosity!

**International Witness:** On 3 April 2024, Taiwan was struck by its most powerful earthquake in 25 years which measured 7.5 in magnitude. Leaders of FOMCIT (the Mennonite church in Taiwan) report that no members were injured. However, at least nine people have been reported killed, more than 900 injured, and property damage is widespread. The Mennonite hospital in Hualien is prepared to receive emergency patients. Let us pray for comfort for those who have lost loved ones and for the people who are suffering after the earthquake. Pray for the rescuers searching for trapped people in unstable wreckage with the possibility of aftershocks. Pray for medical teams that are helping the victims. (Source: MWC prayers <https://mwc-cmm.org/id/prayers>)

### **This week at ABC:**

**Sun. Apr. 21,** Sunday School for all ages.

**Tue. Apr. 23, 10:30 am:** Coffee with the church staff.

**Tue. Apr. 23, 7 pm:** Church Council meeting

**Wed. Apr. 24, 7-9,** Jr. Youth: Real Life "Among Us"

**Thur. Apr. 25, 7-9,** Sr Youth: Real Life "Among Us" (Meet in the church library)

**Sat. Apr. 27, 5-6:30:** Community Meal at the Exchange

**There was a brooch found** on our parking lot last Sunday. It is silver, black with a red rose in the middle and is waiting for its owner in the administrative office with Ang.

**Voices Together Hymnals** are available in the foyer to pick for use during worship services for those who prefer to have a hymnal in their hands. Please return them to the foyer after the service.

**Hockey with the Pastor:** I am accepting invitations to watch Winnipeg Jets playoff games. – Mark TD

**From the Finance committee:** Thank you for your continued financial support of Bergthaler Mennonite Church, and the variety of outreach programs we

extend on your behalf in our church and the wider community. Here are some highlights prepared by Laurie Enns, as of April 14th. Thanks to increased rental income and Sunday morning offerings, our overall revenue is tracking ahead of 2023 totals. On the expense side, Outreach, Property and Maintenance totals are virtually unchanged from 2023. Salaries, Education and Local Ministries are somewhat higher than 2023 expenditures. Overall, the year-to-date shortfall is approximately \$39,478 which is approximately \$1100.00 ahead of 2023 figures. We continue to have many reasons to be thankful at ABC. Thanks also for your presence at the congregational special meeting which approved the offer to purchase for the surplus lot. The SOLD sign has been posted, and we expect the process to be completed by the June 1st possession date. As always, feel free to reach out to Elmer, Laurie or Al if you have any questions.

**Camp sponsorship** for campers or staff application deadline April 30, 2024.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**Altona Health Care Ladies Auxiliary** is hosting a Taco Buffet Fundraiser, Thur., May 2 from 4:30 – 6:30, at the Pioneer Centre. Gluten free option available. Cost by donation. All proceeds will go towards *purchasing hospital ceiling tracks and specialized wheelchairs*. Tax deductible receipts available upon request. We look forward to your support.

**Spring Food Drive** Wed., May 8, 7-8:30 for the Rhineland Area Food Bank. Youth groups will be picking up non-perishable food items in Altona, Gretna, and surrounding areas. Please have all items placed outside your front door.

**MCI:** is looking to hire a half to full-time cook, starting immediately. This position could be a term from now to the end of June, or long term, depending on interest. For more information about this position or to apply, visit [mciblues.net](http://mciblues.net) or email [tammypeters@mciblues.net](mailto:tammypeters@mciblues.net). MCI is accepting applications for teaching positions for the 2024/2025 school year! These are full-time or part-time positions for the 2024-2025 school year with the potential of permanent status. To learn more about the areas of instruction or to apply, visit [mciblues.net](http://mciblues.net).

**MCM:** Voices Together in worship workshop, May 10, 11. Registration will open Apr. 16. Cost: \$65 before May 1 and \$80 after. If you are interested in attending this/carpooling, please contact Virginia.

**Mennonite Church Manitoba weekly congregational profile:** *Grace Mennonite Church* is a small congregation in Brandon that has been worshipping together for over 65 years. Being without a pastor for the past year has given them the opportunity to reflect on their direction and look at the gifts that they have within the congregation. They value storytelling and sharing personal experiences. Building community is a priority for them. They are a congregation where everyone is welcome. Pray for Grace as they navigate the realities of an aging congregation and discern the ongoing leadership needs of the church.