

-BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA-

Sunday, April 6, 2025, 10:30 am

Lent 5 Christ Collides with our Blinders

The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost

Luke 19:10

Gathering

Announcements

Hymn Mountain of God VT 11

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn Open the Eyes of my Heart VT 401

Offering Living Hope

Engaging God's Word

Children's Story

Confession and Words of Assurance

Scripture Luke 18:31-19:10.

Sermon Seeing is Believing

Hymn Christ Has No Body Here but Ours VT 568

Prayer of the Church and the World

Sending

Benediction

Hymn My Lighthouse VT 597

Sermon: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Worship Leading: Mary Anne Loeppky

Music: Worship Team **Children's Story:** Janna Wiebe

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FROM THE PASTOR – Terrell Wiebe

The senior youth group spent at evening volunteering at *Southman Gleaners* in Reinfeld. This charitable organization, which began work in May of 2024, takes unmarketable vegetables, and dices, dehydrates, and packages them for soup mixes that are distributed through Christian mission organizations to feed hungry people. One large Ziplock size bag of soup mix creates 100 servings of soup! Local Manitoban organizations like soup kitchens and food banks will make use of their products, but the bulk is shipped overseas. Recently they have been sending their soup mixes to orphanages in Mexico and to war-torn parts of Ukraine.

After a tour of the facilities, our group got to work. Our task was preparing spaghetti squash sent from a greenhouse near Portage la Prairie. Our assembly line washed, cut, gutted, and sliced the squash. We ended with 45 gallons of usable product that would go into the dicer the next morning and then spend three hours in the dryer before being packaged away to be included in soup mix at a later time.

It was hard work and many of us had blisters on our hands from the chopping (spaghetti squash skin is tough!). When asked what the worst vegetable was to chop, the immediate answer from staff was onions – I should have known.

Southman Gleaners is an inspiring production that relies almost entirely on donated funds, donated time from volunteers, and donated vegetables from local growers. Nothing is wasted. The tough squash skin we cut off was saved to be picked up by a local farmer to feed his animals.

We enjoyed serving together, putting our faith into action, and joining God in the incredible work that is happening in our community. The next time we go I will extend the invitation and we hope you will join us.



CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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 walk through our days with blinders on, unable to see or understand clearly.

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

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PRAYER AND PRAISE -

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

Peter Hildebrand from our congregation passed away on Tuesday, April 1. We are invited to join in gratitude for his life and pray for his wife, Gert and family, and sister-in-law Anne and Ronn Friesen and extended family. There will be a private funeral service at ABC.

Support congregations in Myanmar and Thailand: Last week's 7.7 magnitude earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand has caused massive death and destruction that is still very real for our sister church companions in the region. Let us continue to walk in solidarity and prayer with this part of our family in faith. The military's continued bombing during the tragedy hinders relief efforts. Yet, local congregations are quietly showing God's love to their neighbours. They also hope to gather 100 people in May for training in peace theology. Please consider giving generously to support their tireless work to provide healing and hope in a broken world.

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

Anne Friesen- April 8, Oliver Neufeld- April 8,
Milly Klassen- April 10, Shirley Schellenberg- April 10,
Lisa Hiebert-Penner- April 12, Sarah Dueck- April 12

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.

Pastor Mark will be on vacation from March 31 to April 7.

- THIS WEEK AT ABC -

Sun. April 6, 9:15-10:15 am: Sunday school for ages age 3- gr. 12.

Sun. April 6, 10:30 am: Worship service.

Tue. April. 8, 10:30 am: Coffee with the Church staff

Fri. April 11, 7:00 pm: Youth Lock In! Spend the night at the church with lots of games, lots of food, and not a lot of sleep. See you there!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Eastview Place is looking for volunteer drivers for the Adult Day Program (ADP) which runs Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Time commitment would be about 1x/week. If interested please contact Candace Enns, at 204-324-2375, or Monica (Braun) Harder at mharder2@southernhealth.ca.

Altona Hospital is looking for volunteers to help with improving quality of life for our patients. If you would be interested in serving in this way, please contact Sabrina Downing at the hospital, 204-324-6411 for further information.

Pray for our Congregations - Altona Mennonite Church: A specific prayer request for AMC is that we would find someone from within the congregation to take on the role of Moderator (Church Council chair). We are thankful for the many years our previous Moderator gave to that position. We would also invite prayers for spiritedness and renewal, especially as we prepare to enter the Easter season.