-BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA-
December 25, 2025, 10:30 am

"The Word became flesh and made his home among us." John 1:14

Gathering to Welcome the Christ Child

Music	Angels We Have Heard on High VT 249
Call to Worship and Prayer	
Choir	Holy Child Within the Manger

Celebrating His Birth

Offering	Oh, How Joyfully
Children's Story	
Candle Lighting	
Music	Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming VT 216
Scripture Reading	John 1:1-14
Sermon	Christmas According to the Gospel of John

Going Out to Share the Good News

Music	To Us a Child of Hope is Born VT 259
Congregational Prayer	
Choir	O Come Divine Messiah
Benediction	
Music	Joy to the World VT 240

You are welcome to join us Sunday December 28 at 10:30 in the church basement for a time of carol singing.

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leading:** Terrell Wiebe
Music: Laurie Enns, Hilda Franz and choir
Children's Story: Caroline Neufeld

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

One: We have been waiting in the long, dark night, waiting for your light of hope, peace, joy, and love to reveal itself and live among us.

Many: We have seen your glory. Come, Light of the world.

All: Word become flesh – Amaze us!

CALL TO WORSHIP - Based on John 1:1–18

One: In the beginning was love, and love was with God, and love was God.

Many: We gather in awe and amazement, watching as Love comes down.

One: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Many: We have waited with hope, longing for the gentle light of love to fill the world.

One: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

Many: We have seen his glory, Love embodied among us.

One: Come, let us worship the God who moves among us, the Christ who is born, the Spirit who shines in our hearts.

All: The Light has come! We tremble in excitement and uncertainty. Watching, waiting, for what Love will do next.

"DESCENT" by Malcolm Guite

They sought to soar into the skies
Those classic gods of high renown
For lofty pride aspires to rise
But you came down.
You dropped down from the mountains sheer
Forsook the eagle for the dove
The other Gods demanded fear
But you gave love
Where chiselled marble seemed to freeze
Their abstract and perfected form
Compassion brought you to your knees
Your blood was warm
They called for blood in sacrifice
Their victims on an altar bled
When no one else could pay the price
You died instead
They towered above our mortal plain,
Dismissed this restless flesh with scorn,
Aloof from birth and death and pain,
But you were born.
Born to these burdens, borne by all
Born with us all 'astride the grave'
Weak, to be with us when we fall,
And strong to save.