

**-BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA-
Sunday, February 15, 2026, 10:30 am**

They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:46-47

Welcome and Announcements

Praising God

Hymn Let's Walk Together VT 6

Call to Worship and Prayer

Offering Hymn What Is This Place VT 22

Hearing God's Story

Children's Story

Hymn One Heart One Mind

Scripture Acts 2:41-47, Colossians 3:12-17

Sermon The Church is ...
a Changed Community

Living in Hope

Hymn Summoned by the God Who Made Us
VT 1

Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Hymn Here in This Place VT 10

Sermon: Janna Wiebe

Children's Story: Josh Neufeld **Worship Leading:** Terrell Wiebe

Music: ABC Ensemble **Scripture:** Rowan Wiebe

From Vice to Virtue

Feb 22. The Seven Deadly Sing: An Introduction, Speaker: Greg Costen

March 1. Envy, Greed, Contentment, and Generosity. Speaker: Mark

March 8. Gluttony and Temperance. Speaker: Terrell

March 15. Sloth and Faithfulness. Speaker: Mark

March 22. Lust and Chastity. Speaker: Mark

March 29. Wrath and Love: Speaker Terrell

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PRAYER AND PRAISE -

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

Derek Voth- Feb. 15, Mary Dyck- Feb. 17, Trevor Friesen-Stoesz- Feb. 17,
Elvera Peters- Feb. 18, Natalie Toews- Feb. 18,
Bill Friesen- Feb. 19, Betty Heinrichs- Feb. 19

Hospitalized: Ann Enns is in the Altona Health Centre.

Congratulations to Grace and Dave Harms on becoming great grandparents! Charlotte Rose Voth was born to Kaitylyn and Niko Voth on Feb. 10.

MCM: On Wednesday morning, we awoke to heartbreaking news: a community, Tumbler Ridge, BC, has suffered the devastating impact of violence as an individual used a firearm to take the lives of 9 others and injured 25 others. We grieve the lives lost. We pray for God's healing presence to surround all who have been traumatized. And we bear witness to our hope—that God's light still breaks into the deepest shadows of our world, a world in which such violence should never be possible. May Christ's peace hold us as we lament, pray, and seek a more life-giving way forward together.

A BIG thank you for the generous donations/purchases from the Ventures cookie sale last Sunday. Together we raised over \$700 for the MCC school kit project!

- THIS WEEK AT ABC -

Sun. Feb. 15: No SS today

Sun. Feb. 15, 10:30 am: Worship service

Tue. Feb. 17, 10:30 am: Coffee with church staff

Wed. Feb. 18, 7-8:15 pm: Ventures

Thur. Feb. 19, 2 pm: Book study at Gardens on Tenth

Fri – Sun. Feb. 20-22: MCM Winter Youth retreat

Pastor Mark will be on vacation from February 7-23.

AGM meeting. The AGM books (financial booklet coming soon) are available in the foyer as well as online. *In preparation for the AGM we are reaching out* to you at this year's annual meeting for some direction on how we should proceed during this year of staffing transition. We've appreciated how church members have temporarily stepped in to fill the need for Sunday School administration to assist with leadership, communication, and administrative tasks. along with other areas of family ministry. And we stress, although the need is ongoing, the

current solution is a stop gap measure. We are also sensitive that there are other outreach areas of ministry which may be lacking attention. We are committed to listening to your suggestions and observations before determining how we might proceed making careful use of limited financial resources. To that end, we will set aside time during the upcoming AGM for some roundtable discussions which will give direction to our Personnel and Church Council. *Please come to the AGM on March 1st with your suggestions.*

ABC Auction update: Friday, March 20, at 7 pm in the church basement. It would be helpful (but not necessary) to let Byron or Ang Loeppky know what items you are planning to bring. Items may be brought to the church basement starting on *Monday, March 16 for storing.* If you need help with transporting an object to the church, please let us know as well and we will arrange this. We welcome auction items in good shape. Things to donate for the auction sale could include: in good condition home/garage/yard items, services, baked goods or handiwork. Please note there will not be tax receipts available for auction purchases or donations. Donations are set to go to the ABC camp ministry. **Items already designated for auction include:** homemade pizzas and baked goods, snowblower (there will be a minimum bid for this). **Contact options:** Loeppkyangela@gmail.com, office@abchurch.ca or call/text 204.304.0282.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are posters on the foyer bulletin board for more information and additional community announcements.

Light the Fire Party with comedian Matt Falk. April 19 7 pm. Caboto Centre, Winnipeg. Come out and support your Camps with Meaning Capital Campaign. Free tickets are available at www.lighththefire.ca

Face2Face at CMU: Being Peacemakers for a World of Surging Polarization – You are invited on March 11 at 7 pm to Marpeck Commons or via livestream for an opportunity to explore how faith-driven empathy can bridge deep cultural divides with Dr. Chris Rice and faculty from CMU. Visit cmu.ca/face2face for more information and the livestream.

FROM THE PASTOR – Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Next Sunday we will begin our Lent series called, “From Vice to Virtue”. Lent is often a time when we look inward as we look to Jesus’ death. This year is no exception. Our Lenten journey will reflect on the characteristics of the life Jesus calls us to as we repent of the ways we fall short.

In the early centuries of the church, a list of vices was developed to aid in moral teaching and self-examination. Tradition, and even popular culture today, has called these *The Seven Deadly Sins*. In our simplified understanding, we think of sin as something we shouldn’t do: “If it’s a sin, just don’t do it!” True indeed. However, this understanding does little in helping us to develop virtue and character, critical antidotes to sin. Early church theologians recognized that there were basic human tendencies toward sin, broadly encompassed in the list of seven, which we often become stuck in (hence the word ‘vice’). Moving from vice to virtue is a deeper journey than what a list of dos and don’ts can accomplish. The journey requires spiritual reflection, character formation, and the development of habits. As Lent approaches, let’s prepare to examine our sinful tendencies, cultivate virtues and character within us, and embrace the sanctifying work of God’s grace.

Our worship services during Lent will include confession and assurance. May these be times of deep repentance as we receive God’s grace.

Children’s Stories during Lent will not be directly related to the theme of vices and virtues. Instead, they will explore stories about Jesus and the events that led to his crucifixion. Therefore, do not be alarmed when the children’s story and the sermon have different themes or scriptures.

The idea for this sermon series originated a couple years ago when I read a book called [“Glittering Vices: A New Look at the Seven Deadly Sins and Their Remedies” \(Second Edition\)](#) by Rebecca Konyndyck DeYoung . It is one of the best books on Christian ethics and moral reflection that I’ve ever read. Since it is filled with fresh perspectives and helpful analogies I knew that one day it would be a fantastic resource for a sermon series. Our sermons will not be based upon the book and by no means is it required reading; however, if you would like a deeper exploration to accompany our sermons, I’d encourage you to check it out.

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