

**-BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA-
Sunday, January 11, 2026, 10:30 am**

When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

John 5:6

Welcome and Announcements

Praising the God who Heals

Hymn Come Away from Rush and Hurry VT 9

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn Lord I Am Fondly Earnestly Longing VT 555

Prayer for the Church, the World, and the Offering

Children's Story

Receiving God's Grace

Scripture Psalm 137:1-4, John 5:1-9a

Sermon Part 1 Naming our Pain

Burying our Pain*

Hymn Lord, Listen to Your Children VT 682

"Pick up your mat and walk"

Sermon Part 2 Choosing Healing

Hymn There Is a Balm in Gilead VT 647

Prayer for Healing

Benediction

Hymn Take My Life, and Let It Be VT 759

**You are invited to write your pain on the paper provided, fold or crumple it, come forward, place it in the planter, and bury it with a scoop or two of dirt. This ritual symbolizes entrusting our pain to God and our faith that God will transform it as a seed planted in the soil. If you are not able to come forward someone will be available to bury your paper for you.*

Sermon: John Klassen

Worship Leading: Byron Loeppky and Amanda Wiens

Music: Glenys Voth and Lorraine Hamm

Children's Story: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Worship Calendar:

Jan 11: Naming our Pain. Speaker: John Klassen

Jan 18: Moving toward Trust. Speaker: John Klassen

Jan 25: Communion. Speaker: Mark

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PRAYER AND PRAISE -

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

Hilda Franz- Jan. 4, Bernie Friesen- Jan. 4, Anna Peter- Jan. 5,
James Friesen- Jan. 11, Jake Bergen- Jan. 15,
Trudy Enns- Jan. 15, Clarence Friesen- Jan. 15

Norma Enns from our church family passed away on January 5. The funeral service for Norma was held on Saturday at ABC. We are invited to join in gratitude for Norma's life and to pray for her son and daughter-in-law James and Laurie Enns and son and daughter-in-law Brian and Delores Enns and their families.

Our condolences are extended to Edgar and Marge Loeppky on the death of Edgar's brother Larry Loeppky who passed on Jan. 5. The funeral service for Larry will be on Jan. 12 at Altona EMMC.

Luca David Neufeld was born on January 7 to parents Alyssa and Josh Neufeld! Luca is a new little brother to Oliver and Micah. There is a mealtrain set up for the Neufeld family. **You can sign up for meals on the mealtrain by following this link:** <https://mealtrain.com/0dk223>
If you are having difficulty with doing this online, contact Ang at the office for assistance.

- THIS WEEK AT ABC -

Sun. Jan. 11, 9:15: Sunday school for all ages

Sun. Jan. 11, 10:30 am: Worship service

Tue. Jan. 13, 10:30 am: Coffee with church staff

Tue. Jan. 13, 7-9 pm: Senior Youth - Can I ask that?: Does God discriminate against women?

Wed. Jan. 14, 7-8:30 pm: Junior Youth Talk Night - Where Do I Belong?

Wed. Jan. 14, 7-8:15 pm: Ventures

Book Study will be meeting Wednesday afternoon at 2pm beginning January 21 at the Gardens of Tenth. We will be reading and discussing "Divine Gravity: Sparking a Movement to Recover a Better Christian Story" by Meghan Good. Please contact Ang at the Church Office to order a book *as soon as possible*. The cost of the book is \$25.

A member of our church family has been struggling to locate a rental home or apartment in Altona. They would prefer a three bedroom. If you know of someone or a potential residence please contact Ang and she will connect you.



VOLUNTEER AT ABC

There are two areas where a once-a-month volunteer is needed.

Bulletin Delivery Person: Bulletins are delivered to people in various homes who are not able to make to church in person or who do not have access to the internet. This volunteer position would be one Friday a month. Please talk to Ang at the office if you are interested.

Hospital Visitation: Please talk to Irene Kehler if you are interested in joining this rotation of visitors.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Steps Toward Reconciliation: Tue., Jan. 20 at 7 pm at the Pioneer Centre – an evening with Niigaan Sinclair. Niigan is an Anishinaabe from Peguis First Nation and a professor at the University of Manitoba.

Southern Manitoba Choral Society: Inviting adults of all ages to come and join this winter. Practices are Tuesday evenings 6:30 – 8:30 pm, starting January 6 in the Miller Collegiate music room. For more information, please contact Sarah Dueck 324-7144.

Camps with Meaning summer staff application portal is open. www.campswithmeaning.org/staff

MCC: See the world, serve others and gain hands-on experience with SALT. This FREE, year-long cross-cultural service program is for young adults between 18-30 years old who are ready to make a difference. Explore [unique opportunities](#), [read the FAQs](#) and don't forget to [apply before Feb. 15, 2026!](#)

CMU Discover Day – Join us for the full day or the afternoon of Monday, February 2 to discover what it is like to be a CMU student. Tour the CMU campus, attend a sample lecture, meet professors and current students, and have lunch and treats on us! For more information and to register, visit cmu.ca/discover-days.

FROM THE PASTOR – Terrell Wiebe

Steps Toward Reconciliation, a local group of individuals focused on reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours, will be bringing Niigaan Sinclair to speak in Altona on Tuesday, January 20th. Niigaan Sinclair is Anishinaabe from Peguis First Nation and a professor at the University of Manitoba in the Department of Indigenous Studies.

Over the holidays I completed Niigaan's book *Winipêk: Visions of Canada from an Indigenous Centre*. Short chapters on over 80 different topics make it a fast and engaging read. I want to share some learnings and reflections from my favourite chapter titled *Ogichidaa*.

Ogichidaa is the word in the Anishinaabe language for warrior. In western culture, a warrior brings to mind hypermasculine images celebrated in movies, the military, and sports. The term "warrior" literally is an embodiment of conflict based in the root word "war." Absent of violence, a warrior in English has little purpose.

The term "ogichidaa" means a person held in high esteem due to their large heart. This kind of warrior is not one defined by violence but by love. An *ogichidaa* is someone who dedicates their entire life to building, sustaining, and protecting community. They are a model for ethics and leadership and stand up for those who need to be heard and those who cannot stand up for themselves.

Right now, my news feed is full of advertisements for Christian Men's conferences coming up in Manitoba this winter. These conferences tend to lean into the western style understanding of a warrior, where a true man of faith does battle with the forces of the world. There may be a place for empowering Christian men in that area, but an encouragement to battle against something is a message Christian men often hear. What we don't hear as often is that a true man of faith can be a warrior in the Anishinaabe understanding, *anogichidaa*; one who is known by their acts of love and their building up of the community, starting with the least of these. How might the men of ABC grow our vision of what a man of faith looks like?

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A Handout in Preparation for our Healing Series

“Do you want to be healed?” – Jesus (John 5:6)

As a Spiritual Advisory Committee, when we met following Pastor Virginia’s resignation, we determined not to sweep our pain under the rug. For the health of our church community, we need the opportunity to name our pain and rebuild trust. This is why we have planned a worship series that will include messages from John Klassen, healing rituals, and Communion.

Here is an outline of the series:

Jan 11: **Naming our Pain.** This service will offer an opportunity to name our pain and make a commitment to healing. We will be invited to write both our pain and our commitment on a piece of paper. We will have the opportunity to bury the paper with our pain in a planter to symbolically release our pain to God and invite God to transform our pain as a seed planted in the ground (there will be real dirt involved). The paper with our commitment we will each retain for as long as we need as a reminder of our commitment to the healing journey.

Jan 18: **Moving forward in Trust.** Trust is difficult, yet transformative. Trust is necessary for a congregation to follow Christ together. This is less about trust in church leadership, and more about trust in one another. We recognize trust cannot be built in a day, but this service will be an opportunity to move toward trust. As a ritual, we will be invited to add our thumbprint to an image as a symbol of our commitment toward trust.

Jan 25: **Returning to the Table.** We will meet Jesus and one another at the Communion Table. At Christ’s table, we are renewed by His grace and find strength and unity for our life and service together as His church.

Important information to remember in preparation for this worship series:

- Pastor Virginia’s departure was a painful experience for our church. However, everyone has a different experience of this situation. Shock, disappointment, anger, and suspicion are a few of the feelings experienced in our midst. Some people had involvements in the situation due to their roles in the church and this has meant carrying a unique pain. Others’ pain is compounded by not knowing as much information as we would like. This series is not about categorizing or comparing our griefs and experiences. It is for all of us. Whatever your experience or perspective, you are welcome. This series is for you.
- Everyone is invited to engage the sermons and participate in the healing rituals. However, there is no compulsion. You will not be required to share or do anything you are not comfortable doing.
- John Klassen, from Winkler Manitoba, was the Lead Pastor of Emmanuel Mennonite Church, served as a Conference Minister for Mennonite Church Manitoba, and has done Interim Ministry in recent years. We invited John to be a resource for our congregation due to his significant experience in the type of situation we have experienced. John will be preaching on January 11 and 18.

If you have any questions about our healing worship series, we encourage you to be in touch with one of us.

The Spiritual Advisory Committee (Byron Loeppky, Amanda Wiens, Rose Tryon, Jason Driedger, Irene Kehler, Terrell Wiebe, Mark Tiessen-Dyck)

This is my pain:

(You may write your feelings, griefs, loss, or emotions here. You are invited to bury this as a symbol of your releasing it to God)



This is my commitment to healing:

(You may write your commitment to healing here and keep this as a reminder)