

**-BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA-**  
**Sunday, January 4, 2026, 10:30 am**

*After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Matthew 2:1-2*

**Praising God**

Hymn In the Beginning VT 270  
Call to Worship and Prayer  
Hymn As with Gladness VT 277  
Offering and prayer We Come VT 225

**Hearing God's Story**

Children's Story  
Candle Lighting  
Scripture John 1:43-51  
Sermon Christmas is the Prologue: Come and See  
What's Next!

**Living in Hope**

Hymn Will You Come and Follow Me  
VT 540  
Congregational Prayer  
Benediction  
Hymn Arise, Your Light Is Come! VT 273

**Sermon:** Terrell Wiebe

**Worship Leading:** Josh Neufeld

**Music:** Laurie Enns and family

**Children's Story:** Janna Wiebe

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**Worship Calendar:**

Jan 4: Come and See. Speaker: Terrell  
Jan 11: Naming our Pain. Speaker: John Klassen  
Jan 18: Moving toward Trust. Speaker: John Klassen  
Jan 25: Communion. Speaker: Mark

**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.

**CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**- PRAYER AND PRAISE -**

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

Myrian Arias- Dec. 24, Tina Braun- Dec. 25, Edgar Loepky- Dec. 31,  
Katie Krahn- Jan. 1, Sheree Wahl- Jan. 2, Tena Giesbrecht- Jan. 5,  
Marilyn Martens- Jan. 5, Ed Martens- Jan. 6,  
Sophia Friesen-Stoesz- Jan. 7, Morley Wahl- Jan. 9

**Hospitalized:** Norma Enns is in the Altona Health Centre.

**MC Canada Palestine-Israel Network Christians in Palestine** are living in the Christmas season with great trepidation. In Gaza, military incursions and blockage of aid continue. In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, settler attacks are increasing with impunity. Let us pray for resilience, hope, and bold witness in the face of genocidal violence and ethnic cleansing.

**Please pray for peace and wisdom** for government and military leaders in Thailand and Cambodia as tensions escalate with land mines and aerial bombardments in the region. Tom and Christine Poovong are asking for your prayers as they again host evacuees. In the city of Ubon Ratchathani, where Tom and Christine live, they have been told to be on stand-by for possible evacuation.

**- THIS WEEK AT ABC -**

**Sun. Jan. 4, 10:30 am:** Worship service

**Wed. Jan. 6, 10:30 am:** Coffee with church staff

**Wed. Jan. 7, 6:45 - 9:00:** All youth (gr 7-12) are going to the Elvaro Escape Rooms in Winkler. Cost is \$10. See you there!

**Our Church is responsible** for leading worship at Eastview and Gardens of Tenth today. Joyce Falk, Elfrieda Teichroeb, Margaret Klassen, Verna Heinrichs, Crystal Loewen, and Mark Tiessen-Dyck are serving on our behalf.

**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.

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**MCM** is hosting Winnipeg's ecumenical service that begins the 2026 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. January 18, 7:30 pm at First Mennonite Church. Consider joining the choir, which will rehearse at First Mennonite January 4 and 11, 6:30 pm. It would be great to have strong MCM representation for this!

**South Africa Solidarity Learning Pilgrimage!** Join other Mennonites from across Canada in this Learning Pilgrimage with our global companions in South Africa.

[mennonitechurch.ca/international-witness/pilgrimage](http://mennonitechurch.ca/international-witness/pilgrimage)

**Help welcome a family from Gaza to Manitoba.** A Palestinian family of six has arrived in Manitoba after fleeing the war in Gaza. Their eldest child needs complex medical care not available at home — but here, that care is possible. Your gift can help with housing, groceries, school support, language learning and more. Donate today at [mcc.org/gaza-family-initiative](http://mcc.org/gaza-family-initiative).

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Based on John 1:35–51

**One:** The invitation has been spoken: "Come and see." The door to a stable stands open. The way is before us.

**Many: We heard the call. Now we step forward in wonder; ready to follow, open to the unexpected.**

**One:** "You will see greater things than these," Jesus says.

**Many: We stand in amazement, waiting to be changed.**

**One:** Come, let us worship the One who calls us by name, who sees us as we are and leads us into new life.

**All: We come, ready to follow, ready to see, ready to be amazed!**

### **CANDLE LIGHTING**

**One:** We celebrate as we reflect in amazement at what you have done. You muted the flames of our fears with hope.

**Many: Glory to God in the highest! You amaze us!**

**One:** You resurrected the dry bones of our spirits with peace.

**Many: Glory to God in the highest! You amaze us!**

**One:** You quenched our thirsty souls with living water of joy.

**Many: Glory to God in the highest! You amaze us!**

**One:** You came to be among us, to show us the way in love.

**Many: Glory to God in the highest! You amaze us!**

**One:** You have called us to follow you and walk the path of mercy and grace.

**Many: Glory to God in the highest! You amaze us!**

**All: Lead us forward so that we too may carry your Christ-light into the world!**

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**Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona** 117-2<sup>nd</sup> St NW/R0G 0B1

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**E-mail:** [office@abchurch.ca](mailto:office@abchurch.ca) **Facebook:** ABC community

**Worship Services available online at:** [abchurchcommunity.ca](http://abchurchcommunity.ca)

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

**Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries:**

Terrell Wiebe C 204.417.8200, [terrellw@abchurch.ca](mailto:terrellw@abchurch.ca)

## 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)