

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

We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. Hebrews 6:11

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Announcements

Gathering and Praise

Hymn Jesus Calls Us VT 30

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn O God, Our Refuge VT 434

Offering Between Darkness and Light

From Vice to Virtue

Children's story

Scripture 2 Peter 1:3-11

Sermon Sloth: Resistance to the Power of God's Love

Confession, Assurance and Sending

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Hymn How Clear Is Our Vocation VT 547

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn I Have Decided to Follow Jesus VT 443

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Children's Story:** Caroline Neufeld

Worship Leading: James Friesen **Music:** Edna Zacharias

From Vice to Virtue

Feb 22. The Seven Deadly Sins: 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:

Maverick Friesen- Mar. 15, Bob Friesen-Mar. 15, Bill Stoesz- Mar. 17,

Josee Voth- Mar. 18, Jacob Friesen-Stoesz- Mar. 20

Hospitalized: Ann Enns is in the Altona Health Centre.

Leona Braun has moved to room #303 Gardens on Tenth.

Our condolences go to Mary Dyck for the passing of her sister, Annie Dyck, who passed away on March 2 in Winnipeg.

International Witness: As we embrace a posture of companionship in the global church, an Anabaptist group called [Iziko Lamaqabane](https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/international-witness/pilgrimage) in South Africa is stepping up to that commitment and offering to walk with us. Mennonite Church Canada is working in partnership with Iziko Lama to explore the long history and legacy of colonialism and apartheid in South Africa in the form of a pilgrimage.

<https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/international-witness/pilgrimage>.

- THIS WEEK AT ABC -

Sun. Mar. 15, 9:15 am: Sunday school for ages 3-grade 12.

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

Sun. Mar. 15, following the worship service: Lunch and church wedding shower.

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

Wed. Mar. 18, 7- 8:30 pm: Jr. Youth - Game Show Night!

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

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

Fri. Mar. 20, 7 pm: Church auction sale

After todays service: Church Wedding Shower: Everyone is invited for lunch after church. Please bring a salad or dessert. Potato bar lunch is also provided. Together we will have lunch followed by a church wedding shower for Nick and Vally. A "box of blessings" will be provided for cash donations for the couple.

Hospital visitors and designated visitors are invited for a gathering on Wednesday April 8 at 4 pm at the church with guest Joel Klassen. This is a reflection and resourcing event for people who do visits on behalf of the church. Talk to Irene Kehler for more information and to RSVP.

ABC Auction: Friday, March 20, at 7 pm in the church basement.

The day is coming up! In planning for a fun evening, we are also accepting cookie/sweets donations for the evening. If you are able to provide cookies/sweets for our snack, please let us know by Sunday (15) afternoon. You may bring your donations to the church basement starting on *Monday, March 16*. Even if you have not listed your items with Ang or Byron, auction items are welcome. We are accepting used items that are in good condition, services, food, or ...? A few items have a minimum donation set (snow blower and bike for now). We will accept cash, cheque or e-transfer. The proceeds will go to ABC camp ministry.

Contact: Loeppkyangela@gmail.com, call/text: 204.304.0282.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Camp Assiniboia 55+ Day Away – Mar. 24, 9 am – 3 pm. Enjoy lunch and a day of hiking, fireplace conversations, music, games and more. \$20. Call Elisabeth at 204-895-2267 by March 18 to reserve a spot.

The MCC Manitoba Volunteer Portal is the place to find opportunities to serve your community. Whether you're helping in a Thrift shop or at the MCC Manitoba office, your work helps serve those in Manitoba and around the world. [Find opportunities to get involved today!](#)

The Altona Panthers Special Olympics vs. Altona Police annual basketball game is happening on Monday, March 16 at 7 pm at the Miller gym. This is a fun night supporting not only our local Special Olympics, but the Altona Police PLUS the Altona food bank. Bring a donation for the food bank and be entered to win a prize.

Altona Blood Donor Clinic Tues. Mar. 17 at the Pioneer Centre. Contact blood.ca or call 1-888-2Donate. Donation hours are: 1-7 pm.

Gardens on Tenth Soup and Pie fundraiser: Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 26, from 5-7 pm.

Flatlands Theatre Company Kids presents "The Snow Queen", Mar. 27 and 28 at the PW Enns concert hall. Tickets available at the door.

Southern MB Choral Society winter concert, Sun. Mar. 29, 3 pm at ABC.

FROM THE PASTOR – Mark Tiessen-Dyck

At our church AGM, Bill Stoesz, who continues to prepare the bread and cup for our communion services, proposed that we serve only juice instead of juice and wine. Hence, we would no longer serve wine. The reasons for suggesting this include: the traditional wine we have served is no longer available due to tariffs, it would make preparing communion logistically simpler, and sensitivity to recovering alcoholics, pregnant women, and children and youth.

Bill discussed this possible change with Al Friesen and myself prior to sharing it at the AGM. We all agreed that this is a matter in which to seek congregational feedback instead of making a unilateral decision. As such, Bill shared this proposed change at the AGM not as a done deal, but to let the church know we were considering this and invite your input.

In my previous congregation, we made this same change and it was a controversial affair that required more processing than the church leadership expected. I learned from this experience that even the specifics of our communion practice carry deep spiritual significance for people and changes can be unsettling.

For our upcoming Communion on Good Friday, we will continue to serve wine and juice as we have traditionally done. This will give us more time to process and discuss this matter.

I'd encourage you to speak to one of us and share your perspective. Particularly, if removing wine from our communion is something that will impact your experience of this important ritual, we'd like to hear from you.

Mark (for Bill Stoesz)

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona 117-2nd St NW/ROG 0B1

Web Page Address: abchurchcommunity.ca **Office:** 324.6717

E-mail: office@abchurch.ca **Facebook:** ABC community

Worship Services available online at: abchurchcommunity.ca

Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck: 324.5990, C 1.204.771.3406, marktd@abchurch.ca

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe C 204.417.8200,

terrellw@abchurch.ca