

-BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA-
Sunday, March 29, 2026, 10:30 am

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. - John 3:16

Palm Sunday

Announcements

Gathering and Praise

Hymn Revelation Song VT 415
Call to Worship and Prayer
Hymn Living Hope
Offering Lead Me to the Cross

From Vice to Virtue

Children's story
Scripture Jonah 3:10 – 4:4, 9b; Matthew 15:27-32
Sermon Wrath and Love

Confession, Assurance and Sending

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance
Hymn Cornerstone
Prayer for the Church and the World
Benediction
Hymn Be at Rest VT 532

Sermon: Terrell Wiebe **Children's Story:** Amy Penner
Worship Leading: Mark Tiessen-Dyck
Music: Alyssa and Josh Neufeld, Amy Penner

Worship Calendar:

March 29: Wrath, love, and Jesus' journey to the cross.
April 3: Good Friday, 10:30am. The Last Words of Jesus, including Communion.
April 5: Easter Sunday. Speaker: Mark
April 12: Speaker: Moses Falco from Mennonite Disaster Service.

Here are some upcoming dates to remember:

May 10: Brunch Church
May 24: Pentecost
June 14: Church picnic

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PRAYER AND PRAISE -

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

Larry Tryon- Mar. 30, Penny Wahl- Mar. 30, Ed Doell- Mar. 31,
Stephanie Friesen- Mar. 31, Rick Neufeld- April 1, Liz Hildebrand- Apr. 3

Hospitalized: Ann Enns is in the Altona Health Centre.

An Altona community trip to Greece is this week and includes many of our own church family members. We pray that Trevor Friesen-Stoesz, Jacob Friesen-Stoesz, Esme Ginter, Nicholas Funk, Abigail Rempel, and Shelby Penner would experience a safe and joyful adventure of discovering new things and growing their worldview.

- THIS WEEK AT ABC -

Sun. Mar. 29, 10:30 am: Worship service
Tue. Mar. 31. 10:30 am: Coffee with the church staff.
Thur. Apr. 2, 2 pm: Book study at Gardens on Tenth
Fri. Ap. 3, 10:30 am: Good Friday service

We are entering Holy Week, the most significant time of the year for affirming our faith in Jesus. Here is information about our Holy Week events.

- Our Good Friday worship service (April 3, 10:30) will include music, readings from the seven last words of Christ, and Communion.
- On Easter Sunday, our celebrations begin with breakfast at 9:15. A continental breakfast will be provided. The menu consists of paska, muffins, cheese, fruit, coffee, tea and juice (No need to bring anything)
- Our Easter Sunday worship service will include a volunteer singing group led by Glenys Voth and everyone is welcome to join. Rehearsal is at 9:45 in the sanctuary. The singing group will rehearse the hymns to bolster our congregational singing.

Thank you to everyone for your help, contributions, bidding and support for our first annual ABC auction sale. Together we raised just under \$6,000 for the Camp Ministry program. We hope you all enjoy your new (to you) items and services!

The pastors would like to welcome conversation with anyone who is considering being baptized. Baptism is for those who confess their sins, accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and commit to follow Christ as a member of his body, the church. If you are interested in pursuing baptism or simply have questions, please reach out to either pastor Mark or pastor Terrell.

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.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Altona United Church warmly invites you to an evening of prayer titled *"From Ashes to Grace"* on Tuesday, March 31 at 7:00 pm. This hour will be a time of silent prayer, open to all, as we bring before God the needs of our community, nation, and world, seeking God's presence, healing, and renewal. As Scripture encourages us, "The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on in truth" (Psalm 145:18). You are invited to share your prayer requests by March 27 so they may be included. A prayer jar will be available at the entrance for personal requests, which our worship team will hold in prayer. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact souravnag58@gmail.com or phone at 431-733-9787.

Cottonwood Community Drama will be presenting *The Carpenter* in Buhler Hall in Gretna on April 16 and 17 at 7:30 pm and with a matinee on April 18 at 2:30 pm. Set in a small New England town in the 1940s, *The Carpenter* tells the story of Jeff Masters, a quiet carpenter who arrives seeking work and a place to stay. His kindness and integrity begin to challenge the fears and prejudices of the townspeople, leading them to reconsider their attitudes toward outsiders. Told as an allegory with clear parallels to biblical stories, this faith-based drama explores what it truly means to humbly live out one's faith.

Light the Fire Party with comedian Matt Falk. April 19. 7:00pm. Caboto Centre, Winnipeg. Come out and support your Camps with Meaning Capital Campaign by enjoying the "effortlessly funny" comedian, Matt Falk. Free tickets are available at www.lightthefire.ca

FROM THE PASTOR – Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Here is another powerful analogy from "Glittering Vices" by Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung.

Jumping on a trampoline...

"On the first few bounces, you sink and rise only a little. As you gain momentum, however, the force of your downward weight pushes you lower and lower, while the buoyancy of the springs propels you higher and higher... This is like facing the depths of our sin, which then serves as a springboard for rising to grasp the heights of God's mercy. Likewise, the higher you drop from—that is, the more aware you are of the limitless reach of God's gracious and loving embrace—the lower you can go as God unveils layers of sin further and further beneath the surface. This might help explain why some of the greatest saints have such a dark view of their own hearts, while at the same time appearing to be beautifully sanctified people full of trust and joy. Their heightened sense of belovedness in Christ makes possible the depths of their contrition.

As we continue to look within—through the eyes of love, not judgement—we will keep learning to see ourselves more truly, and we will learn to more truly long for greater holiness. As we accustom ourselves to hear God call us his beloved and secure our identity in that word about us, we will grow to trust him with our idols, our faults, our persistent weaknesses, our disordered attachments, and even the worst of our shame. Under the great physician's care, we can become healed, whole, and well. Our spiritual health and abundant life are the good he seeks. Our spiritual wholeness enables us to give ourselves more fully to God and his kingdom work with joy, gratitude, hope, and peace. With that vision and calling, and leaning on his grace and mercy, we can face our vices and find new life through the power of the Spirit."

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