

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of  
ALTONA

Sunday, March 10, 2024 10:30 am

Fourth Sunday of Lent

*"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever, the Spirit of truth." John 14:15-17a*

**Gathering and Praise**

Announcements

Song Here I Am to Worship VT 227

Call to Worship and Prayer

Song Oceans (Where Feet May Fail) VT 456

**Entering God's Story**

Offering This Little Light of Mine

Children's Story

Scripture Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon The parable of the talents – encouraging stewardship, discerning loyalty and seeking God's divine mercy.

**Confession and Assurance**

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Song 10,000 Reasons VT 111

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Song Lord, I Lift Your Name on High VT 365

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**Sermon:** Jason Driedger **Worship Leading:** Terrell Wiebe

**Music:** ABC youth **Children's Story:** Joanna Ginter

**Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona**

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

**Assoc. Pastor:** Virginia Gerbrandt Richert, on sabbatical until April.

**Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries:** Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058, C 204.417.8200, [terrellw@abchurch.ca](mailto:terrellw@abchurch.ca)

**Book Study Report: "Walking Together"** by Edith and Neill von Gunten.  
From Bonnie Friesen, on behalf of the Book Club

This book takes the 7 fruits of the Spirit and buddies them up with the 7 "A Way Of Life" teachings of the Ojibwe peoples. Love is represented by the eagle; respect by the buffalo; courage by the bear; honesty by the Sasquatch; wisdom by the beaver; humility by the wolf; and truth by the turtle. To explore the similarities, Edith and Neill share experiences from their time working for Native Ministries and later taking over from Walter Franz in the role of Mennonite Church Canada Director of Native Ministry. Their wisdom, advice, and knowledge shines through the words in a way that makes us examine ourselves while at the same time applying the knowledge to our current Indigenous relationships.

We were interested to find out that Terrell and Janna worked at Matheson Island at the same time Edith and Neill were in the area. (Connections are important!) Hilda Franz is also known to Edith and Neill through Walter's career connections.

We enjoyed the work of every chapter and were very pleased when Edith and Neill accepted our invitation to come in person to share a few more stories and to answer any questions we might have. They started with lunch at Hilda's which included Erna Leoppky (She and Stan had connections with the von Guntens through Mennonite Pioneer Mission. They had attended Manigotagan at one point so Edith and Neill could go on vacation.)

This was followed by a sharing circle of friends at the Gardens on Tenth. Edith and Neill shared the many reasons why they wrote their book. They then advised us as a church to build connections with the people at Roseau River by attending their events. Their advice for Terrell for Matheson Island is to possibly use food to bring the community together with our church. They felt it would be a common interest held by both.

Neill also spoke of the reaction of the Northern communities to the work of the Mennonite Pioneer Mission, stating they had used the word "Peaceful" to describe how the Mennonite people came to them. This attitude paved the way toward favourable outcomes for their own endeavours in the community. The enjoyable afternoon ended with prayer and fasha.

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March 10: Bags of gold. Matthew 25:14-30. Speaker: Jason Driedger

March 17: The last supper. Matthew 26:17-30 (John 13:1-20). Speaker: Mark

March 24: Jesus in the garden. Matthew 21:31-56. Speaker: Terrell

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Prayer and Praise:**

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

Helen Schulz- March 10, Mary Anne Loeppky- March 12,  
Rose Tryon- March 12, Maverick Friesen- March 15

**Hospitalized:** Pete Heinrichs and Wendy Friesen at the Altona Hospital.

**International Witness:** Mennonite Church Canada is urgently appealing for relief funds for Meserete Kristos Church (MKC) in Ethiopia. MKC leaders and adherents have lost their lives in the crossfire of a violent tribal conflict that began in the western region of Ethiopia in 2018. Civil war, drought and continuing violence have led to severe hardship for MKC congregations and leaders in the area. Please consider donating to help them:

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

### **This week at ABC:**

**Sun. Mar. 10** 9:15-10:15: Sunday School for all ages

**No Adult and No Youth Sunday School this morning**

**Tue. Mar 12** 10:30: Coffee with the church staff.

**Tues. Mar 12** 7-9 Senior Youth - Game Show night

**Wed. Mar 13** 7-9 Junior Youth - Part of the Puzzle: Art Worship night

**Wed. Mar 13** 6:30-8:30 Ventures -Tamiya car building and races with Agustin

**Pastor Mark, Rose Tryon, Tena Giesbrecht and Sarah Dueck** are serving at Gardens on Tenth and Eastview this morning.

**Camp sponsorship forms** will be available in the church office for campers planning on going to camp this summer. Application deadline April 30, 2024.

**Camps with Meaning** is compiling contact information of past summer and year round staff and committee members of Camps Assiniboia, Koinonia and Moose Lake. This information will be used to share information about the upcoming Camp Assiniboia 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Light the Fire Capital Campaign for Camps Assiniboia and Koinonia. If you would like to be in the loop, please provide your mailing address and/or e mail address to Camp Rep Jason Driedger by March 11. Thank you! For more information:

<https://campswithmeaning.org/event/8459-2024-06-21-camp-assiniboia-75th-anniversary-weekend>

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Many of the community announcements have posters in the lobby for more extensive information.*

**MCC: In this season of Lent, walk with pilgrims in Winnipeg and 125 other cities, in prayerful solidarity with the people of Gaza.** Join Winnipeg's walk on Saturday, March 16. beginnings in the Medicine Garden at St. John's Park, 1 Fowler St., at 7:30 a.m. The 42-kilometer pilgrimage consists of seven segments; walk the entire length, or one or more of the segments. For more on the global movement: [www.gazaceasefirepilgrimage.com](http://www.gazaceasefirepilgrimage.com).

**YFC: YFC Altona Taco Buffet Fundraiser, March 13th 5pm-8pm** at the Altona Pioneer Center (227 10th Ave NW Altona)  
Cost is by donation \*all donation \$20+ are tax deductible.

**Recovery of Hope** is hosting an event called "**Ready to Grow: Providing Support for Thriving Development**", with presenters Andrea Dyck and Bree Jordan, who will lead us in exploring what children need most to grow and thrive in their development. This event is for anyone who lives with, works with, or has children in their lives! Join us on April 3rd, 2024, at 7 pm, at Winkler Central Station, 545 Industrial Drive. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased Eventbrite at [www.eventbrite.ca/ready-to-grow](http://www.eventbrite.ca/ready-to-grow) or call 204-477-3673.

**Far East Broadcasting Canada Friendship Supper** at Altona SPMB church on Friday, March 15 at 6pm. Guest speaker, Dr. Rudi Wiens will be speaking about Russia and Ukraine. For tickets: 204-324-8358 or tollfree 1-800-565-3322 ext 134

**Build a Village** urgently needs gently used furniture and household items to furnish a house and an apartment – Contact Stephanie Friesen for a list of items specific to ABC

### **Indigenous Relations New MCIS working groups:**

Hold in prayer Mennonite Church Manitoba's Coalition for Indigenous Solidarity, which has launched working groups for collaborative action such as: Land Inheritance/Return, Residential School Advocacy, Congregational Reparations, Search the Landfill/MMIW, and Decolonizing Institutions. May the Spirit of life animate the dozens of people who have come together to form these groups. <https://mennochurch.mb.ca/get-involved/mcis>