

-BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA-

Sunday, March 16, 2025, 10:30 am

Lent 2 Christ Collides with our Condemnation

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change

Psalm 46: 1-2

*The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice,
the earth melts. Psalm 46:6*

Gathering

Announcements

Hymn Mountain of God VT 11

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn God of Wonders VT 178

Offering

Engaging God's Word

Children's Story

Confession and Words of Assurance

Scripture Luke 13:1-9

Sermon An Old Question. A New Answer

Hymn Here by the Water VT 629

Prayer of the Church and the World

Sending

Benediction

Hymn Christ Has No Body Here but Ours VT 568

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Worship Leading: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert

Music: ABC Youth **Children's Story:** Amanda Wiens

We are in the midst of our Lent series. The theme is **Christ Collides**. Each week we will explore how the content and style of Jesus' teachings collides with us and our world.

March 9 Lent 1 Luke 10:25-42, Our Bias: Speaker Virginia

March 16 Lent 2 Luke 13:1-9, 31-35, Our Condemnation: Speaker Mark

March 23 Lent 3 Luke 15:1-32, Our Priorities: Speaker Virginia

March 30 Lent 4 Luke 16:19-33, Our Selfishness: Speaker Mark

April 6 Lent 5 Luke 18:31-19:10, Our Blinders: Speaker Virginia

April 13 Lent 6 Luke 19:29-44, Our Expectations: Speaker Mark

April 20 Easter Luke 24:1-12, Speaker Terrell

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PRAYER AND PRAISE -

We wish a happy birthday and God's blessing to:
Bill Stoesz- March 17, Jacob Friesen-Stoesz- March 20,
Hannah Tiessen-Dyck- March 22

Hospitalized: Henry Klassen, Pete Hildebrand and Gert Hildebrand are in the Altona Health Centre.

Condolences to Rose and Larry Tryon on the passing of Rose's stepsister, Esther Heinrichs of Winnipeg on March 12. The funeral service is pending.

Condolences to Andrew and Virginia Gerbrandt Richert on the passing of Andrew's grandfather Tony Nickel of Regina on March 13. The funeral service is pending.

- THIS WEEK AT ABC -

Sun. Mar. 16, 9:15-10:15 am: Sunday school for all ages

Sun. Mar. 16, 10:30 am: Worship service

Tues. Mar. 18, 10:30 am: Coffee with the Church staff

Wed. Mar. 19, 7pm. Workshop for children's story tellers.

Thur. Mar. 20, 2 pm: Book study at Gardens on Tenth

You are invited to read the New Testament this Lent. Several people from our church are already joining this journey of discovery and more are welcome and needed. This is a way for us to embrace our Anabaptist identity and discover more about Jesus. Talk to Pastor Mark if you are interested in participating.

Have kids going to Bible camp? ABC is offering a campership of \$100/camper. Contact Ang in the office for more details. The deadline is May 1.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Steps Towards Reconciliation: Sat., Mar. 22, 10-12 noon at the MEC. This is an immersive and interactive workshop where participants will have the chance to explore the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada by way of a giant floor map. Following the event, there will be an optional sharing circle.

Blood Donor Clinic Thursday, March 20 at the Altona Rhineland Pioneer Centre register at blood.ca or call 1-888-2 DONATE.

Join us at MCI for an Open House! Tuesday, March. 18 7-8 pm. Potential students and their families can learn about MCI, meet school staff, receive a school tour and enjoy a snack before they go. We hope you'll join us! For more information, email mci@mciblues.net

Eastview Place provides a day program for those living with Alzheimer's. If you know someone who would benefit from the Alzheimer's Day Program (ADP) please contact Home Care in Altona. If you are willing to be a driver for this program, please contact Candace Enns at 324.2375.

The MCM Climate Action Working Group invites you to a webinar on The Upside-Down Economics of Jesus, part 2: Degrowth. Come hear James Magnus-Johnston, CMU professor and political economist, discuss alternatives to present growth-driven economic ideologies, and encourage thoughtful reflection on what we mean by "sustainability." Thursday, Mar. 27 at 7pm, online. Register to receive the zoom link: <http://www.mennochurch.mb.ca/cawg>.

CMU Press: Buy One, Give One – CMU Press reached its 50th anniversary in 2024. It has produced over 100 books since its inception. To celebrate, CMU will donate a book to charity for every CMU Press title purchased from CommonWord between January and March. Visit cmu.ca/cmu-press for more information.

Volunteer with MCC Thrift! It's an opportunity to help people in your community and to support MCC's work globally. **Helping people. Helping the planet.** Sign up to volunteer at an MCC Thrift Shop today at MCCThrift.com/volunteer.

Prairie Singers: Echos, March. 22 at 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm at Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Winkler. Tickets are \$15/adult, \$5/student. www.prairiesingers.ca

The Southern MB Choral Society will be performing their spring concert on Sunday, March 23 3:00 p.m. at the Altona Bergthaler Church.

Pray for our congregations - Nordheim Mennonite Church: Pray for us during this season of Lent, for repentant hearts, for hearts willing to follow Jesus and for us as we come together this summer to support and run Sagemace Bible Camp.

CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

All: Loving and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you.

Leader: We have not loved you with all our thoughts, words, and actions.

Many: We have sinned through what we have chosen to do and what we have chosen to neglect.

Leader: We have not fully accepted your love for us. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Many: We are quick to pass judgment and to claim your authority to condemn others.

All: We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to your love. Help us shake free from our quickness to condemn so we may better share your peace in your world, rejoicing in your name. Amen.

Leader: Now hear these words of assurance: God tells us that we are created in God's image. God created us for relationship with God and each other. In this, we know that God will never break our relationship. God's steadfast love endures forever.

CAMPS WITH MEANING – WAYS TO PARTICIPATE!

A note for volunteers: We say this all the time, but we could not run camp without you. Camp, which includes personal growth for young people, faith exploration, building courage and capacity for adventure as well as vulnerability that leads to connection with others...is all possible because we are supported by our wider community. With such joy and gratitude – we say thank you!

Camp Health Officers: Summer camps are always in need of Health Officers to ensure that we are keeping camp safe, as well as to meet insurance and Manitoba Camping Association standards. Camps with Meaning welcomes and invites any Physician, RN, LPN, First Aid Trainer or Paramedic who is licensed to work in Manitoba to come to camp for a week, or two! This position is important as we cannot run the camp without a Health Officer present. If you have Standard First Aid and CPR, you are eligible to be the designated Health Officer at Camp Assiniboia, and if you have Wilderness First Aid and CPR, you are eligible at Camp Koinonia. Any Health Officer must be able to make decisions confidently regarding campers' needs and preference will go to Physician, RN, LPN, or Paramedic qualifications, but reach out if you have any of the qualifications listed in the paragraph above! *NOTE: A week at camp can provide you with 37.5 practice hours. Simply indicate that you need these hours to be verified by us!

Kitchen Helpers/Workers: We strive to make our food camper friendly and tasty. Each camp has a qualified Food Services Coordinator, and a Head Cook who plan the menu and organize the various kitchen tasks. We welcome and invite kitchen helpers to join in the fun, preparing and serving the food to campers and staff. Bring some friends, family, or camp alumni to fill the kitchen up! It's always more fun in a group.

Camp Pastors: We give our youth and young adults a huge task when we commission them to carry out the camp program, and we never want to leave them alone in this job. We welcome pastors and other individuals with spiritual training to walk alongside them and support them. You are invited to come for one week (or more!) to guide the staff with a daily devotion, loving presence, and prayer support. You also get to be involved in the program and help wherever you have skills and energy to do so.

Maintenance Workers: We cannot run camp without adequate facilities – both our camp sites have beautiful grounds, buildings, and a variety of equipment. These physical parts of camp need care: pruning, painting, cleaning, replacing...and there are always various projects to take part in. People with gifts in these areas are invited to come to help us take care of camp. Come and dream about ways to fix camp up! Supervision and tools are provided.

VIEW FROM THE PEW – Mary Anne Loepky

Sharing a few of my highlights - I attended MCM 2025 annual gathering, February 28-March 1st, theme **Looking to Jesus**.

The Friday evening worship service for myself is always important and inspiring. There is hearty singing, reading the lists - births, deaths and baptisms in our larger church family, hearing Michael Paul's meditation: "Looking to Jesus", asking what does a Jesus centered church look like? (Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah is to be our focus – Jesus is invitational, welcoming us in. When border thinking sets in, we risk becoming guards.) Followed by sharing communion and prayers. As well as meeting up with fellow attendees!!!

Saturday morning, we gathered around (assigned) tables, ensuring a variety of congregations represented. We shared about our congregation's community outreach – a slow start (after all we're all reserved Mennonites) quickly turned into lively and engaging conversations! We encouraged each other in our various community connections; exceeding our allotted time. 😊

The business portion, I appreciate the reporting and sharing of the work and vision for all MCM congregations, including the financial details. Camps with Meaning vision for Assiniboia and Koinonia camps, these future opportunities feel exciting and yes, \$\$\$ scary! while hopeful!!

Afternoon, breakout sessions, I attended "**Following Jesus in Gaza**": led by Joanna Hiebert Bergen and her daughter Chloe. The Hiebert Bergen family lived in Palestine for several years. We were encouraged to find and have conversations with Christian Palestinians, to learn their stories and live into our commitment as Jesus followers. This session aligned with the courses on Palestine/Gaza I've been studying for 2 winter session with Dan Epp Tiessen.

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