

BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of  
ALTONA

Sunday, March 17, 2024 10:30 am  
Fifth Sunday of Lent

*"I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day  
when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."  
Matthew 26:29*

**Gathering and Praise**

Announcements

Hymn Summioned by the God Who Made Us VT 1  
(vs 1,3,4,5)

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn In Christ There Is No East or West VT 390

**Entering God's Story**

Offering

Children's Story

Scripture Matthew 26:17-30

Sermon An Old Tradition With New Significance

**Confession and Assurance**

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Hymn Let Us Break Bread Together VT 482

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn Heart With Loving Heart United VT 813

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**Sermon:** Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leading:** Delores Enns  
**Music:** Margaret Klassen **Children's Story:** Caroline Neufeld

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**Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona**

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

**Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries:** Terrell Wiebe, 204.216.0058,  
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**FROM THE PASTOR: Mark Tiessen-Dyck**

Last weekend I attended the annual Mennonite Church Manitoba gathering including the resourcing day for church leaders. A couple exciting things for MCM is the introduction of "Light the Fire", a capital campaign for new and improved facilities at Camp Assiniboia. We also welcomed River East Church into our community of congregations.

The theme of the gathering was "Becoming an Intercultural Church". The resource person was Fanosie Legesse, who is originally from Ethiopia but now lives in Ontario and helps resource the Mennonite Churches of Eastern Canada to become more culturally aware and connected. Fanosie led us to reflect on the significance of culture in our identity and how culture impacts our churches. Developing an intercultural mindset involves shifting from missing, judging, or minimizing cultural differences to comprehending cultural differences and adapting to them and bridging across them.

We were challenged to think about our churches' readiness to become intercultural considering that this means change and being stretched. He also encouraged churches and followers of Christ to be connecting with people and groups of other cultures, especially considering that they are an increasing presence in our communities.

The event gave me hope that our church could become more intercultural and embrace the intercultural vision of Revelation 7, where people of every nation, tribe, and language are worshipping around the throne of God.

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During Lent we will be taking a magnifying glass to the final week of Jesus' life: What he did, what he taught, the controversies he was involved in, and the questions he was asked. Our hope is that by exploring Jesus' last week we will better understand what hangs in the balance of Jesus' life and death.

Feb. 18: Jesus enters Jerusalem. Receiving ashes. Matthew 21:1-11.

Speaker Mark

Feb. 25: Jesus disrupts the temple. Matthew 21:12-17. Speaker: Mark

March 3: Jesus is questioned. Matthew 22:15-40. Speaker: Terrell

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

March 29: 10:30 am. Good Friday worship service with Communion

## **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:** Pete Heinrichs at the Altona Health Centre.

**International Witness:** Iglesia Cristiana Menonita de Colombia (IMCOL) will be holding its national assembly March 22-25 in Cachipay, Colombia. Please pray for these siblings in faith as they gather, worship, celebrate and discern together. Pray also for Janet Plenert, Liaison Worker for ministry in Latin America, who will be representing Mennonite Church Canada at this gathering.

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

**Sun. Mar. 17, 9:15-10:15:** Sunday School for all ages

**Tue. Mar 19, 10:30:** Coffee with the church staff.

**Wed. Mar 20. 6:30-8:30:** Ventures - Final event! Pizza and post it note game.

**Sat. Mar. 23, 5-6:30:** Community Meal at the Exchange

**On Easter Sunday,** we will have a potluck breakfast beginning at 9:15. Please bring continental breakfast food to share (some suggestions are paska, muffins, fruit, eggs etc.). Cheese and beverages will be provided. Note: this is not a brunch church. We will have our worship service in the sanctuary at 10:30.

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

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**Blood donor clinic:** Thursday, March 21 at the Altona Pioneer Centre. Please contact Blood.ca to make an appointment.

**MCM: Camps with Meaning.** Summer Bible camp for kids finished Gr. 1 - Gr. 12. Two locations: Camp Assiniboia; Camp Koinonia.

[www.campswithmeaning.org](http://www.campswithmeaning.org)

**Southern Manitoba Choral Society:** Prairie to Sea Melodies, Sunday, March 24 at 3 pm. at ABC.

**MCC:** Germinating Conversations: Sustainable Food Production – How do we do that?! Hosted by MCC, CMU, and A Rocha, join us to hear from soil scientist Dr. Mario Tenuta, with local farmers on soil, fertilizer, greenhouse gases and climate change. Come to CMU's Great Hall on Fri, Apr 5 at 7:00pm. Stay for cookies and conversation after the presentations. To learn more, check out the MCC website.

**Indigenous Relations:** In Sept 2023, the regional church leaders within Mennonite Church Canada, joined the voices of our siblings in Christ calling for justice for Morgan Harris and Mercedes Myran and for an end to the violence against Indigenous women, children, and Two-Spirit people. The Harris and Myran families continue to call all levels of government to search the landfill (<https://searchthelandfill.com/>). On March 29, a virtual 'prayer as action' hour will be held with updates on how to support Camp Morgan and hold MMIWG families in the Light. Register to attend (<https://tinyurl.com/yux9e98k>).

**Free Gospel concert and hymn sing** with Shane and Angela Wiebe. SPMB April 12, 7 pm. Proceeds go to help children of Latin America.

**Recovery of Hope** "Ready to Grow: Providing Support for Thriving Development", with 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! Apr 3, 2024, at 7 pm, at Winkler Central Station, 545 Industrial Drive. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at [www.eventbrite.ca/ready-to-grow](http://www.eventbrite.ca/ready-to-grow) or call 204-477-3673.

### **Mennonite Church Manitoba Weekly Congregational Profile:**

Altona Mennonite Church gathers weekly for robust worship, and they are fortunate to have several artists and musicians that enhance this tradition. From meditative prayer services to the more traditional, they like to experiment, be creative, and use all their senses. Last fall they began a worship series called "Stories that Shape Us," using the new Peace Table storybook Bible to shape their services to promote faith formation for all ages. They have since moved through much of Genesis and Exodus, and they have had a lot of fun revisiting "classic Sunday school stories" in ways that are both playful and seriously theologically engaging. They invite our prayers as they continue to learn and grow together in faith through worship each Sunday, and that they may be challenged to see how they might attend to the needs of those in their community.