

-BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA-

Sunday, March 30, 2025, 10:30 am

Lent 4 Christ Collides with our Selfishness

For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Luke 14:11

Gathering

Announcements

Hymn God is Here Among us VT 62

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn God of Grace and God of Glory VT 716

Offering Have Thine Own Way HWB 504

Engaging God's Word

Children's Story

Confession and Words of Assurance

Scripture Luke 16:19-31

Sermon Living in the Great Reversal

Hymn Take My Life, and Let It Be VT 759

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: Melissa Tiessen-Dyck

Music: Glenys Voth **Children's Story:** Josh Neufeld

We are in the midst of our Lent series. The theme is **Christ Collides**

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

March 16 Lent 2 Luke 13:1-9, 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 18 Good Friday, 10:30 am, Communion and Foot Washing

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

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 cling to what we have and trust in material things, ignoring the needs of those around us.**

All: *We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to your love. Help us loosen our grip on what we have and challenge the selfishness of our society with open hands so we may better share your peace in your world, rejoicing in your name. Amen.*

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Larry Tryon- March 30, Penny Wahl- March 30, Ed Doell- March 31,

Stephanie Friesen- March 31, Maida Richert- March 31,

Rick Neufeld- April 1, Clara Kehler- April 3,

Andrew Richert- April 3, Lori Driedger- April 5

- PRAYER AND PRAISE -

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

During this time of political uncertainty with significant tension across the Canada-US border, Mennonite Church Canada leaders have been connecting with their colleagues in MC USA. Expressions of mutual support and calls for prayer have been extended in both directions. Let's remember our sibling congregations in MC USA in prayer as they discern how best to follow Jesus faithfully in these challenging times.

Pastor Mark will be on vacation from March 31 to April 7. **Pastor Terrell** is taking the weekend off. He will be back in the office on Wednesday April 2. **Pastor Virginia** is on vacation and will return April 2.

The church office will be closed on April 2. Tuesday coffee is cancelled this week.

If you are reading the New Testament during Lent and are interested in participating in our conversations, please talk to Mark TD.

Church Membership: We are preparing to receive new members during a worship service later this spring. If you are part of our church community and desire to become members, please talk to one of the pastors.

You are invited to volunteer alongside Mark and Terrell and their families at Camp Koinonia from August 4-8. Volunteer positions still needed: 3 maintenance workers and one health officer.

- THIS WEEK AT ABC -

Sat., Mar. 29, 9:30 am. Bible reading group discussion at Hilda Franz's

Sun. Mar. 30, 9:15-10:15 am: Sunday school for all ages.

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

Wed. April 2, 1-3:30 pm: Combined Youth. Spring Break drop in at the youth building. Games, movies, a Tim Hortons run, mario party, or whatever you want!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Join MCC for Germinating Conversations on Sat, April 12 at CMU. Students will be sharing their reflections on just and sustainable food systems from both rural and urban perspectives. Refreshments provided. arocho.ca/event/germinating-conversations-winnipeg-mb

Altona Hospital is looking for volunteers to help with improving quality of life for our patients. Activities include helping with meals, puzzling, visiting, crafting, gardening, music and walks. If you would be interested in serving in this way, please contact Sabrina Downing at the hospital, 204-324-6411 for further information.

Pray for our Congregations - Covenant Mennonite Church: a small congregation in the centre of Winkler. We love to gather weekly for study, worship, potluck and mutual support, and to welcome others to join us. Pray that we may continually distil the essence of the Gospel and bear faithful and hope-filled witness in our community and beyond.

FROM THE PASTOR – Mark Tiessen-Dyck

When the idea of doing foot washing was presented, I was convinced that it could be a profound experience for our church. Our music and worship committee, together with Virginia, are planning a Good Friday service that will include communion and foot washing. I have participated in foot washing in the past and witnessed its significance as a sign of our commitment to serve each other as Christ served us. Even though foot washing is not part of our tradition as it is in some churches, in recent years we have been enriched as a community when we've tried new things and stretched ourselves. The Holy Spirit has guided us to growth.

While we will have hand washing as an alternative (particularly for people who may face some physical challenges with removing footwear, kneeling etc...), I encourage everyone who is able to prepare yourself to participate in foot washing. This could mean overcoming worry about how our feet look, our fear of vulnerability, or overcoming the 'ick' factor. All ages will be invited to participate. You are welcome to talk to one of the pastors if you have questions.

It's impossible to overstate how astonishing and confounding it was when Jesus took a towel, knelt, and washed his disciple's feet (John 13). This was the job of a servant or slave. Recognizing this, Peter protested, "No. You will never wash my feet!" He then misconstrued what Jesus was doing as an act of purification not an act of loving service; "Lord, not only my feet but also my hands and my head!"

Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't have a place with me," and, "I have given you an example: Just as I have done you also must do."

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

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