

-BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA-

Sunday, May 17, 2026, 10:30 am

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."

Announcements

Gathering and Praise

Hymn We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer VT 34

Call to Worship and Prayer

Hymn Jesus Christ Is Waiting VT 287

Offering O Carpenter, Why Leave the Bench VT 280

Hearing God's Story

Children's story

Scripture Mark 1:1-8, 21-28, 40-45

Sermon The Urgent Gospel of the Suffering Messiah

Living in Faith

Hymn I Have Decided to Follow Jesus VT 443

Prayer for the Church and the World

Benediction

Hymn Come, Gracious Spirit VT 371

Sermon: Mark Tiessen-Dyck **Worship Leading:** Rose Tryon

Children's Story: Heidi and Natalie Toews

Music: Glenys Voth & Lorraine Hamm

Worship Calendar:

May 17: Introduction to Mark and how to read a Gospel. Speaker: Mark.

May 24: The Identity and Authority of Jesus. (Our worship will include Communion as a Pentecost Celebration). Speaker: Terrell.

May 31: The Secret Kingdom of God (teachings and parables).
Speaker: Mark.

June 7: The Victorious Kingdom of God (exorcisms and healings).
Speaker: Mark.

June 14. Church Picnic. Worship led by the Youth Sunday school class.

June 21. The Upside-Down Kingdom of God and the Way of the Cross.
Speaker: Terrell.

June 28. Resurrection and Fear: What's the deal with the ending of Mark? Speaker: Mark.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PRAYER AND PRAISE -

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

Rudy Martens- May 17, Henry Peters- May 20

Hospitalized: Hugo Voth at the Health Science Centre. Alfred Klippenstein is at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

Milly Klassen from our congregation passed away on Wednesday, May 13. The funeral for Milly will be on Tuesday, May 19, 2 pm at ABC. We are invited to join in gratitude for Milly's life and to pray for her family.

International Witness: Gordon Zerbe and Wendy Kroeker have been serving in Yogyakarta, Indonesia for a semester of teaching, collaborating, learning, and sharing life with professor colleagues, students and groups from Mennonite churches and communities in the area. They have been doing training on biblical peacebuilding and learning from Indonesian Mennonites involved in Muslim-Christian dialogue with their neighbours. Mennonite Church Canada is grateful for opportunities to build relationships and share resources with Global Companions through providing resource workers as requested. Help support by contributing toward their expenses:
<https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/resource-workers>

- THIS WEEK AT ABC -

Sun. May 17, 10:30 am: Worship service.

Wed. May 20, 7-8:30 pm: Junior Youth

Sat. May 23, 7-9 pm: Senior Youth - We are attending the Theatre of the Beat production at TCE. See you there!

Pastor Terrell is off this weekend.

There will not be Tuesday coffee with the Church staff this Tuesday.

Camper sponsorship money is available for upcoming campers this summer. Forms are available through the office. Please provide proof of registration. Deadline June 1.

MCC Theatre of the Beat present the show "Invisible Threads" on Sat. May 23, 7 pm at the Exchange. *Before Invisible Threads:* Theatre of the Beat is hosting a FREE pre-show event called: "Clothing Swap, DIY Mending & UpCycling." Bring some clothing for swapping, or mending, and make your own custom "TOTB Merch" by adding embroidery, patches, or hand-carved linocut prints. This event is Bring Your Own Clothes - and Theatre of the Beat will provide the rest.

A Meal Train has been set up for Wayne and Mary Anne Loeppky to support them during Wayne's recovery following a recent surgery on his leg. Use the link below to sign up, or if you need assistance please call Ang at the church office. <https://mealtrain.com/ded794>.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Blood Donor Clinic taking place at the Pioneer Centre on Thurs, May 28 from 1-7 pm. Contact blood.ca or call 1-888-236-6283.

Welcome to the Banquet. Africa Worships Fundraising Evening - Celebrating our connection to Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission with guest speaker John Fumana, Director from Congo. Fundraiser with catered African traditional meal, music, and story telling. \$25. May 23, First Mennonite Church, Winnipeg. AIMM is a Mennonite Church Canada Mission partner. More info and tickets at mennochurch.mb.ca/aimmfundraiser

MCM: 55+ Day Away at Camp Assiniboia. June 29. 9 am-3 pm. Enjoy lunch and a day of walking, fireplace conversations, music, games and more. \$20. Call Elisabeth at 204-895-2267 by March 23 noon to reserve a spot.

Swing into action in support of MCC relief projects! Join us for MCC Manitoba's Golf Tournament on Wednesday, July 8 at Bridges Golf Course. Experience our Texas Scramble tournament featuring on-course challenges, complemented by a delicious BBQ lunch and Mennonite-style supper. Visit mcc.org/Manitoba/Golf to learn more and secure your spot today!

Winkler Bible Camp: Family fun day June 6 and 7 from 12 noon- 6 pm. Visit winklerbiblecamp.com/events for more information.

FROM THE PASTOR – Mark Tiessen-Dyck

Over 6 Sundays in May and June, we'll be studying Jesus through the Gospel of Mark. The writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, later called "gospels", are each a unique portrait of Jesus and an account of why he matters. While each gospel contributes to our understanding of Jesus, it is valuable to also immerse ourselves in one gospel, in this case Mark, to understand what is unique and important about Mark's portrait of Jesus specifically.

I encourage you to read Mark on your own over the coming weeks. Perhaps there are things you will notice for the first time or new questions that arise. You could be in touch with Terrell or myself and we'll try to respond to your questions in our sermons.

Some threads or themes you might notice in Mark are:

- **Secrecy.** Jesus refers to the "secret" of the Kingdom of God and often tells people (and demons) not to spread the news or disclose his identity.
- **Misunderstanding.** Even the disciples consistently have trouble understanding Jesus or his identity. Only the evil spirits and a gentile centurion witnessing the crucifixion understand Jesus' identity.
- **The Cross.** Jesus' suffering on the cross—and the implications for discipleship and the Kingdom of God—loom large over the entire text.
- **Response.** From Jesus' initial entrance where he calls for repentance to the peculiar ending of fear, the story Mark weaves always begs us to learn, understand, and respond.

This sermon series will include some academic material as background information. For some people this is useful knowledge and for others unhelpful distraction; I hope we get the balance right. We will also include teaching and reflections on some important moments in the Gospel of Mark. Yet even for the shortest Gospel, it will be impossible to cover everything.

The goal of this sermon series is to grow our capacity to read and understand scripture and thus become more engaged followers of Jesus. After all, the most important theme for Mark is... who is Jesus?

Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Altona 117-2nd St NW/R0G 0B1

Web Page Address: abchurchcommunity.ca **Office:** 324.6717

E-mail: office@abchurch.ca **Facebook:** ABC community

Worship Services available online at: abchurchcommunity.ca

Lead Pastor: Mark Tiessen-Dyck: 324.5990, C 1.204.771.3406, marktd@abchurch.ca

Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries: Terrell Wiebe C 204.417.8200,

terrellw@abchurch.ca