

-BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH of ALTONA-

Sunday, May 4, 2025, 10:30 am

We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn't hope. Who hopes for what they already see? But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience. Romans 8:24-25

Announcements

Praising God

Hymn Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee VT 103

Call to worship and Prayer

Hymn View the Present VT 407

Prayer for our offerings

Kids Coins (instrumental)

Hearing God's story

Children's story

Scripture Psalm 126 and Romans 8:18-25

Sermon Joy as Resilience – Living as Those Who Dream

O Lord, Hear my Prayer VT 685

Nothing is Lost on the Breath of God VT 653

There's a Wild Hope in the Wind VT 828

In Thee is Gladness VT 666

Living in Hope

ABC Conversation with Paul Peters

Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Hymn You Shall Go Out With Joy VT 847

Worship Leading: Virginia Gerbrandt Richert **Children's Story:** Kristin Falk

*This morning we welcome Cheryl Pauls, president of CMU,
as our guest speaker and pianist.*

Next Sunday we will begin a sermon series called *Why the Old Testament Matters*. This series will address questions and misconceptions we have about the Old Testament, explore important themes in the Old Testament, and rediscover how the Old Testament shapes our faith and life as Christians.

May 11: **Reading Scripture as God's Story.** Speaker: Mark

May 18: **Creation.** Speaker: Virginia

May 25: **Fall.** Speaker: Mark

June 1: **Exodus.** Speaker: Virginia

June 8: Church Picnic, Pentecost, Communion

June 15: **God Calls a People.** Speaker: Terrell

June 22: **The Old Testament and Jesus.** Speaker: Mark

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PRAYER AND PRAISE -

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

Ben Rempel- May 5, Wilf Hiebert- May 7, Jake Sawatzky- May 7,
Anne Enns- May 8, Nick Rempel- May 8

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

Congratulations to Rick and Carol Neueld on the birth of their granddaughter, Sophia Rose Neufeld to parents Craig and Courtney Neufeld of Winnipeg.

- THIS WEEK AT ABC -

Sun. May 4, 9:15 am: Sunday school for all ages

Sun. May 4, 10:30 am: Worship service.

Sun. May 4, 12 noon: Youth fundraiser at AMC

Tue. May 6 10:30 am: Coffee with the Church staff

Tue. May 6, 7 pm: Wedding shower in the Church basement

Wed. May 7, 7-9 pm: Combined Youth. We will be collecting goods around town for the food bank and spending the rest of the evening at YFC.

After our service today there will be a farmer sausage and baked potato buffet fundraiser lunch at the Altona Mennonite Church in support of our Matheson Island camp and work weekend. We encourage all ABC folks to make their way to the AMC basement after our service for the meal. We hope you will join us!

A Spiritual Advisory Committee (SPA) update: SPA is a group that acts as a sounding board for pastors to help give input into the spiritual life of our congregation. Tom Braun and Hilda Franz completed their time after six years of being part of the committee. Irene Kehler, Byron Loepky, and Amanda Wiens will continue and be joined by two new members: Jason Driedger and Rose Tryon. This group plays an important role in our church and we are grateful to God for those who have served and will be serving in this role.

Tuesday, May 6, 7pm - Church Wedding Shower. As an alternative to bringing a gift there will be a "Box of Blessing" in the church office and at the shower for people to contribute money as a gift to the couples.

It is with joyous hearts that the Personnel commission is requesting Terrell Wiebe's Ordination in the Mennonite Church Manitoba Conference. Terrell has completed his "licensing towards ordination" with the conference and we are preparing the next stage in the Ordination process. Throughout his time in ministry, Terrell has demonstrated his love of God, his devotion to biblical teaching and his duty to our church and our youth in particular. We have walked with Terrell in his ministry journey here at ABC and affirm his wish to become ordained in the Mennonite Church.

If you are using a space in the church building for a meeting or event, please reserve your space and time with Ang at the office. Thank you!

Rhineland Area Food Bank: Spring Food Drive Wed. May 7, 7-9 pm. Please leave donations on front doorstep.

Top needs: (Please check expiry dates)

Peanut butter	Pasta, mac & cheese, or
Beans in tomato sauce	Mr. Noodle
Canned soup (chicken noodle, tomato or vegetable)	Non-sugar cereal, oatmeal
Canned vegetables	Juice (powder)
Canned fruit	Rice (small bags)
Canned meat or fish	

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

May 5 is Red Dress Day. Considering the ongoing Calls for Justice, MC Canada congregations are invited to pray for the safety and care of Indigenous women and girls.

MCI: May 9, 6:00 pm – fundraiser dinner by pre-reservation only. \$30 a plate or reserve a table for 8 for \$240. **May 9, 7:30 pm** – Steve Bell for MCI's Spring Fundraiser! Join us in Buhler Hall, Gretna. **May 16th** – Experience a Day in the Life of an MCI student! Contact the school to register by May 13.

Pray for our congregations - Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite Church: that our church would reflect God's love in our community, and be a place of refuge, comfort, and fellowship for those who are in need.; that this would be a place of transformation and healing.

FROM THE PASTOR – Terrell Wiebe

Last Sunday it was announced by the personnel committee that I will start the ordination process through Mennonite Church Manitoba. This actually begins step two in the process. Step one began two years ago when you chose not only to welcome me as a pastor at ABC but also to license me towards ordination. That began a period of "testing the waters" of ministry.

Shortly after my installation I met with the Ministerial Leadership Committee of MCM who offered several affirmations of my ministry and some recommendations for me to strengthen my ministry during this time. One recommendation involved giving special attention to develop a spiritual maturity that will aid people engaging in topics that divide us. Another recommendation was to receive training in how to create safe places for youth being marginalized in the community. I have spent time following those recommendations and am pleased to now have completed that step. The next step will involve in depth reflection, interviews and some homework as I work towards becoming officially ordained.

A Mennonite Polity for Ministerial Leadership says "Ordination is an act of the church which calls and appoints an individual to ongoing leadership ministry in the life of the church... By ordaining an individual to ministry, the church declares them caretakers of the gospel and shepherds of God's people. It is a sacred task; ordination is public confirmation of a minister's call to a lifetime of such service to the church."

A pastor I spoke with recently said he thought of ordination as "baptism for pastors". I had never thought of it that way before, but I think it fits. There is a baptismal sense of commitment on my part as well as a baptismal understanding of the community calling me into these waters. I appreciate the call from this congregation and the lessons in how to swim. 😊

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

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