

# The Osler Mennonite Church

## May 2024 Newsletter



### Our Statement of Purpose

The purpose of Osler Mennonite Church is to be a supportive community in which people can meet God through worship and fellowship.

We seek to teach  
an Anabaptist understanding of scripture,  
led by the Spirit to imitate Christ in word and deed.

We strive to nurture faith and discipleship,  
committing ourselves individually and corporately  
to respond to the needs of others.

*We gather on Treaty Six Lands, Nehiyaw Territory,  
and the Homeland of the Métis*

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A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE  
Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation

## **Pastor Patty's Ponderings** on Pentecost

Taken from the May 19 from Leader Magazine, Spring 2024 by Lois Siemens and Patty Friesen

Ten women in five canoes headed out on the Churchill River system in Saskatchewan towards a cabin in the woods. Lois Siemens and I were part of that journey. We crossed five lakes and paddled around sixteen kilometers that day. All the forests on all the lakes were burnt from the fires of 2015-2021. The beautiful purple fireweed drew our attention along with the small bushes and baby trees growing through the soot. However, the accumulated fires from every province in Canada together with the burnt stumps everywhere we looked, felt devastating. No birdsong or the telltale rustling in the bushes of small animals greeted us. Only silence, the sound of our paddles in the water and our conversation were carried on the wind. The fire destroyed disease, dead wood, opened the forest canopy, and burst seed cones to renew the forest.

In Pentecost, we are exploring how the fire of the Holy Spirit strengthened the disciples in order to burst open their potential. The Holy Spirit turned them from a group of individuals into a community; from passive to active; from fear to freedom. The Spirit strengthens the foundations of our lives. It cleans up diseased areas, bursts open hard to crack hearts, and unblocks the way for wind, sun and rain to renew the face of our ground so we can be transformed into fearless witnesses, the body of Christ and a renewed earth.

Pentecost Season takes us through the summer. In worship we hope to tie the Season of the Spirit together with Spirit songs and stories. I hope to lead a sermon series on Life Worth Living based on a Yale freshman theology course and book by that title exploring work, call, health, wealth, marriage, parenting, happiness and unhappiness.

In one year from now, May 2025, Anabaptist communities around the world will have an opportunity to commemorate Anabaptism's 500 years of existence. There is much to ponder about commemorating, given the evolving nature of the tradition and its geographical reach. The

Anabaptist movement began in Europe but eventually also found footing in the Americas and the Global South. Like many religious traditions, Anabaptism cannot easily be defined by clearly marked boundaries and characteristics. Over the centuries, the tradition has become more like a multi-colored tapestry shaped by fluid and overlapping religious cultures. Commemorating will mean different things to different people, and these “moments of memory activation” are an occasion for us to consider what narratives are worth telling. (*Vision 2024*)

We are beginning to recognize our 500th anniversary already with occasional sermon series on Anabaptism and Sunday school Forums on Anabaptist history like Conform: Mennonites and the Mexican Migration film on Sun. May 12, 11:00. We have a rich history that we can be proud of despite its’ quirkiness and a global identity that we can continue to explore in our local spiritual context. **By the Water**, is a graphic novel about Felix Manz that the youth hope to study this next year. MC Canada is sending young adults to Zurich, Switzerland next May for anniversary celebrations. Stay tuned for other opportunities to learn and grow.

### **Pastor Patty’s Picks**

**Haven** by *Emma Donoghue* explores the founding of a monastery on Skellig Michael. Who knew monks could be so fascinating?

## **CALENDAR**

- Sun. May 5** 10:00 am **Luke Bushman speaking**  
11:00 am Deacon mtg
- Tues. May 7 6:00 pm Executive mtg  
7:30 pm Council mtg
- Sun. May 12** 10:00 am **Patty Friesen** *Developing Strategic Partners*  
11:00 SS Forum Film: Conform: Mennonites and the Mexican Migration
- Sun. May 19** 10:00 am **Henry Funk speaking** *Pentecost/Communion*
- Sun. May 26** 10:00 am **Jake Buhler speaking**

## Luke's Little Life Lessons

I have been thinking a lot about love lately. Which is a very nice thing to think about in the midst of the world we live in. On Maundy Thursday, I shared a devotional called *The Two Grievs: Being Apart and Being Together*, and talked about how loving someone is painful when we are with them, as we all make mistakes, and when we are apart, because we are finite beings. I think that is what got me thinking about love. There are a lot of people I love, in a lot of different ways. These are two that have been on my mind this month more than others.

First, I love my wife, Becca. She is kind, funny, and passionate. Becca has a way with words, and her encouragement of others always seems to be about the very things they feel insecure about. She refuses to sweep feelings under the rug, and knows how to sit in the good and bad emotions better than anyone. She knows how to make me laugh (a hard task since I am so serious). I think we spend most of our days off together laughing. Becca is also passionate about whatever she is doing. She can be more tired than anyone on earth, and still care more about what is going on around her than most.

Second, I love my nieces and nephews. I have a lot of nieces and nephews (7 now to be exact), and lately I have been spending a lot of time with the two who live nearby. I think the most amazing thing is how we are individuals right from the start of our lives. My niece and nephew have identical upbringings (same parents, same house, same crazy uncle) and yet they have such unique personalities. They constantly make me laugh, and few things make me smile more than hearing their little steps racing over to greet me at the door. I love the way they say "Uncle Luke", and I think they are already amazing people who bring a lot of love into the world at such a young age.

The world often makes me sad, and there is often not a lot of love going around. I think that while we need to face the harsh realities of life, we also need to take care and encourage. Therefore, if you get the chance, tell someone about the things you love. And why you love them. If you don't know who to tell, email me! Spreading love by talking about it is important, and might brighten things during difficult times.

**Album Recommendation:** For May, I recommend listening to **For That Beautiful Feeling** by *The Chemical Brothers*. They are typically known for their abrasive, experimental style of breakbeat music. On this album they fuse fuzzy synthesizers with heartfelt vocals about love and joy. Two standout songs are *Goodbye* and *Skipping Like a Stone*.

### **Youth Schedule Saturday**

April 27th 7-9pm. Youth at OMC Friday

May 3rd 7pm. Pirate Murder Mystery Friday

May 10th 7-9pm. Photo Scavenger Hunt Starting at OMC

May 17th-19th Shekinah Youth Retreat

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Join the Walking Club** – 9:00 am starting from church and walking for an hour. Coffee/water is served at 10:00 am.

**John Gascho** has a display of various cards on the back table that are available for purchase at \$3.00 each. The proceeds will be to assist a local student attending RJC this coming fall. Other assistance and monthly direct deposits welcome to local student's account at RJC. This assistance is not tax receiptable. For more information talk to John.

## **MDS NEWS**

Hi Church,

I could feel things building in January. Canadian response plans were starting to take shape and by February I had a clearer picture of the response season ahead for 2024 — Lytton, B.C., Shuswap, B.C., and Fraser Lake Family Project in Ontario.

I made a spreadsheet for leadership volunteers. It was full of empty spaces, and I wondered how all the spots would fill. Yes, I knew some volunteers were available but finding opportunities that fit volunteer availability isn't always easy, and I knew we would need a lot of volunteers.

The conversations began. The calls started. The emails and texts went back and forth. Some of those conversations are still continuing!

In the thick of the planning season, there are times when I feel overwhelmed, partly because of the number of volunteers I am communicating with and the many details I'm tracking. But mostly I find it overwhelmingly amazing that this frenzied willingness to serve is all about sharing God's love. It's about people expressing their faith through an eagerness to serve with MDS, restoring hope to those recovering from disasters.

It reminds me of Ephesians 3:17-19, "And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (NRSV)

May God bless each of you who will serve this summer, and those of you who are not able to serve, and may God make you a blessing as you share the unmeasurable love of Christ wherever you are and with whomever you meet.

There are still a few crew leader opportunities in Shuswap and Fraser Lake Family Project, and cook opportunities in Lytton and Fraser Lake Family Project. If you are interested in serving as a weekly volunteer at the Fraser Lake Family Project (all ages welcome), there are openings there too. Please let us know if you are available!

With gratitude,

**Rose Klassen**

Volunteer Manager, MDS Canada

# LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR MAY

## **Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 5, 2024**

- Acts 10:44-48
- Psalm 98
- 1 John 5:1-6
- John 15:9-17

## **Ascension of the Lord - May 9, 2024**

- Acts 1:1-11
- Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
- Ephesians 1:15-23
- Luke 24:44-53

## **Seventh Sunday of Easter - May 12, 2024**

- Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
- Psalm 1
- 1 John 5:9-13
- John 17:6-19

## **Day of Pentecost - May 19, 2024**

- Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14
- Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
- Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21
- John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

## **Trinity Sunday - May 26, 2024**

- Isaiah 6:1-8 and Psalm 29
- Romans 8:12-17
- John 3:1-17

## **Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth - May 31, 2024**

- 1 Samuel 2:1-10 and Psalm 113
- Romans 12:9-16b
- Luke 1:39-57

## **Proper 4 (9) - June 2, 2024**

- 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) and Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
- Deuteronomy 5:12-15 and Psalm 81:1-10
- 2 Corinthians 4:5-12
- Mark 2:23-3:6

## May Birthdates

2 – Brady Buhler  
4 – Sandra Grismer  
8 – Sarah Buhler  
11 - Louise Buhler  
11 – Dave Feick  
15 – Alex Tiessen  
15 – Carl Martens-Funk  
18 – Susan Braun  
18 – Kathryn Janzen  
21 – Henry Funk

## Community Events

### Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan

Present an Evening of Celebrating our History

#### May 9, 2024 @ Community Hall in Osler

5:30 pm Reception                      6:00 pm Supper                      Cost \$25.00

**Keynote Speaker:** Conrad Stoesz , Archivist at the Mennonite Heritage Archives in Winnipeg

**Presents: 150 years in Western Canada – so what?**

There will be a *Live and Silent Auction*. Funds raised from the auction as well as donations will go towards a legacy fund to support the MHSS in their import work in preserving our history.

#### **Featured Auction Items:**

-Russian Mennonite Made Clock

-Gordie Howe, Detroit Red Wings signed jersey

Absentee bids will be accepted.

For tickets and more information contact Dick Braun 306-230-1071

Or by email at [dkbraun4@yahoo.com](mailto:dkbraun4@yahoo.com)