

# The Osler Mennonite Church

## May 2026 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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Volume XIX Fourth Edition

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

## From Brad's Desk:

For this month's newsletter entry, I wanted to give an update on the OMC library as well as highlight some of the new books that we have added recently. Naomi, Julie, Steph, and I have been working towards adding some more shelf space and moving to a digital catalogue that will allow people to search for books by title, author, or topic. We are just finalizing the steps to roll this out and will have some learning sessions for everyone once it is all set up. Part of this process has also included going through each of the books to determine what is of interest to people, what is not, and if some books could be donated or given to congregants to allow room for new books as they come in. Rest assured that if a book is taken out of circulation it will be made available to anyone who may want it.

Speaking of new books coming in, here are a few titles that we have added recently:

- **Life after Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart.** *By Brian McLaren*
  - o Brian McLaren “engages with the catastrophic failure of both our religious and political leaders to address the dominant realities of our time: ecological overshoot, economic injustice, and the increasing likelihood of civilizational collapse....[he] explores the complexity of hope, the necessity of grief, and the need for new ways of thinking, becoming, and belonging in turbulent times.”
- **Displaced in Gaza: Stories from the Gaza Genocide.** *Various authors.*
  - o “A powerful collection of testimonies from Palestinians in Gaza facing genocide and displacement with hope and resistance. Displaced in Gaza upholds the long-standing Palestinian tradition of story-telling, documenting both the horror of the war and the resilience of the Palestinian people. These stories are not merely accounts of suffering. They are assertions of humanity, resistance, hope, and the unbreakable bond between Palestinians and their homeland.”

- **Sacred Parenting: Spiritual Practices for the Highs and Lows of Parenting.** By *Aizaiah G. Yong and Nereyda Yong*.

- o “In parenting, we are invited to discern how to live in right relationship with our kids, parenting partners, and communities as well as ourselves. Parenting is part of living our God’s shalom. Authors and life partners Aizaiah G. Yong and Nereyda Yong contend that social healing and world peace start at home. As the parents of four young children in an interracial and intercultural family, they offer stories and spiritual practices for the inner and communal lives of parents in a beautifully diverse world. Sacred Parenthood invites readers into creative spiritual expression in everyday family life.”

- **Universal: Renewing Human Rights in a Fractured World.** By *Alex Neve*

- o “At a time of immense global challenges, including the climate crisis, mass atrocities, and the rise of hate, the promise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is deeply contested and frayed, even as people demand and embrace their rights as never before. This is not universality’s finest hour. But it could be. Weaving together law, history, and stories from decades on the front lines of the struggle for human rights, Alex Neve investigates where we went wrong, how we have progressed, and what we can do to fulfill the promise that human rights are inherent, inalienable, and applicable to all people.”

We have also begun adding some large print books including:

- **Two Roads Home: Hitler, Stalin and the Miraculous Survival of my Family:** By *Daniel Finkelstein*.

- o The author tells the story of his family (grandparents, parents) who lived through the atrocities inflicted by Hitler and Stalin. “Two Roads Home is a page-turning account of the narrow escapes, forged passports, ingenuity, bravery, and luck that allowed Mirjam and Ludwick to survive the war and find each other. Using their personal testimony, letters sent to Siberia, a diary written in Belsen, and years of historical research, Danial Finkelstein tells what happened to two families, one the victim of the Nazis, the other of the Soviets.”

## Luke's Little Life Lessons....

I spend far too much time on the internet. It is unfortunate, but I have a hard time looking away from the happenings of the world. More accurately, I have a hard time not being curious about how various Christians perceive the happenings of the world. Frankly, it often feels like we are talking about two different versions of God. Even the use of terms like “justice” seems to be entirely separate. Many folks use the term justice, largely in relation to why anyone non-believing actually deserves to go to hell. The justice of God is about banishing non-believers and sinners. When I think of justice, I think about God as the liberator, the one who sets the captives free, the one who instigated the Exodus. For many, the holiness and divinity of God produces sentiments of humans being separate and lowly compared to an almighty creator. For me the holiness of God lies in the eternal love they show for all people. What makes me sit in awe of Jesus, is the way he draws nearer and nearer to humanity, constantly loving unconditionally, and irrationally. I cannot fault these different perspectives on God. I can't even discredit them, or debate them. I think all of these things are an element of the God we follow. I find it very interesting that as humans, we focus on different aspects of God. I think sometimes our focus shifts even within our own journeys.

I remember a sharing time when I worked at camp. A fellow staff member shared how during a hardship, full of tears, they felt that Jesus was sitting right next to them, crying with them. What a beautiful image. Reflecting on this after, a friend of mine wondered “Wouldn't you want Jesus to be fighting the bad things, like a warrior, instead of sitting with you and crying?”. We focus on different aspects of the same saviour. While in hardship, I too think of Jesus crying next to me, I wonder if someone facing immense injustice and marginalization would focus on Jesus fighting for their liberation. I wonder if we would get along with other followers, if we were able to accept that we all focus on different truths, based on our situations.

**Album Recommendation:** I recommend “Lux” by Rosalia. I can't vouch for the lyrical content, (it is all in Spanish), but combining religious/choral elements this album is beautiful and her voice almost brings me to tears.

# SENATE OF CANADA

Little ‘Sound Bites’ from their post...

## COMMITTEE REPORT

### **Omnibus Budget Bills: A growing problem**

Sneaking unrelated laws into budget bills has become a long-standing practice in the House of Commons. A committee is urging senators to start pushing back.

### **Build Canada Homes needs strong foundation**

The federal government must provide the new operating agency with the right tools to maximize its impact on housing affordability.

### **Rewiring Canada’s approach to copper thefts**

Copper thefts can cause major service outages, sometimes leaving communities cut off from emergency services. Is it time to impose harsher penalties?

## FACT-FINDING MISSION

### **Newfoundland and Labrador’s thriving offshore energy sector**

The Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources undertook a fact-finding mission to the Rock to learn more about the offshore oil industry.

### **A taste of food security challenges and solutions**

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry met with stakeholders across the food supply chain in Toronto and Southwestern Ontario to better understand the state of food security — and insecurity — in Canada.

## SENATORS

### **MEET SENATOR LOFFREDA**

‘A huge honour, but a huge responsibility’

In this multimedia SenCAplus article, Senator Tony Loffreda talks about his Senate work, his experience as an executive banker, his passion for community sports, and the childhood values he still applies in the Upper Chamber today.

## **SENATOR SMITH RETIRES**

‘Like being a rookie on a football team’

Former Montreal Alouettes player and Senator Larry W. Smith looks back on a career that spans the football field and the Red Chamber.

### **Career Opportunities**

The Senate is looking for talented, enterprising and energetic people who want to build a rewarding career working for Canadians.

*For the complete stories go to the official Senate of Canada website*



# **MCC Peace & Justice Newsletter**

## **What we're working on**

Hi friends, it's Mackenzie here, the Peace & Justice Office's domestic advocacy and networking specialist. Last week, Samantha (my internationally focused counterpart) and I had the privilege of attending the National Prayer Breakfast.

We found it to be an interesting and worthwhile experience, but also a bit surprising at times. I found myself wrestling with the nationalistic undertones of the event, and at the same time, I was encouraged by the unity and sincere faith shown by so many elected leaders. Despite some unexpected moments — like a painting showing Jesus sewing a Canadian flag — I know that God was working to change the hearts and minds of the people in that room.

One thing that will stay with me is the message of the event: that whether you are an MP, a church leader or simply a follower of Christ, you are not alone. We are surrounded by a great family of believers and a God who is there with us every step of the way. The leaders attending that breakfast are people in need of community, guidance and prayer, just like any of us.

## **Advocacy action of the month**

### **Work for peace by limiting Canadian weapons exports**

Bill C233, the No More Loopholes Act, was voted down last month.

However, it gained a lot of momentum and started some good conversations about Canada's role in the global weapons trade.

Despite C233's defeat, we've heard that there is interest in legislation on Canada's weapons exports. To continue pressuring our government to hold Canadian companies accountable, we have created a new advocacy letter.

## MDS CANADA

### *Saskatchewan couple catches the MDS “bug”*

Gord and Marianne Siemens of Saskatoon have caught a “bug”—the Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) bug.

The “bug” has taken them across Canada, from B.C. to Nova Scotia, and to places like Texas and Florida, since 2018.

“The first time was just to see what MDS was like,” said Marianne. After that, they just kept volunteering.

Since that first MDS service trip, the couple, who are members of Mount Royal Mennonite Church, have done MDS multiple times, including most recently at Barrington, Nova Scotia. That’s where they were part of a project to rebuild a home damaged by a wildfire in 2023.

Prior to their first service trip, the couple had heard about MDS. But it wasn’t until a small group from their church went that they decided to give it a try themselves.

“We thought we should do this,” Gord said, adding that it was a good experience.

“We really enjoyed meeting and working with other people from different places in Canada and the U.S.,” he said.

They also liked being able to use their skills in home repair, and to learn new ones. “At MDS, if you don’t know, someone will teach you,” Marianne said.

## OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Looking back through our church history, it is note worthy that the majority of our members were farmers – namely Dairy Farmers. Actually, there were dairy herds on most farms in this community. Over the years there have been many changes and while we still have a few members that are actively farming, you won't find a dairy cow on any of them! The community has changes away from single family farms to mega dairies whose owners mostly don't have Saskatchewan roots but the Legacy of dairy is still alive and this past month, Saskatoon hosted its annual Dairy Expo.

In 2025 the Dairy Expo began to recognize their legacy farmers and Harry and Eva were in this group. This year Joe Guenther was part of that group and below is the press release from that event.

### **Western Dairy Expo Legend of the Industry**

Introducing Joe Guenther, a lifelong dairy leader whose family farm near Osler carried a proud Holstein tradition for generations under the Rhein prefix. Joe's passion for cattle, youth development, and community has made a lasting mark on Saskatchewan dairy.

As a founder of the Hub Holstein Club, a longtime supporter of dairy shows and sales, and a dedicated volunteer on numerous industry boards, Joe has played an important role in promoting and advancing the breed, His breeding accomplishments, including the renowned Rhein Broker Lee Ann Lily, are a testament to his eye for quality cattle and commitment to excellence.

Joes' impact can be seen through the people, programs, and progress he has helped build over the years.

Joe grew up 2.5 miles from Osler. There were dairy cattle on the farm from 1907- 2012 and purebred Holsteins with the Rhein prefix since 1950.

The farm achieved Century Farm status in 2007. Joe participated in 4-H from 1955 to 1964 while his children, Chad, Grant, Pam and Bryce

showed from 1982 to 1992. The Rhein Holstein herd was dispersed on June 22, 2012.

In 1975, a small group of Holstein breeders in the Sask Valley area organized the first Holstein club in Sask, the Hub Holstein Club, to promote Holstein cattle. Joe was one of the founders and was president for 8 years. The Hub Club organized 26 consecutive Holstein sales and it was accompanied by a dairy seminar for many years. In 1982, the Hub Club organized the first spring show in Saskatoon and soon after it was renamed the Canada Dairy Expo. Joe and his family exhibited at the show for 10 years and have been a sponsor of the show from 1982 to 2026.

The most famous cow that Joe bred was Rhein Broker Lee Ann Lily. VG-89 Reserve All American Sr 2 yr. old 1995. Lily was 1<sup>st</sup> Senior 2 yr. old, Best udder, and Grand Champion the 1995 North Carolina State Fair and 2<sup>nd</sup> Senior 2 year old at World Dairy Expo in Madison. Lily was originally sold at the Cada Dairy Expo sale and eventually sold in the US for \$71,000 to Elmvue Farms in New York state.

Joe was very involved in the dairy industry by volunteering on many boards. Some of these include Holstein Canada National Director 1984-1985, Saskatchewan Milk control Board 2003 to 2008, Dairy Herd Improvement 1988 to 2004 and the Saskatchewan Agricultural Equipment Appeal Board 2008 to 2012.

In retirement, Joe was on the board of directors for the Saskatoon Mennonite Care Services Inc. from 2011 to 2018 including 5 years as chairman of that committee.

## Quotes

- "Be like seeds; do not see dirt thrown at you as your enemy, but as ground to grow".
- "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." — *Martin Luther King, Jr.*
- "Sometimes you win, sometimes you learn".
- "The scariest moment is always just before you start." — *Stephen King*

## LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR MAY

### **May 03, 2026** - Fifth Sunday of Easter

- First reading: \* Acts 7:55-60
- Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
- Second reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10
- Gospel: John 14:1-14

### **May 10, 2026** - Sixth Sunday of Easter

- First reading: \* Acts 17:22-31
- Psalm: Psalm 66:8-20
- Second reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22
- Gospel: John 14:15-21

### **May 14, 2026** - Ascension of the Lord

- First reading: \* Acts 1:1-11
- Psalm: Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
- Second reading: Ephesians 1:15-23
- Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

### **May 17, 2026** - Seventh Sunday of Easter

- First reading: \* Acts 1:6-14
- Psalm: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
- Second reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
- Gospel: John 17:1-11

### **May 24, 2026** - Day of Pentecost

- First reading: \* Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30
- Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
- Second reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21
- Gospel: John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

### **May 31, 2026** - Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth

- First\* reading and Psalm: 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Psalm 113
- Alternate\* First reading and Psalm:
- Second reading: Romans 12:9-16b
- Gospel: Luke 1:39-57

**May 31, 2026 - Trinity Sunday**

- First\* reading and Psalm: Genesis 1:1-2:4a Psalm 8
- Alternate\* First reading and Psalm:
- Second reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
- Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

**Jun 07, 2026**

- First\* reading and Psalm: Genesis 12:1-9 Psalm 33:1-12
- Alternate\* First reading & Psalm: Hosea 5:15-6:6 Psalm 50:7-15
- Second reading: Romans 4:13-25
- Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

**CALENDAR**

Sat. May 2 – 7:30 pm OMC Variety Night

**Sun. May 3 - 10:00 am Brad Schroeder preaching**

Mon. May 7 - 6:00 pm Education mtg

**Sun. May 10 – 10:00 am Brad Schroeder preaching**

**Sun. May 17 – 10:00 am Lois Siemens preaching**

**Sun. May 24 – 10:00 am Heather Peters speaking** *Pentecost Sunday*

**Sun. May 31 10:00 am Luke Bushman preaching**

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

2 – Brady Buhler

8 – Sarah Buhler

11 - Louise Buhler (81)

11 – Dave Feick

15 – Alex Tiessen

15 – Carl Martens-Funk

18 – Susan Braun

18 – Kathryn Janzen

21 – Henry Funk (80)