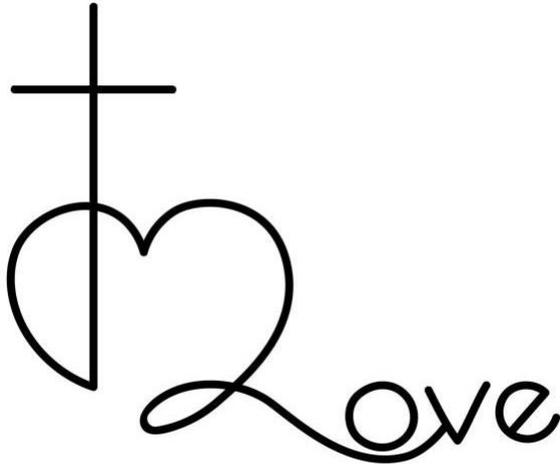


# The Osler Mennonite Church

## June 2025 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***

Osler Mennonite Church  
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Volume XVIII Sixth Edition

**A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR PEACE**

**Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation**

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

Lately I have been listening to a podcast mini-series called **All the Buried Women**. It is hosted by *The Bible for Normal People*, and comes from observations made after examining the Southern Baptist Convention's archives. Allison Beth Barr, was working on a book recalling the history of pastor's wives, and was using the SBC's archives to find material. She decided to create a series, specifically focused on these findings with Savannah Locke. While this podcast series is heavy, and delves into horrific stories of abuse, it has been important for me to listen to. It has left me thinking a lot about all the women who have been silenced by the church throughout history, and forced me to confront my own previous assumptions about the role of women in the church.

I think a lot about how much I was missing out on, when as a young man I bought into the idea that women were not called to be pastors. I was taught something, and was very stuck in it. When I was in Bible college, I was at times outspoken about this belief. The people who transformed my life were the people who still chose to treat me with love and compassion despite our differences. My friend Sol is one of the kindest people out there. He likely knew I didn't believe women should be pastors. And yet Sol invited me to come to his church, where his Mom was the lead pastor. I went, and I stayed because I loved the people. I saw what Pastor Karen how the congregation Pastor Karen was leading was a transformed community of Christ, and I realized, "I got this wrong". I am so thankful for the people who were patient with me, and who forced me to confront my biases.

I hope that no one tries to "bury" the impact of the women in my life. My mother, who models what it means to be devoted to prayer. My sister, who embodies the virtues of love and gentleness better than anyone I know. My wife, who longs to give a voice to the voiceless and

helps me to do the same. I am thankful for all the women in my life and what they have taught me. It makes me sad to think about a world where we attempt to stifle the voices of women. How much goodness will we miss out on if we continue like that?

**Album Recommendation:** Closing Time by *Tom Waits* is an album that I quite enjoy. “I Hope That I Don’t Fall in Love With You” is my favourite song on the album.

## CANADAIAN FOODGRAINS BANK

Greetings Friend!

It’s May! For our family there are many things to celebrate in May, and good work to be done to care for our backyard and garden. As we put seeds in the ground, we do so in hope of a bountiful harvest. Check out our son’s poem, A Seed, at the end of this newsletter. After many meaningful Canadian Foodgrains Bank engagement opportunities in the past weeks, Rick and I continue to pray for supporters who are planting seeds in their growing project fields and calling donors to express our gratitude for their support.

We are also looking forward to seeing many of our farm supporters at Ag in Motion in July, and we hope to find creative ways to engage with more churches, schools, and community groups in the coming months. As we reflect on the diversity of people who are cheerfully giving to the Foodgrains Bank through their time and/or resources, we are reminded that God’s Spirit is active in the lives of many people here in Saskatchewan. In anticipation of the church’s celebration of the day of Pentecost on June 8, let’s give thanks that God’s Spirit is present with us to help guide, empower, and unite our efforts to receive and show God’s love to our neighbours here in Canada and around the world.

Save the Date! Upcoming events this spring and summer

Alleviating Hunger – a Grow Hope SK presentation – JUNE 10; sharing from the recent learning tour to Rwanda. Hosted by Good Neighbours Food Center, Rosthern, SK, 7:00 pm.

AG IN MOTION - JULY 15-17 – Canada’s largest outdoor farm show, at Discovery Farm, Langham, SK. The Foodgrains Bank will have a booth in the FCC Pavillion, and we are hosting an appreciation lunch (with a guest panel presentation) on Wednesday, July 16. A registration link will be sent out soon.

GROW HOPE SK summer field days – There’s a variety of field days where Grow Hope SK is present and helping to connect rural and urban residents of SK together around food security, farming, and faith.

July 24 in Langenburg (Aberhart Farm Field Day)

August 9-10 in Willowbrook (Sask Open Farm Day at CreekrIDGE Farms)

August 10 in Bruno (Cherry Sunday)

September 6 in Carrot River (Doerksen family threshing bee)

CLAY GATHERING (Canadian Lutheran and Anglican Youth) – AUGUST 21-24, Saskatoon, SK

*For the complete Newsletter go to [www.foodgrainsbank.ca](http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca)*

Grace and peace to you,

Rick & Jacquie  
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Canadian Foodgrains Bank

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# MDS CANADA

Hi Church,

One of the great joys of Mennonite Disaster Service is the opportunity to meet new people and make connections across many backgrounds and experiences. As we work to be the hands and feet of Jesus together, we break barriers so that strangers can become friends. I may be a stranger to many of you, but today I have the joy of introducing myself as the new Operations Manager of MDS Canada.

My name is Moses Falco. I have been married to Jessica for almost 14 years, and together we are the proud parents of Clara, Heidi, and one on the way. I spent most of my formative years in Toronto with my four brother and parents who raised me in the Baptist tradition. When I married Jessica, I joined the Mennonite church and fell in love with Anabaptism.

For the past 10 years, I pastored at Sterling Mennonite Fellowship in Winnipeg. During that time, I heard a lot about the work of MDS through those in our church who had been on projects. In 2023, I had the opportunity to join the MDS response in Cape Breton.

I was blown away by the amazing volunteers who gave so much of their time and energy to help people they didn't know. I was impressed by the care given to the experience and that everyone could learn to give at their level. And I encountered homeowners and other locals sharing in the joy of new friendships with MDS volunteers. I even told myself that I would love to be a part of this work again.

Now, as I begin this new role with MDS, I am excited to come alongside our units and volunteers, continuing our work of responding, rebuilding and restoring hope. I look forward to meeting you in the future and am grateful for your ongoing support of MDS

**Moses Falco**  
Operations Manager  
MDS Canada

## **Announcements**

**MDS Canada is hiring an Executive Director!** Are you a highly motivated leader with a passion for faith in action? As the Executive Director, you will provide transformational and strategic leadership to MDS Canada's board and staff. For more information and to apply, visit [mds.org/employment](https://mds.org/employment). A first review of applications will begin June 30, 2025.

**Rebuild, restore and volunteer with MDS this summer!** There are weekly volunteer spaces open at the Shuswap and Lytton, BC, wildfire responses throughout the month of June. Volunteer spaces are also open to young people who would like to join the MDS Summer Youth Project in the Alberta Rockies, June 29-July 4 and July 6-11! For more information and to sign up, visit [mds.org](https://mds.org) and contact Clara Flores at 1(866) 261-1274 or [cflores@mds.org](mailto:cflores@mds.org)



# **Mennonite Church Canada Gathering 2025!**

Are you interested in saving money and attending the nationwide church gathering?

If so, register now for the Mennonite Church Canada Gathering 2025 by June 5 at 10:00 pm CST.

The early bird pricing ends June 5.

There are exciting things planned for the event including inspiring sessions, worship, and connection with your siblings in faith. The theme for Gathering 2025 is Each Person Has a Gift based on 1 Peter 4:10.

This will be explored through daily discussions:

**Celebrating the Gifts.** What if the church could truly celebrate every person's gift?

**Visiting the Wounds.** What if we took the time to listen to stories of exclusion?

**Injustices.** How can we turn pain into blessing?

**You Belong.** What if, in the end, we could all say, "You belong"?

Check out the speakers and the full schedule of events

Join one of the three unique avenues for engagement:

**Track 1:** Main Gathering: Join delegates and congregational representatives for inspiring sessions, worship, and connection.

**Track 2:** U30 Young Adults: Participate in the main Gathering with tailored events to engage with peers PLUS a special post-Gathering celebration at nearby Hidden Acres Camp!

**Track 3:** Youth Gathering: A vibrant, energetic event designed specifically for youth (Grades 6-12), hosted on the University of Waterloo campus. If you are interested, please contact Evan (youthminister@MCSask.ca) right away since travel arrangements are being made.

Also, don't forget about the Pre-Gathering Events.

Feel free to contact anyone at MC Sask if you have any questions.

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Len Rempel minister@MCSask.ca

Evan Bueckert youthminister@MCSask.ca

Marianne Siemens mcsask@MCSask.ca

## Canadian Mennonite Magazine

After church most Sundays, I ask my kids what they talked about during their children's program. And then I am regaled with a story. Sometimes the details are a little backwards, sometimes they get stuck trying to remember or pronounce a name, but always, there is a story to share. I love listening to their fresh understanding of an old story. I get to ask them, "What do you think that means?"

Sometimes they'll have the typical Sunday school answer (God loves me! I should love my neighbour, etc.). Sometimes they have wonderful ideas of their own.

We all love stories. And we learn from them.

In his new book, Mennonite Church Manitoba executive minister Michael Pahl describes his fictional vignettes as fan fiction. Fan fiction is story-telling that fills in the gaps around already-established stories, written by those who love the existing stories and characters enough to imagine more of their lives.

Sometimes, reshaping how we tell a story gives us permission to be creative. Mennonite Church Eastern Canada executive minister Anthony Siegrist describes his hope for "revisioning or re-animating the pastoral identity for a new generation [who] would actually be pretty keen to step into the pastoral role, but there's a lot of baggage." Siegrist knows that how we shape the story matters.

Sometimes my kids' stories turn into wild conglomerations of genres and words I don't recognize in their grammatical context. Sometimes they come back to me and ask for context (What's a Levite?), or for a piece of church memory (Why do we sing songs? What's Anabaptism?). Once in a while, they bring those stories back to me later in the week, showing just how they applied it to their lives, and how they shared Jesus's love in a new, old way.

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P.S. We're apparently headed into another mail strike. If you're only receiving CM by mail, I'd invite you to email Lorna to receive both the physical and the digital copies. Next week, we send out the digital version of our June issue, so be sure to register today. We know many readers prefer the physical copy of the magazine, but even if this is a temporary solution, please do sign up. (One advantage of digital magazines is that you can always make the words or pictures bigger!)

*The following is an excerpt from page 4 of the latest edition of the CM*

### **50 Years Ago – Mennonite Reporter, June 23, 1975**

Advice for Mennonite luxury experts

Ever since someone suggested several weeks ago that it might be helpful to distinguish between “basic needs,” “life-enhancement needs,” and “luxuries,” I’ve had in mind a little project.

A blue ribbon panel of Mennonite luxury experts should be appointed each year to draw up a luxuries list. This list would be published in the Mennonite Reporter and framed and hung on the front wall of every Mennonite church (or other cooperating churches).

Those who purchase the specified luxuries would not automatically be dismissed from church membership, but they would have to explain why-preferably on Sunday morning in the presence of the congregation and with time for questions and answers.

## **LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR JUNE**

**Jun 01, 2025** - Seventh Sunday of Easter

First reading: \* Acts 16:16-34

Psalm: Psalm 97

Second reading: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

Gospel: John 17:20-26

**Jun 08, 2025** - Day of Pentecost

First reading: \* Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9

Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Second reading: Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21

Gospel: John 14:8-17, (25-27)

**Jun 15, 2025** - Trinity Sunday

First\* reading and Psalm: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8

Alternate\* First reading and Psalm:

Second reading: Romans 5:1-5

Gospel: John 16:12-15

**Jun 22, 2025** - Proper 7 (12)

First\* reading and Psalm: 1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a

Psalm 42 and 43

Alternate\* First reading and Psalm: Isaiah 65:1-9

Psalm 22:19-28

Second reading: Galatians 3:23-29

**Jun 29, 2025** - Proper 8 (13)

First\* reading and Psalm: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20

Alternate\* First reading and Psalm: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

Psalm 16

Second reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Gospel: Luke 9:51-62

**Jul 06, 2025** - Proper 9 (14)

First\* reading and Psalm: 2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30

Alternate\* First reading and Psalm: Isaiah 66:10-14

Psalm 66:1-9

Second reading: Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16

Gospel: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

## CALENDAR

**Sun. June 1 – 10:00 am Terry Stefaniuk speaking**

11:10 am Congregational mtg

**Sun. June 8 – 10:00 am Sunday School Picnic**

– on the yard weather permitting

Sat. June 14 - evening – Deacon sponsored meet-greet with Brad Schroeder who is our Candidate Pastor

**Sun. June 15 – 10:00 am Brad Schroeder speaking**

Mon. June 16 – 6:30 pm Executive mtg

**Sun. June 22 – 10:00 am Luke Bushman speaking**

11:15 am Worship mtg

**Sun. June 29 – Jan Braun speaking - discussion re: Anabaptist 500**

## JUNE BIRTHDATES

2 – Helena Peters (90)
2 – Becca Bushman
4 - Wilf Buhler
6 – Joe Guenther
7 – Pete Sawatzky (93)
8 – Ben Buhler
8 – George Janzen
8 – Russ Friesen
12 – Rhonda Gascho
14 - Tony Funk
18 – Alexander Edwards Buhler
25 – Margaret Boldt (90)
26 – Lynette Janzen
26 – Melanie Boldt
26 – Tena Sawatzky (92)
27 - Dayna Stefaniuk
29 – Karl Martens
30 – Patty Friesen



“When my father didn't have my hand, he had my back.” ...

“The heart of a father is the masterpiece of nature.” ... A father is someone you look up to no matter how tall you grow.”

– Unknown

Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into heroes, adventurers, storytellers, and singers of song.”

– Unknown