



Osler Mennonite Church

*A Welcoming Community for Peace
Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation*

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

August 17, 2025

Cloud of Witnesses

Prelude

Welcome/Land Appreciation/Announcements

Call to Worship: *(based on Psalm 72)*

L: God defends the afflicted among the people
and saves the children of the needy.

P: May the earth be filled with God's glory.

L: God rescues the poor from oppression and violence.

P: May all peoples be blessed through God, and call God blessed.

L: God takes pity on the weak and the vulnerable,
on those who have no one to help.

**All: May God endure as long as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all generations.**

Invocation

Hymns of Praise: VT #716 God of Grace and God of Glory

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

First Reading: Hebrews 11:32-12:2 *(CEB)*

What more can I say? I would run out of time if I told you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. Through faith they conquered kingdoms, brought about justice, realized promises, shut the mouths of lions, put out raging fires, escaped from the edge of the sword, found strength in weakness, were mighty in war, and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured and refused to be released so they could gain a better resurrection.

But others experienced public shame by being taunted and whipped; they were even put in chains and in prison. They were stoned to death, they were cut in two, and they died by being murdered with swords. They went around wearing the skins of sheep and goats, needy, oppressed, and mistreated. The world didn't deserve them. They wandered around in deserts, mountains, caves, and holes in the ground. All these people didn't receive what was promised, though they were given approval for their faith. God provided something better for us so they wouldn't be made perfect without us.

So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne.

Children's Gathering Song: Today Earth is Singing
Story for All Ages: Wilf

Offering Prayer/Music for Meditation
Sharing Joys and Concerns/Prayer of the Church
Congratulations
Prayers
Sharing

Candle Prayers for peace and our hearts' desires...

Hymn: VT #576 Who Now Would Follow Christ

Second Reading: Luke 12:49-56 (CEB)

"I came to cast fire upon the earth. How I wish that it was already ablaze! I have a baptism I must experience. How I am distressed until it's completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, I have come instead to bring division. From now on, a household of five will be divided—three against two and two against three. Father will square off against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; and mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Jesus also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud forming in the west, you immediately say, ‘It’s going to rain.’ And indeed it does. And when a south wind blows, you say, ‘A heat wave is coming.’ And it does. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret conditions on earth and in the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret the present time? And why don’t you judge for yourselves what is right?”

Scripture Response:

Leader: For the word of God in Scripture,
for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: VT #152 God, Whose Purpose Is to Kindle

Sermon: Interpreting the Times

Hymn: VT #631 So nimm den meine Hände

Benediction

*Offerings can be done via e-transfer to osler.mc.treasurer@gmail.com

*Our services are all streamed and archived on-line.

TODAY August 17

Speaker: Dave Feick Worship Leader: George Janzen

Song Leader: Kevin Accompanist: Melanie

Story: Wilf Sound: Matthew Ushers: Anne/Bill

Offering Counter Team: Lloyd/Alex

Office Hours: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm Wednesday and Friday

Luke’s Week:

For Pastoral care you may also call Dave 306-270-5031

Birthdays: 19 – Lloyd Sawatzky; 20 – Jim Dyck; 20 - Betty Friesen (91); 21 – Bill Peters (81); 21 – Merel Kriegsman

Church Yard Maintenance: Aug 18 – 23 – Eugene Penner family

Nursery opportunity! There is a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for those who would like to care for young children (0-4 yrs. old) in the nursery during the church service.

TODAY: Bag Lunch – bring a lunch and stay to play games....

Council is looking for delegates to attend the MCC AGM. Anyone interested should speak with Shelley, Ben or Steve.

Music for the Gut is a charity concert that raises money for Crohn's and Colitis Canada. Vanessa and Griffin will be performing in this concert along with 60 other singers, featured dancers, and live orchestra. The concert is **7:30PM, Friday August 22** at TCU place. There will be songs from ABBA, Queen, Wicked, Glee, Shania Twain, Jackson 5, and more! You can purchase tickets directly on the TCU website. If you have any questions, let Vanessa know!

Aug 24: Joint worship and communion service for Aberdeen, Backyard, Langham, Osler, Pleasant Point, and Tiefengrund Mennonite churches. 10:00 start time at the Wilf Buhler yard (1st yard on the left after crossing the railroad tracks if you come in the south entrance of Osler). Bring lawn chairs. Accessible parking is available. An offering will be taken in support of the Micah Mission. Lunch to follow. Our congregation has been asked to contribute salads for the potluck table.

MCC Connects: Join the School Kit Challenge this month and help support 25,000 children around the world! Notebooks and pencils are treasures for families who have been forced to flee their homes or struggle to afford basic school supplies, and many children can't get the education they need. To learn more about this challenge, access a fun activity guide, and for details on how to be entered to win a pizza party with your School Kit-packing group, please visit:

<https://mcc.org/school-kit-challenge>

Here's what in a MCC school kit:

- 4 spiral or perforated notebooks (8.5" x 11", approx. 140 pages each; total 500–600 pages)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 flat, good-quality ruler (must show 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 4 new black or blue ballpoint pens

- 1 small all-metal pencil sharpener (one or two holes)
- Kit bags are available at MCC Saskatchewan (600 45th Street W, Saskatoon).

Ready to get started? Gather your supplies, go back-to-school shopping, and pack kits with your family, friends, or Sunday school class! You can also enter to win a pizza party for your school kit packing group? Visit <https://mcc.org/school-kit-challenge> for details!

Prefer to give instead? Donations for school kit supplies are welcome at the office or by calling 306-665-2555. Let's learn, pack, and give—together.

MC SASK Updates:

Prayer:

“Is not this the fast that I choose:

*to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?” --*

Isaiah 58:6

The people of Gaza continue to suffer as the man-made famine intensifies, and people die from starvation. Let our voices be heard and may those in power take action to intervene and bring justice for the Palestinians. O God, we know that your heart breaks as the basics of life are being withheld, especially as children die. May we not be silent and may our voices bring about action. (new)

Praying for each other:

Please pray for Rosthern Mennonite. Our life at RMC is marked by exploration, change and gratitude. We have undertaken a year-long visioning process which has helped to clarify our sense of mission and service. This Fall, as we begin the search for a new long-term pastor, we give thanks to God for a long history of God's goodness in our life together. Please pray with us for wisdom as we navigate times of change and opportunity. In the words of Howard Thurman we pray, *‘Keep alive in us the forward look, the high hope, the onward surge. Let us not be frozen either by the past or the present. . . . Grant us, O patient Father, the sense of the future’.* (new)

Taking a Spiritual Breath MC Sask Pastors & Leaders Retreat, Sept 15-18, 2025. Step away from the busy-ness of ministry to be revived in

God's creation and the company of others who are sharing in the work of the church. Details & registration available at <https://mcsask.ca/event/12081> (new)

Xplore – CMU's Xplore extended education program investigates dimensions of the Christian faith, our world, and life in it—all without assignments or exams! Consider taking a course on depolarization, Anabaptists at 500, understanding Roman Catholicism, the book of Daniel, the book of Ruth and more. Courses begin September 23rd. Churches may consider hosting an Xplore watch party with people from your community. For course information and to register visit cmu.ca/xplore

CALENDAR

Sun. Aug 17 – 10:00 am Dave Feick speaking

Mon. Aug 18 – 6:00 pm Executive mtg
7:30 pm Council mtg

Sun. Aug 24: - 10:00 am Joint worship and communion service
on the Buhler Farm (first left after the tracks)

Sun. Aug 31 – 10:00 am Music Sunday

Sun. Sept 7 – 10:00 am Luke Bushman speaking
11:15 am Semi Annual mtg

NEXT SUNDAY August 24 Multi-Church Picnic
Service begins at 10:00 am on Wilf & Ruth Buhler's yard

Our congregation has been asked to contribute salads for the potluck table. Please bring your own seating.

Aberdeen - hotdogs, buns, condiments

Pleasant Point and Langham - desserts for potluck table

Tiefengrund - dessert or salad for potluck table

Sound: Ushers: Anne/Bill

Offering Counter Team: Diana/Matthew

The Osler Mennonite Church, Box 129, Osler, Saskatchewan S0K 3A0

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website: <http://oslermennonitechurch.org>

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