



Osler Mennonite Church

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

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

July 20, 2025

More on Mark's Gospel

Prelude

Welcome/Land Appreciation/Announcements

Call to Worship: *from VT # 855*

Leader: To worship is to stand in awe under a heaven of stars,
Before a flower, a leaf in sunlight, or a grain of sand.

**People: To worship is to be silent, receptive,
before a tree astir with the wind, or the passing shadow of a cloud.**

Leader: To worship is to work with dedication and with skill;
it is to pause from work and listen to a strain of music.

**People: To worship is to sing with the singing beauty of the earth;
it is to listen through a storm to the still small voice with in.**

*All: Worship is the mystery within us
reaching out to the Mystery beyond.*

Invocation

Hymns of Praise: VT #120 For the Beauty of the Earth

VT #175 Planets Humming as They Wander

First Reading: Psalm 82

God has taken his place in the divine council;
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:
“How long will you judge unjustly
and show partiality to the wicked? Selah
Give justice to the weak and the orphan;
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.
Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

They have neither knowledge nor understanding;
they walk around in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

I say, "You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you;
nevertheless, you shall die like mortals and fall like any prince."
Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations belong to you!

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

Offering Prayer/Music for Meditation

Sharing Joys and Concerns/Prayer of the Church

Congratulations:

Prayers: for the Buhler families as they travel to Winkler, MB for a family reunion

Thanksgiving:

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

Hymn: VT #643 Come, Ye Disconsolate

Second Reading: Mark 7:1-13

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders, and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash, and there are also many other traditions that they observe: the washing of cups and pots and bronze kettles and beds.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

"You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.’ But you say that if anyone tells father or mother, ‘Whatever support you might have had from me is Corban’ (that is, an offering to God), then you no longer permit doing anything for a father or mother, thus nullifying the word of God through your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many things like this.”

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.

Sermon: How Religion Can Heal or Harm

Hymn: VT #225 We Come

Benediction: May we be known as Christians not by our clean hands, but by our hands soiled with the work of loving our neighbour as God loved us. Amen

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

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

TODAY July 20

Speaker: Luke Bushman Worship Leader: George Janzen

Song Leader: Kathryn Accompanist: Lynette

Story: Kathy Sound: Stephanie Ushers: Harold/Lloyd

Offering Counter Team: Jim/Dave

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

Luke’s Week: Away on a much-deserved rest after attending MC Canada Gathering and doing Bible with the kids at Shekinah.

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

Birthdays: 20 – Katherine Penner; 22 – Torben Sjoelin; 23 – Diana Buhler; 24 – Dennis Boldt (91)

Today's snack provided by John Reddekopp to celebrated his 80th birthday.

Summer coffee will be made by deacons. There may not be snacks. If you would like to provide snacks for special occasions - please be in touch with Karl, Matthew B, Wilf, Lynette, Sarah B. If you would like a visit by deacons or pastors this summer please be in touch with them about that as well.

Church Yard Maintenance: July 21 – 26 – Terry Stefaniuk and family
July 28 – Aug 2 – Garry Boldt, Bruce Boldt & families

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.

Still Seeking: OMC Librarian...

For more information on what the commitment entails, please reach out to Steph S, Naomi S, Casadi S, or Marlene C.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation would like to thank the **Pastoral Search Committee** for their work identifying a pastoral candidate for the position of part time lead pastor. Your discernment has led to the hiring of Brad Schroeder to take on this role starting September 1, 2025.

The committee is now officially disbanded.

The members were, Stephanie Siemens, George Janzen, Zoe Schellenberg, Michelle McKinnell, and Kevin Boldt.

The Visioning Committee was formally approved to begin their discernment on the implementation of the visioning report produced earlier this year. Their work will begin immediately.

The members are, Co-Chairs Michelle McKinnell and Ben Buhler, Brandee Borne, Dave Feick, Lanae Martens-Funk, Kaytee Edwards-Buhler, Terry Stefaniuk and Katherine Bretecher. Ex-officio Luke Bushman, Brad Schroeder, and Kevin Boldt.

Thanks for your commitment to our congregation.

“From Brad Schroeder: While my position here at OMC had not officially started, one of my main priorities is to get to know everyone on a deeper level. With that in mind, I’d love to meet for coffee and conversation with people beyond just Sunday mornings. Please consider

this an open invitation to call or text me at 306-202-6597 if you have time and would like to meet up and chat. Thank you!”

Celebrating Our 500 Years: Saturday July 26, 3:00 p.m. Join fellow heirs of the Anabaptist Reformation at the cabin to the north of the Mennonite Nursing Home (Rosthern) as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the beginning of our Anabaptist faith family, and our 130 years in Saskatchewan. The afternoon will include music and storytelling. Supper will be available for purchase on the grounds. Bring lawn chairs. This event is sponsored by Mennonite Church Saskatchewan and Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan.
(updated)

Warman MCC Thrift Shop is hosting a Mini Carnival

Friday, July 25th 11:00 am – 3:00 pm on the street west of the building
Games area Jumpy Castle Face Painting Craft Corner
Free Admission!!

MCC Connects: In its 8th season, Grow Hope Saskatchewan is helping to support the work of MCC and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to provide emergency food supplies and long-term food security. Thanks to your generosity, 40 acres have already been sponsored through MCC this year, but we still need your support. To help sponsor the remaining acres, and to read a blog post with field updates from some Grow Hope farmers across Saskatchewan, visit:

<https://www.growhopesk.ca/blog/summer-field-updates>.

MC SASK Updates:

Lord, hear my prayer! Let my cry reach you!
Don't hide your face from me in my time of trouble.
Listen to me! Answer me quickly as I cry out!
Because my days disappear like smoke,
my bones are burned up as if in an oven;
My heart is smashed like dried up grass. ~*Psalms 102:1-4a*

The fires continue to rage across our province and beyond.
People are evacuated from their homes not knowing when or what they will return to.
We cry out to God, the creator of heaven and earth, creator of the trees and the flowers.

Hear our prayers for those living in impacted areas and those affected by the smoke that fills the sky.

Hear our prayers, O God, for those putting themselves at risk in service to others as they work to fight the fires.

Hear our prayers, O God! Listen to our cry!

Len Rempel, Executive Minister MC SASK (new)

Praying for each other: Please pray for the residents and staff of Bethany Manor that they continue to grow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control towards one another. May they continue to cherish their community, whatever part they might play in it. (new)

Applications are now being accepted for the 2025 MC Sask Education Scholarship. Eligible schools and service programs include: RJC High School, Canadian Mennonite University, SALT (MCC), 3E Internship (Youth Farm Bible Camp), and more. Application deadline is July 31, 2025, visit www.mcsask.ca for application forms and full eligibility

YFBC is looking for cookies for camp. Bringing them to the camp in ice cream pails would be super helpful! Thanks so much for your support and help.

Planting trees is a carbon sequestration practice that we know about. We who live in the prairies also know that grassland is a common landscape that needs protection. Prairie grasslands store billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide in their soil, playing a critical role in the mitigation of climate change, yet over 80 per cent of Canada's grasslands have been lost. They are the single most threatened ecosystem in Canada. Read about the work based at the University of Alberta that is promoting management to care for range land in the prairies.

<https://www.ualberta.ca/en/science/news/2025/april/catg-climate-action-through-grazing.html>

Do you like to roast your own coffee beans? Level Ground green coffee beans are now available through MC Sask! Not available in stores, green beans are available in a 10 lb box in your choice of Colombia, Decaf, Congo, Ethiopia, Honduras, Peru or Tanzania. The price is \$150 per box. Order yours today at www.mcsask.ca/coffee or call the office at 306-249-4844 ext 3. (new)

Watch the MC Canada Gathering slide show "3.5 days in 3.5 minutes" to get a taste of what happened as the theme of Each Gift was explored at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate in Kitchener, Ontario July 2-5, 2025. Available at <https://youtu.be/Hv0KGspyWeE>
Also check out the daily newsletters "The Gift Exchange" available at <https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/82/28493> (new)

Western Canada Correspondent: Canadian Mennonite magazine is hiring a half-time correspondent to cover B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Applications are due by July 31. Spread the word. Details at canadianmennonite.org/jobs. (new)

Mennonite Church Canada – Executive Coordinator Position
Mennonite Church Canada is seeking a full-time (1.0 FTE) Executive Coordinator to join our team at the national office in Winnipeg, MB. The anticipated start date is this fall, with applications being reviewed upon receipt. For full details, please view the job description: Executive Coordinator Interested applicants are invited to send their resume and cover letter to: office@mennonitechurch.ca (updated)

Hi Church,

On May 29, I was thankful to be seated in the Grossmunster Cathedral to attend the worship service at the Anabaptism at 500 commemoration in Zurich, Switzerland. In January 1525, the first rebaptism sparked the Anabaptist movement and was a significant moment in the Radical Reformation, in this same city. Now, 500 years later, Anabaptists from around the world gathered in Zurich. The day culminated with a worship service focused on reconciliation and forgiveness. After the service, the bells above the Grossmunster Cathedral rang out across the city. It felt like a holy moment.

The next day, my husband and I travelled with my father-in-law (Corney) to Salzburg, Austria. Salzburg is a special place for Corney. He served with the MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) PAX program from 1961-1963, building homes for refugees. Over two years, he helped build eight homes and one church.

In Salzburg, we spent an afternoon with Gertraude, who had been a young girl when the MCC volunteers, fondly known as "the PAX boys," built a home for her family. We walked past the homes they built.

Gertraude told us stories of her family and others who had lived in the homes, who lived there now, and changes that had happened over the years. Gertraude and her husband live a little further down the same street. They welcomed us into their home, where we noticed photos of the PAX boys hung on the walls of their front entry. Sixty years after their service, the impact the PAX boys had on Gertraude's life was still so significant that their photos were the focus of her front entry. They had shared God's love and restored hope to her family. This also felt like a holy moment.

The PAX program was one of the seeds that eventually grew into Mennonite Disaster Service. I don't know how many homes built or repaired by MDS volunteers have pictures that reflect that in the entry, but the impact of their service is certainly written on the hearts of many. Long after our hands have completed the work, the impact goes on in the hearts and lives of those whom we serve, and also in us.

Thanks be to God for these opportunities to share God's love through service!

Rose Klassen
Volunteer Manager
MDS Canada

CALENDAR

Sun. July 20 – 10:00 am Luke Bushman speaking

Noon – Bag lunch hosted by the Education committee

Sun. July 27 – 10:00 am Chris Buhler speaking

Sun. Aug 3 - 10:00 am Music Sunday

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

NEXT SUNDAY July 27

Speaker: Chris Buhler Worship Leader: Dave Feick

Song Leader: Michelle Accompanist: Naomi

Story: ??? Sound: Doug Ushers: Harold/Dick

Offering Counter Team: Susan/Kevin

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

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No. 29

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website: <http://oslermennonitechurch.org>

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