

August 22, 2017

Grace to you, and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given to you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ

- 1st Corinthians 1:3-7

Dear Mennonite Church Saskatchewan,

It is good to be back in the office after some time off and away. I'm always amazed at how quick summer seems to go by here in Saskatchewan and I hope you have been able to find some rest and rejuvenation as we look towards fall, which, as the calendar indicates, is rapidly approaching. I would like to thank Betty Pries and Josh Wallace for stepping in and writing letters to Mennonite Church Saskatchewan while I was away and I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our next mini-retreat at Wildwood Mennonite Church, September 15 & 16.

At the most recent Executive Staff Group (Area Church and National Church Executive Directors/Ministers) Meeting in Winnipeg, the opening devotion focused on Paul's first words to the church in Corinth, where he reminds them they do not lack any spiritual gifts as they wait for the revealing of our Lord. This is both a sobering and liberating comment.

Even though the church in Corinth is full of struggles, conflicts and divisions – all items Paul is quick to address – he begins the letter by giving thanks for the congregation, he affirms them in their faithfulness to Christ and reminds them they do not lack any spiritual gifts. To put it another way, Paul is telling the church in Corinth that they have the spiritual gifts that they need to be a faithful congregation.

So often, when we think about our own congregation, it is easy to think about the things we lack and be quick to point them out. We lack young families. We lack lively music. We lack funds. We lack \_\_\_\_\_ (you can fill in the blank). And because we lack these things, we get down on ourselves for not being something else. I am convinced that if Paul had the opportunity to visit each one of our congregations, from our smallest, rural congregation to our largest urban congregation, he would repeat the same words he wrote to the church in Corinth;

Aberdeen Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Carrot River Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Eigenheim Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Emmaus Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Eyebrow Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Field of Hope Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

First Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Fiske Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Grace Mennonite Church, PA, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Grace Mennonite Church, Regina, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Hanley Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Herschel Ebenfeld Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Hoffnungsfelder Mennonite Church, Mayfair, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Laird Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Mount Royal Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

North Star Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Nutana Park Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Osler Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Peace Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Pleasant Point Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Rosthern Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Superb Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Tiefengrund Rosenort Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Warman Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Wildwood Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Zion Mennonite Church, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Zoar Mennonite Church, Langham, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Zoar Mennonite Church, Waldheim, you do not lack in any spiritual gift.

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan, you do not lack in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yours Truly,

Ryan Siemens