

MC Sask ADS at Shekinah

You are invited to attend the 2026 MC Sask ADS (annual delegate sessions) on March 13 & 14 at the Shekinah Retreat Centre. Our theme is "**Yeast and Mustard Seeds: Stories of God's Kingdom Power**". Jesus spoke in parables to describe the kingdom of God, often it was about the small things like the mustard seed and yeast. We will explore this theme through storytelling and worship. There will also be time for you to reflect on where you are seeing God at work in your community and in your life. In addition, you will hear from others where God is at work across MC Sask and MC Canada.

Come join us as we learn, share and discern together God's calling for us as a church together. It's sure to be a meaningful and uplifting experience for all.

Friday afternoon features a pastors and leaders gathering being facilitated by Marilyn Rudy Froese from MCEC



through my Lens

This year many of our congregations in MC Sask have been using the Narrative Lectionary. In case you aren't familiar with it, the Narrative Lectionary is a four-year cycle of readings that follows the story of God and God's people from the Old Testament through the New. The section after Christmas works through one of the gospels; this year it is John.

I thoroughly enjoy reading John's gospel and early in the gospel, when some prospective disciples ask Jesus where he is staying, the response is simply, "**Come and see.**" These three words set up the whole gospel as John tells it. This is Jesus' invitation, not only to these disciples but to all of us. Come and see what God is doing!

Our Annual Delegate Session (ADS) this year is focused on telling stories of God's kingdom, what God is doing in our communities across this province. As I travel across Saskatchewan and visit our congregations, I hear stories of wonderful and inspiring things that are happening, ways in which God is working.

The invitation of Jesus is two-fold. First, we need to be open to see God's marvelous works, not just the big and majestic, but the small and seemingly insignificant. Second, we are invited to join in that work. This is our opportunity to participate with God, to be a part of God's kingdom, to answer Jesus' invitation.

"You will see greater things than these! I assure you that you will see heaven open and God's angels going up to heaven and down to earth on the Human One." ~ John 1:50b-51

Len Rempel, Executive Minister MC Sask

Farewell

As my time in the MC Sask office comes to a close, I want to thank you all for the support and encouragement you have given me. It has been a privilege to work with and for you, and I have greatly enjoyed getting to know you through emails, phone calls, and especially at events. When asked what I did in the office, I jokingly said "everything except preach". I will miss the work, but will miss the people most of all. A big thanks to all my co-workers and everyone volunteering their time on committees over the years - it has been a privilege to work with and for you all.

Blessings,

Marianne Siemens



Youth

The 2026 MegaMenno Youth Retreat was on January 30 - February 1 at Shekinah. 30 youth and sponsors enjoyed a warm winter weekend of faith exploration, worship, community-building and fun!

Calvary deJong (pastor, First Mennonite Church) was the speaker for the weekend.

Lots of outdoor activities and rousing games of dutch blitz occurred.

Comments by the youth:

“The Shekinah youth retreat gave me a chance to welcome new and old friends into a space I love. I enjoyed participating in a coffeehouse talent show performance and singing camp songs!” Nora

“The retreat was relaxing and extremely fun at the same time. The sessions were engaging, getting me to think. The cooks we had were amazing and the night games super fun. We also got to learn some new skills like making loon calls and tying slip knots.” Arthur



Finance Update

Most people say that dealing with finances is not exciting. But MC Sask has had two instances where constituents gathered to talk about future directions and common concerns and were very excited in the process.

Last summer the Finance Committee and a small group of external advisors from our churches met to discuss various issues. We talked about finance policy, donor relations, and money management. These conversations led to a new Finance Policy which will guide Council in creating budgets in the ongoing years. The new policy can be found on our website.

Secondly, a group of church treasurers from more than half of our member congregations, met recently to discuss common issues. We were able to identify where expertise is needed in keeping financial records, dealing with payroll and benefits issues, and providing receipts. Succession planning is an ongoing issue. Some churches have a person in that position that will be there for a long time. Other churches are struggling to fill the positions. One of the participants said it was encouraging to be able to talk to other churches and discuss issues and solutions together.

For a full report on the 2025 Finances and the 2026 Budget, please attend our ADS on March 13 and 14 at Shekinah. A Finance breakout session will be held to discuss any specific questions you may have. Hope to see you there.

Tim Wiens, Finance Chair



Transitions

- **Peter Lippmann** was licensed for specific ministry at Wildwood Mennonite Church on May 25, 2025.
- **Don Froese** began serving at Nutana Park Mennonite Church on August 1, 2025. Don's installation service was held on September 14.
- **Brad Schroeder** began serving at Osler Mennonite Church on September 1, 2025. Brad's installation service was held on November 9.
- **Lisa Martens Bartel** was ordained on November 16, 2025 at North Star Mennonite Church in Drake.
- **Luke Bushman** was ordained on January 18, 2026 at Osler Mennonite Church.