



Reflections

from the land
of living skies

through my Lens

What is it about the church that brings you joy?

In one of the Town Hall meetings in November I asked this question of the 20+ people who ventured out on a stormy night to talk about church. There were many good responses such as community, the values of doing, and of passing along faith traditions to future generations. There was talk about significant events in the church like funerals, pastoral transitions, faith exploration classes, kids' clubs, and more. But one response that stands out for me is that church represents the value of "voices beyond myself, a reminder that I am not the centre of all things." In a society that focuses so much on 'bigger and better', there is value in thinking small and recognizing the vastness and diversity of God's creation.

When we think of church growth, we might be tempted to think about getting bigger and attracting more people, but church growth is actually about each of us growing closer to God and living more fully in a Christ-like way. There is no shortage of messages about the decline of the church and yet as I travel across the province I hear inspiring stories of the church. But it is more than that. This is God's church, the church that Jesus has called us to be. I do believe it is changing but the church is alive and it is not disappearing.

I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created. – Romans 8:38-39 CEB

Len Rempel, Executive Minister MC Sask



**MC Canada
Gathering 2025
Kitchener, Ontario
July 2-5, 2025**

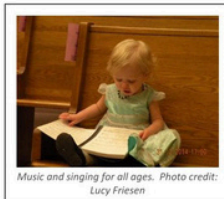
Summer is quickly approaching and you don't want to miss the Mennonite Church Canada Gathering 2025! Every three years we gather as a nationwide church for a time of relationship-building, worship, discernment, and business. You can attend as a participant or a congregation representative, or MC Sask delegate. All the information you need is the on the website: www.mennonitechurch.ca-events/gathering2025
Early bird pricing ends June 5



at FIVE HUNDRED

Celebrating Our 500 Years **Mennonite Youth Farm, Rosthern** **Saturday July 26, 3:00 p.m.**

Join with fellow heirs of the Anabaptist Reformation in celebrating 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 lawnchairs.



Music and singing for all ages. Photo credit: Lucy Friesen



A coloured version of the classic Jan Luiken engraving of Dirk Willems rescuing his pursuer (1569)



Eigenheim Mennonite church, dedicated June, 1896. Drawing by George Epp

Youth

In January the youth made the trek out to the Shekinah Retreat centre for their Winter Retreat! Kirsten Hamm-Epp return to speak on the topic of Differences for the Common Good. While a bit snowy outside, The youth had a lot of fun! More recently the youth had a BBQ fundraiser hosted at Osler Mennonite church. We had a wonderful turnout, and made ~\$450 to go towards sending the youth to Waterloo in July!

Mega Menno events are open to all youth in gr. 6-12 connected to an MC Sask congregation, school, or community. Friends are always welcome! Please Contact Evan Bueckert for more info at youthminister@mcsask.ca.



Fall Course

Anabaptist-Mennonite History and Identity: From Reformation to Global Movement – November 10-14, 2025

Please join us for this course taught by **Troy Osborne**, History Professor at Conrad Grebel University College. Students will survey the development of the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition from its medieval origins through its transformation into a global movement. We will trace the development of Mennonite identity and theology over the last 500 years, paying particular attention to the ways that history can be a source for theological discernment. Course can be taken for credit or audit. Registration details will come later in the year.

Transitions

Andrea Enns-Gooding was installed as Spiritual Care Coordinator at Bethany Manor on January 26, 2025.

Patty Friesen concluded her time as pastor at Osler Mennonite Church on February 9, 2025.

Paul Matheson concluded his time as pastor at First Mennonite Church on February 14, 2025.

Calvary deJong was installed as pastor at First Mennonite Church on March 30, 2025.

New Council & Gathering

On March 7 & 8 MC Sask gathered at RJC High School for our annual delegate session. There was more than 100 participants for our time of worship, conversation, connections, and business. We were blessed to have Fanosie Legesse as our guest speaker. He is the Intercultural Minister for MCEC and he spoke on our theme, “Differences for the Common Good” reflecting on 1 Corinthians 12 and 1 Peter 2:4-12. We also said farewell to Council members Sharon Schultz (moderator) and Alison Jantz (secretary) and welcomed Claire Ewert Fisher (secretary) and Patrick Preheim. Continuing Council members are Brent Guenther (moderator), Bob Neufeldt (deputy moderator), Tim Wiens (treasurer), Peter Lippmann, and Heather Peters. Prior to the delegate session, our pastors and congregational leaders gathered for a time of contemplative worship led by Rachel & James Wallace.

