

Grace Mennonite Church

May 2nd, 2021



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Pastors Mel Letkeman & Kyle Penner
www.gracesteinbach.ca 204 326 3707
Vol 60, No.18



Virtual Foyer via Zoom Link: 10:00 am
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8984736540>

Livestreaming Link for 10:15 am service
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVeiuCTLu8JkIInRV782cA>

Welcome

Life of the Congregation

Call to Worship

Every Time I Feel the Spirit VT #681

Time with Children

Be Still

Contemplative Prayer

[Acts 8:26-39](#)

Spirit Led

Holy Spirit, Come with Power VT #57

Congregational Prayer

In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified VT #754

Benediction

Worship Speaker
Worship Leader
Time with Children
Musicians
Technicians
Greeter

Mel Letkeman
Patrick Friesen
Kyle & Arianna Penner
Pearl Barz, Cindy Blatz, Cathy Barkman, Annalee Schellenberg
Matt Boese, Joe Dueck
Mary Doerksen

Sunday – May 9, 2021

Worship Speaker – Mel Letkeman

[Acts 15:1-18](#)

What do you identify as the primary conflict in this story?

We Pray Together

Pray for our Congregation:

- ❖ Pray for **Ken Fehr** who is recuperating at home from a heart attack.

We pray for those in Care Homes: **Linda Martens, Jake Penner, Martha Plett, Nancy Pauls, Abe Friesen, Marie Dyck, Irene Rempel**, particularly as they live very isolated lives due to the Covid restrictions.

Prayer for this Week: God, waken me to your Spirit's voice.

Prayer for our World: Pray for churches in India as they care for each other and those around them in their very tragic Covid situation.



Congratulations to Ernest Klassen and Nettie Sperling who were married Sunday, April 18, 2021. We wish them God's blessings as they continue on life's journey together.

Donations in memory of Kumba Mansaray may be made to the Mansaray Education Fund at the Steinbach Credit Union. Please contact Carmel Wiebe or Peter Dick if you have any questions.

Trees: A big thank you to everyone who supported our tree planting campaign! The final numbers are still coming in, but we have 340+ trees being planted locally, 14+ trees being planted on the church lot, and \$2500+ going to support MCC's reforestation work in Haiti! We are grateful!

- The informal tree committee

Old Hymnals – We are offering the old *Hymnal: A Worship Book* to anyone in the congregation who would like to have one. If you would like to pick one up, please do so during regular office hours Tuesday – Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. They will be in box just outside the library/offices.



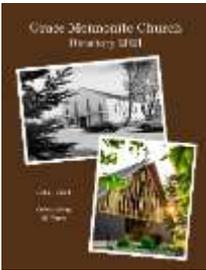
Opportunities at Grace

Sunday Sanctuary Service attendance is reserved for those who do not have internet. If you have internet, please join us via Livestream for Sunday services.

Little Bits of Grace will be meeting outdoors at the Jake Epp Library park every other Wednesday until the end of June. At this time, Public Health orders limit us to a maximum of 10 people. **RSVP with Annalee Schellenberg for one of the two sessions: 10 – 11 am or 11 am – 12 noon.** RSVP to annaleeschellenberg@shaw.ca or text her on her cell. Please bring for your family - lawn chairs or picnic blanket and your own snacks/coffee. **Next date: May 12th** - If you have questions, you may contact Annalee.

This Week at Grace ❖ May 3 - 7

Monday	Soup's On lunch program for HSD, 9:00 am
Tuesday	Soup's On Take Out only, 4:30 pm
Wednesday	Middle School Boys Bonfire at church, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Thursday	Stories with Seniors, 10:00 am – Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8984736540 High School Bonfire at church, 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Friday	Soup's On Take Out only, 4:30 pm



Grace Pictorial Directory 2021 is in your church mailbox. You may pick it up Tuesday – Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Please see the bulletin board for various announcements.

- MCC, MCM, MCC, MDS, AMBS
- Camps With Meaning
- Courses, webinars and other information

Canadian Mennonite University, Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Church Canada and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary are offering various podcasts, webinars, zoom sessions and other opportunities. Please check their websites for more information.

Grace Donation Options - Grace Church Council and Treasurer want to remind you of our donation options throughout the next while. If you have any questions, please email the church office.

- mailing your cheque to the church
- through automatic withdrawal
- e-transfer at donate@gracesteinbach.ca
- dropping your donation off at the church during regular office hours (Tuesday – Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm)

Pastor: **Mel Letkeman**

Associate Pastor: **Kyle Penner**

Administrative Office:

Administrative Assistant: **Cathy Barkman**

mel@gracesteinbach.ca

kyle@gracesteinbach.ca

office@gracesteinbach.ca

cathy@gracesteinbach.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

HURRICANE HONDURAS

In response to hurricane in Honduras in November 2020, Grace donated some money for relief efforts. Sjoerd Huese was the catalyst behind our giving because he knows people in Honduras and brought their situation to our attention. Some of his interactions with those friends is found below.

In November last year, a group app that I was a part of started to fill with warnings, prayers and well wishes.

One of our members found himself in the middle of an approaching Hurricane with no way out but to head into the mountains, away from San Pedro Sula, delta to the Gulf of Honduras and Caribbean Sea.

Melvin and I met in 1986/87 as part of the MCC international exchange program. After going home we lost touch, but about 2 ½ years ago a WhatsApp group tracked us all down from places in Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America. Life stories were exchanged and daily jokes, encouragements and prayers or sometimes hardships are shared. Although not all 96 of us from 26 different countries have been found, we are a tightknit group again. Melvin never left MCC and is now connected by looking after several orphanages together with his wife Maria.

We promised to pray for Melvin and the people he looks after and waited anxiously for words when the Hurricane passed. After texting; “here we go”, we lost touch with Melvin for three days. Once back to wifi, Melvin shared the stories of death, destruction and need.

(Hurricane Honduras)

Pastor Jose's first meal after being rescued. Before anyone could respond a second Hurricane, Iota, formed. Many people fortunately had not returned from the mountains and stayed there in safety. We went through the same period of anxiety with Melvin a second time. More death, destruction and now really unsanitary conditions for survivors became common.

The Red Cross and army were the first to have the equipment to take people from the roofs of flooded houses. When Melvin reappeared into my wife, we chatted and I could relate to some degree because of the Red River floods. Different impact, but similar scenery and sequence of events.

In the days that followed MCC and other church organizations started lending hands, mostly from a distance. Emergency supplies of water, food and hygiene started being flown in and Melvin was appointed to spearhead the recovery effort via the 3 regional Mennonite churches around San Pedro Sula.



Melvin asked our group to see if we could raise \$ 5,000 to purchase shovels, wheelbarrows and survival supplies in the days of the early aftermath. Despite it all we joked that in Covid times, they could not have named these Hurricanes any better: what is the Estimated Time of Arrival, ETA of help and does anyone give one Iota.

People did, but help could only be provided in monetary ways, relief efforts whereby organisations like MDS would come to work alongside the local residents could not happen. The work would not be led, motivated or shared by international helpers.

The more the task was up to the local residents, the more significant the supplies purchased with monetary donations became. Melvin was excited to share that his projects qualified for the funds Grace Mennonite had donated to the MCC Honduras relief effort. While the economy is not restored and building supplies are very expensive, our funds are being allocated to restore living conditions for many people in a very rudimentary way. Melvin encounters smiling and excited people over those gifts daily!

Submitted by Sjoerd Huese