



e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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REFLECTIONS on ANABAPTISM at 500



A movement that started with a secret bathtub baptism in 1525 in Zurich, Switzerland, celebrated its 500th anniversary this year by filling Zurich on Ascension Thursday, May 29, with 3000 visitors from all over the world. For at least an hour I waited in a tight crowd outside the Zurich Grossmünster. A stage near the entrance featured a spectacular Mennonite choir from Kenya. Only 1000 of us eventually were seated inside for the celebrative worship service centered on the theme, “The courage to love.” Earlier in the day I heard a panel of activists from Myanmar, Mexico, Burkina Faso, Switzerland and USA address the theme “A World on Fire,” sharing stories of their work in contexts of violence and oppression.

Prior to the celebration in Zurich, I was honored to spend the week of May 22-28 in Germany with Mennonite World Conference delegates and staff, as a member of the interpreter team. We interpreted into English, French and Spanish for siblings from all over the Anabaptist world gathered for worship, consultation, and decision-making.

When we said our good-byes at the end of the week, a group gathered to pray with a pastor returning to war-torn Ukraine. He asked us to especially remember the children, and the church’s ministry of summer camping for traumatized youth.

One of my interests in these world-wide gatherings of Christian siblings is to learn from those who have persisted in their witness in contexts of political corruption and oppressive governments. Indeed, it takes courage to love as Jesus loved and to build a Beloved Community in the face of hatred and despair. I am grateful to have heard the voices of those who are courageously choosing love. To see the Anabaptism 500 celebration, go to <https://www.anabaptism500.ch/>. - Sylvia Shirk, Portland Mennonite Church



The day of celebration in Zurich was full of both sightseeing and reflecting on the history of Anabaptism and the people who began the Movement. It was fascinating to see plaques on building sides commemorating people who had once lived there such as Zwingliplatz, the street where Ulrich Zwingli once lived.

Grossmünster Church was the site of the actual worship celebration and the place where Zwingli and others would argue with the City Council over their rejection of infant baptism. The celebration included statements between the Mennonite World Conference and leaders of several worldwide churches such as the Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church, and the World Communion of Reformed Churches. Representatives from 13 global church organizations led a procession into the Grossmünster.” (Paul Schrag, *Anabaptist World*, June 2, 2025.) This celebration was the culmination of journey toward reconciliation recognizing that Jesus Christ is the center of our faiths.

Choirs from around the world led in worship with the strength of excellent acoustics. The music resounded as the entire congregation sang together giving us small glimpse of what we might experience in heaven. As worshipers left the Church, the bells gloriously pealed for what seemed 15 minutes, as we made our way back to buses for the four-hour journey back to Schönblick at Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany where MWC meetings had taken place. - Linda Dibble, Albany Mennonite Church



Traveling to Europe with EMU’s Chamber Singers, a group of 24 mixed voices, under the guidance of Dr. Benjamin Bergey, was the trip of a lifetime! The group toured The Netherlands, Germany, and ended in Switzerland, at the 500-year celebration of Anabaptism in Zurich. We stayed with gracious host families in small towns — two favorites being Witmarsum in The Netherlands (where Menno Simmons was born!), and Friedelsheim, Germany. Our musical repertoire was built around the theme of **Hope and Unity: for children, for Earth, and for peace**. As the towns and people gave us the gift of hospitality, we were able to reciprocate with the gift of hope through song. We were often met with a response of love and gratitude, and we learned how music has the power to breathe hope and life into weary souls.

During our last days in Zurich, we stayed in the Bienenberg Seminary and Hotel with 4 other musical ensembles, each one of us representing one member continent MWC. During our final Zurich performances, where thousands of Mennonites, Anabaptists, and Ecumenical friends coalesced to celebrate courage, unity, and reconciliation. I was overjoyed to see familiar faces in every corner, amazed at how the steadfastness of radical Anabaptists 500 years ago created such a beautiful community and culture that persists today. It was an honor to perform in three different spaces on that beautiful day, and we were so filled with gratitude to be able to work with the leaders of the event to share our music in beloved community.

-Ciela Acosta, Salem Mennonite Church and Second-year student at EMU

Photo Credit: Karissa Sauder

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES



PACIFIC NORTHWEST MENNONITE CONFERENCE **ANNUAL MEETING**

JUNE 19-22, 2025 / KALISPELL, MT

The Transforming Church: Centered On Christ,
Community and the Way of Reconciliation
Romans 12:2

Remember to pray for traveling mercies for our pastors, delegates and ministry leaders who will be making the trip to Kalispell for this year's PNMC Annual Meeting later this week. We are looking forward to this opportunity to grow together in community and as a conference. We are grateful for the kind hospitality of our brothers and sisters at Mountain View Mennonite Church for hosting.

Albany Mennonite Church

Don Bacher has been working with the Oasis Chorale to set up a tour in the Pacific Northwest. They are a choir from back east made up of conservative Mennonite singers from various states in the US and Canada. Here's their complete itinerary:

Friday, July 4, 7:00pm, Woodburn United Methodist Church, Woodburn, OR

Sunday, July 6, 7:00pm, Linn Benton Community College, Albany, OR

Tuesday, July 8, 6:30pm, Zillah German Baptist Brethren Church, Zillah, WA

Wednesday, July 9, 7:00pm, Blue Mountain Christian Fellowship, Milton Freewater, OR

Friday, July 11, 6:30pm, Trinity Reformed Church, Moscow, ID

Saturday, July 12, 6:00pm, Parkside Church, Newport, WA

Sunday, July 13, 6:00pm, Kootenai Valley Mennonite

Camp CAMREC



Recently, when the Second Creek Fire in the neighboring canyon worsened, CAMREC was contacted by DNR's Wildfire Incident Initial Attack Logistics Team to serve meals for their crews. Within 24 hrs Camp CAMREC served 400 meals! It was only possible thanks to emergency volunteers from [Faith Lutheran Church Leavenworth](#), [Rotary Club of Leavenworth WA](#), [Hike For Your Health](#), [Sweet Cake](#), [Meredith Lodging](#), [The Bush School](#), CAMREC friends, and logistical support from [Ingalls Creek Enrichment Center](#). Thank you to our community that stepped up to respond to this need!

CAMREC has been working to deepen relationship with various federal, state, and county institutions around community wildfire resilience. Just a few weeks before this fire, Washington's Public Land Commissioner visited camp and CAMREC made it on the front page of the Seattle Times! Read more [here](#).

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

PNMHS is seeking a volunteer editor who is willing to write articles for a digital newsletter to be sent to supporters and churches every quarter. Background material and supporting information would be provided. The writer is expected to craft an article of approximately 400-500 words to be included in the quarterly newsletter. The article will be included with other information about current activities at PNMHS. If interested or desiring more information, please contact Linwood Rush, Board Chair, at rushlin2@gmail.com or call 503-260-7480.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

July 14 (submissions due by 7/7)

Aug 4 (submissions by 7/28)

Aug 18 (submissions due by 8/11)

Sept 1 (submissions due by 8/25)

If you would like to contribute, please send a brief announcement in Spanish & English with website links to brenda@pnmc.org. Our goal is to provide a valuable resource, not an In-Box jammer. If space is tight, we may omit announcements that are not as pertinent to PNMC. Announcements will run ONE time only, unless specified otherwise. We welcome your feedback!

For more PNMC updates: <http://pnmc.org> e-Bulletin Archives: <http://pnmc.org/Resources/eBulletin>