



SOJOURNS



Vol. XXXV, Issue 5 The Newsletter of Sonnenberg Mennonite Church March 1, 2026

SENIOR SAINTS March, 2026 Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy celebrating to our senior saints who have birthdays/anniversaries in March, 2026!

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*Julie Beun (68), Saturday, March 21  
Conrad Neuenschwander (72), Tuesday, March 24  
Mike/Mim Lehman (32), Thursday, March 26  
Alice Metcalf (76), Friday, March 27  
Rich Horst (78), Tuesday, March 31*



## A Word of Thanks

*(The following comes from a regular newsletter the Oyangurens have shared*

*as a summary of their work in 2025).*

### Family

Tomás has finished primary school. Now he'll have a vacation and then start preparing for another stage of his studies. Juan finished his first year of university studying to become a physical education teacher. He did very well. We would like to ask you for prayers especially for him and for us as his family. Last year he suffered from depression and received treatment from an excellent doctor, but he is still in need of help. He's feeling a bit down again now, but he refuses to seek treatment of any kind; pastoral, psychological, or medical. Emilia is also two months pregnant. She and her husband are very happy. The experience of carrying a new life is filling her



with wonder. It's a constant source of amazement and a reason to thank God for how great and perfect He is.

### Biblical Studies

We continue to prepare new study materials, brochures, and different ways to



communicate the gospel, encourage trust in God, and stimulate Bible reading. We have been going to the neighboring province of Formosa, as well as to Castelli and Río Bermejito. In the latter town, we agreed to begin a systematic annual study for the churches in the area.

### Audio recording of the Bible

This year we completed the full recording of the Bible in audio. The app will soon be available so that everyone can download and have the text with audio in their own language. We also continue distributing the New Testament audio players in the Qom language, especially to those who have vision problems and find reading difficult.

### Secondary Education

The program started eleven years ago, and it's a joy every year to see



young adults completing their secondary education. This year we had a wonderful, enthusiastic, and

proactive group. Thirty two graduates received the training that will allow them to pursue higher education. Some have already enrolled in nursing, bilingual teacher training, and midwifery.

The Sayaten Center is a place where you can feel God's goodness. Some said they wanted to repeat the year of study just to be able to stay at Sayaten. We give thanks to God and to those who make this place possible.

### Sport and Evangelization

Thanks to our brothers and sisters, it was possible to have a roof covering part of the courtyard at the Sayaten Center. It's a tremendous blessing to have this; there's less heat, more activities, and a suitable place for talks for teachers and the community in general where everyone can gather.



We wanted to inaugurate the new space with something special, so we organized an indigenous volleyball tournament. The space was perfect for 3v3. Teams came from other communities, and some mixed teams also joined in. There were a total of 25 teams. It was a spectacular day. There was evangelization through music and other activities. We were also able to give prizes to the winners and the runners up. Everyone was so happy that they asked us to organize another tournament. So, on December 19th, we ended the year with a new tournament at the municipal stadium. It was another fun and friendly day. Other non-indigenous young people from Castelli heard about it and joined in the activities.

### Job Training

Some of the brothers completed the welding course. Others finished the first part of the electrical installer course. All of this takes place at our Sayaten Center and helps the brothers have a better chance of finding employment.

## NEWS & NOTES



### OrrVilla Retirement

**Community:** Is continuing its Speaker Series each month.

OrrVilla's Speaker Series events are a 1-hour presentation (2:00 – 3:00 PM) on a variety of topics. These talks are free to the public, with an RSVP (330-462-1038), and are intended to be informative and educational.

**March 3rd | 2:00–3:00 pm. Join us for some helpful tips and new ideas for ways to provide support for our loved ones and learn the questions that will need to be answered at the time of a loved one's passing .**

Glenn Black is an Ohio-based educator and consultant who leads compassionate, values-focused conversations on end-of-life planning. Drawing on Anabaptist and Mennonite traditions of stewardship and simplicity, he also guides churches, nonprofits, and individuals in aligning their financial decisions with their core beliefs. Glenn's workshops and presentations offer clarity, confidence, and purpose for the future.



## Ohio MCC Comforter Bash

**March 12-14, 2026**

*Times to be determined*

*Snacks and coffee/tea will be provided. Please pack your own food for meals.*

**MCC Material Resources Center**  
4080 Kidron Road, Kidron, OH 44636



**This year we are gathering at the new MCC Material Resources Center!** With the new location, the format will be a bit different with the event spread over three days. We still need volunteers for knotting and trimming comforters, along with sewists to bind and finish them. *Specific times and more information will be coming soon.*

**Comforter tops (60" x 80") and backs (65" x 85") are accepted throughout the year at the MCC Material Resources Center in Kidron.**

### Join the Ohio MCC Comforter Bash on March 12-14!

This year we are gathering at the new MCC Material Resources Center in Kidron (4080 Kidron Road). With the new location, the format will be a bit different with the event spread over three days. We still need volunteers for knotting and trimming comforters, along with sewists to

bind and finish them. *See specific times below.* A handmade comforter provides not only warmth, but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten. **For more information, visit [mcc.org/ohio-comforter-bash](http://mcc.org/ohio-comforter-bash) or contact 234-415-1036 or [GLOhio@mcc.org](mailto:GLOhio@mcc.org).**

**Dates:** March 12-14, 2026 (*Snacks and coffee/tea are provided. Please pack your own meals.*)

#### **Thursday, March 12**

- 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.: Knotting
- 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.: Trimming & Binding

#### **Friday, March 13**

- 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.: Trimming & Binding
- Noon - 8 p.m.: Knotting

#### **Saturday, March 14**

- 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Knotting, Trimming & Binding

**Location:** MCC Material Resources Center - 4080 Kidron Road, Kidron OH 44636



**Camp Luz:** is hiring for staff for summer camp. High school students who are 16 years old or older are eligible and this is a wonderful way to serve in a local

ministry.

#### **Summer Staff Team**

Most summer staff have a primary role for the summer but are occasionally asked to fill other roles based on staffing needs.

Requirements For ALL Summer Staff

**Cabin Leader-** Directly responsible for the safety, supervision, and spiritual nurture of 8-12 campers assigned to him/her. (with a co-counselor)

**Cook-** Responsible to assist in preparation, serving, and clean up of the meals and snacks.

**Housekeeping-** Responsibilities include cleaning the camp facilities, refilling supplies and assisting the cooks during meal times and clean up.

**Maintenance Staff -** Assist with camp upkeep including yard work and general maintenance.

**Program Coordinator-** Works alongside the Program Director to plan and lead various tasks. Expected to provide leadership to the staff through encouragement, example and direction. Also expected to do any tasks the

Program Director asks them to do. This could be a weekly or summer commitment.

**Photographer/Social Media Specialist-** Take and upload high quality photos. Prepare flash drives of weekly highlights that can be bought by camper families.

**Lifeguard-** Responsible for keeping guests safe at the Camp Luz pool. (certification required) \*fill out lifeguard application if you plan on only being a lifeguard, otherwise complete the summer staff application\*

**Nurse-** Responsible for the health forms and medications of campers and staff and on-call for treatment of injuries and illness. (licensed RN or LPN)

**Internship-** because of the nature of camp work, there are a variety of internship possibilities we can help you meet. If you are looking to fill internship requirements in Guest Services, Food Service, Ministry, or Programming, talk to us about how we can help.

All summer staff are expected to attend Staff Training (June 1-5, 2026) and are expected to be able to agree with the Camp Luz Statement of Faith and be willing to sign the Summer Staff Covenant.



#### **MCC Appalachia**

**Build:** (formerly SWAP) home repair program is seeking summer staff in

Kimball, West Virginia or Elkhorn City, Kentucky. These three-month positions for Job Site Coordinators and Meals Coordinators will allow you to explore new cultures, develop skills, build friendships and live out your faith. Applicants should be at least 19 years old, but the roles are not limited to young adults. An hourly wage plus room and board are provided. For more information and to apply, visit [mcc.org/careers](http://mcc.org/careers). Or contact [RoxyReyes@mcc.org](mailto:RoxyReyes@mcc.org)



**MDS:** listed below are some service opportunities over the next few months:

**Location:** Middlefield, Ohio to Georgia

Disaster: Hurricane Helene

Type of Work: Drivers for Amish Volunteers

Contact: Red Byler at 440-487-6371 or  
redbyler@outlook.com

**Location: Berlin, Ohio to Georgia**

Disaster: Hurricane Helene

Type of Work: Drivers for Amish Volunteers

Contact: Merle Stutzman at 330-893-3010 or  
merles57@gmail.com

**Location: TBD**-Looking for persons interested in the work of MDS

Type of Work: Future leadership roles within the unit

Contact: Bruce Kindy at 330-464-2380 or  
bdkindy51@zoominternet.net

**Weekly Volunteer scheduling for April-August**

projects (including the Summer Youth Program) begins in February. Weekly Volunteers can see Opportunities on the website if interested in serving in the spring or summer or join the Waitlist for the fall projects! Contact Kaelan Swartley (kswartley@mds.org or 800-241-8111) with any questions or to schedule a week of service!

**Leadership Volunteers** - MDS will soon be scheduling our spring and summer projects once locations are finalized. We need leadership to support these projects as cooks and crew leaders specifically for the summer. We will have youth groups serving and would welcome skilled volunteers investing in the future of possible MDS volunteers! Please reach out to your volunteer coordinator if you can go for 2-4 weeks in the summer! Learn specific dates at each location by visiting [mds.org/leadership-rv/](https://mds.org/leadership-rv/). Contact: Karla Friesen (717-735-3536 or [karla.friesen@mds.org](mailto:karla.friesen@mds.org)).

The next issue of Sojourns will be printed for Sunday March 15, 2026. Submit items to the church office by Thursday March 12, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m.

*This Week in Anabaptist History ...* Johann Conrad Beissel, born March 1, 1691, at Eberbach in Baden, Germany, died July 6, 1768. As a baker's journeyman he devoted himself to an exhaustive study of the Bible and the works of Jakob Böhme. He was converted in 1717. In the late summer of 1720 he immigrated to America (first to Boston) with a group of fellow believers to escape persecution by church and temporal authorities.

He went to Germantown, where he learned the weaver's trade for a year under Peter Becker, organizer of the Church of the Brethren, who also baptized him in 1722. He now assumed the name Friedsam Gottrecht. After some time as a hermit at Mill Creek in Lebanon County and as the head of the "newly founded Dunker Church" of Conestoga in Lancaster County, he withdrew to solitude on the Cocalico Creek near Ephrata, and there established the Ephrata Cloister of the Seventh Day Baptists. Beissel was an outstanding though amateur musician, the composer of over 1,000 hymns, of which 441 were printed.

Beissel rendered great service in the printing of German books in America. The first book printed in America with German letters, by Christopher Saur in Germantown, was Beissel's Zionitischer Weyrauchs Hügel (1739). In 1745 he published on his own press in the Ephrata monastery a small extract from the Mennonite Martyrs Mirror.

Three years later, at the request of the American Mennonites, Beissel undertook the publication of the entire Martyrs Mirror in German. Fourteen brothers of the cloister worked on it for three years; six were employed in the paper mill, four as type setters, and four as printers. The prior of the cloister, the learned Peter Miller of Alsenborn near Kaiserslautern, who had studied theology in Heidelberg, managed the translation from the Dutch into German. Beissel directed the entire undertaking, and thereby earned the gratitude of the Mennonites. The German edition of the Martyrs Mirror is besides the Saur Bible the "most precious German book that was published in the 18th century in the German language in America," and the largest book published in the American colonies before the Revolution.

[https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Beissel,\\_Johann\\_Conrad\\_\(1691-1768\)&oldid=180393](https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Beissel,_Johann_Conrad_(1691-1768)&oldid=180393)