



THE E. MORRIS AND LEONE  
SIDER INSTITUTE FOR  
ANABAPTIST, PIETIST AND  
WESLEYAN STUDIES

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Mechanicsburg PA 17055

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Sponsored by The E. Morris and Leone Sider Institute for  
Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah University



For more information, contact the Sider Institute at  
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website at [messiah.edu/siderinstitute](http://messiah.edu/siderinstitute).



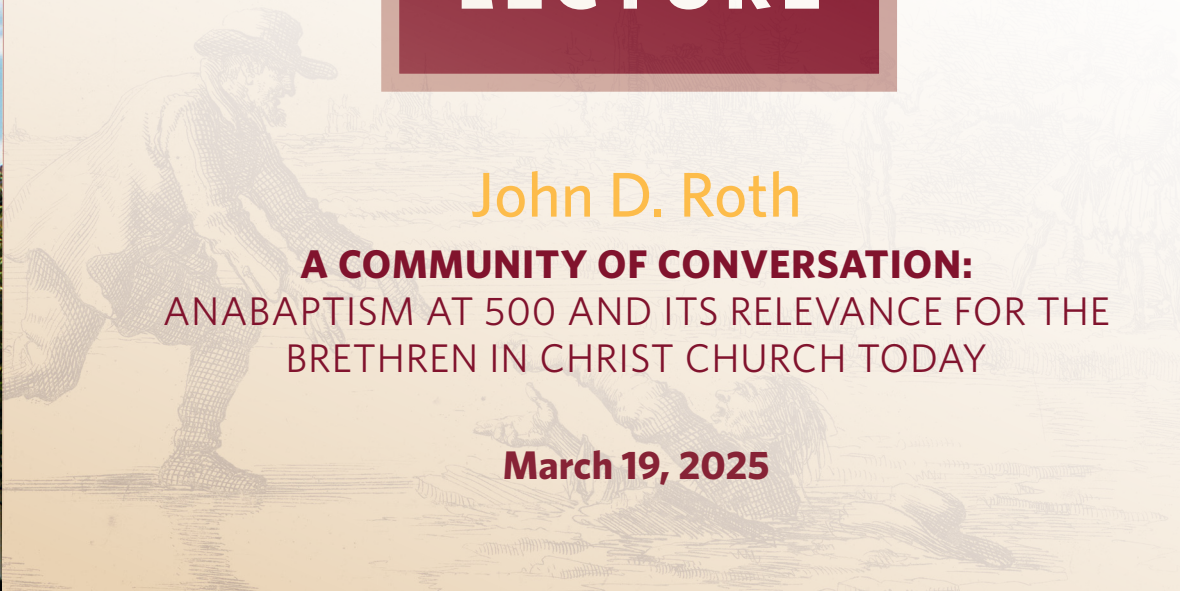
THE 2025  
ANNUAL

# SCHRAG LECTURE

John D. Roth

**A COMMUNITY OF CONVERSATION:  
ANABAPTISM AT 500 AND ITS RELEVANCE FOR THE  
BRETHREN IN CHRIST CHURCH TODAY**

**March 19, 2025**



# THE 2025 ANNUAL SCHRAG LECTURE

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### **A Community of Conversation: Anabaptism at 500 and its Relevance for the Brethren in Christ Church Today**

*Wednesday, March 19 at 7 p.m.*

*Alexander Auditorium, Frey Hall, Messiah University*

Pastors and scholars alike have long recognized the diversity of theological streams that have helped to shape the Brethren in Christ tradition. The 500th anniversary of Anabaptist beginnings provides a helpful context for reflecting again on this identity, particularly as the North American church prepares to celebrate its own 250th anniversary in 2028. In this lecture, Anabaptist historian John D. Roth will engage these questions from a fresh perspective, drawing especially on insights around the creation of the recent Anabaptist Community Bible.

This lecture is open to the Messiah University community and the general public. No tickets are required.



**ANABAPTISM**  
AT 500

## PREVIOUS SCHRAG LECTURERS

2024 Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz and Jim Amstutz	2011 Ronald J. Sider
2023 Richard T. Hughes	2010 Nathan Emerson Yoder
2022 Marie Mutsuki Mockett	2009 June Alliman Yoder
2021 Virtual Anabaptist Book Festival	2008 Martin Mittelstadt
2020 Meghan Larissa Good	2007 Barry L. Callen
2019 Donald B. Kraybill	2006 Keith A. Graber Miller
2018 Duane C. S. Stoltzfus	2005 Ben C. Ollenburger
2017 Greg Boyd	2004 Susan L. Biesecker-Mast
2016 Molly Worthen	2003 Nancy R. Heisey
2015 J. Nelson Kraybill	2002 Tom Yoder Neufeld
2014 David R. Swartz	2001 Alan and Eleanor Kreider
2013 David W. Shenk	2000 Myron S. Augsburg
2012 James Forbes	1999 John D. Roth



## ABOUT THE 2025 SCHRAG LECTURER

**John D. Roth** is project director of MennoMedia's Anabaptism at 500 initiative. Prior to that role, he was a professor of history at Goshen College (1985–2022), where he also served as director of the Mennonite Historical Library and editor of the Mennonite Quarterly Review. Roth has published widely on topics related to Anabaptist-Mennonite history, theology and church life. He is also the founding director of

the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism at Goshen College and is active in Mennonite World Conference. He and his wife Ruth enjoy spending time with their grandchildren and are members of Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship in Goshen, Indiana.

## ABOUT THE SIDER INSTITUTE FOR ANABAPTIST, PIETIST AND WESLEYAN STUDIES

The Schrag Lectures are sponsored by Messiah University's Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist and Wesleyan Studies. Named in honor of professor emeritus E. Morris Sider and his wife Leone, the Sider Institute facilitates the exploration and interpretation of Anabaptism, Pietism and Wesleyanism through a variety of educational opportunities and scholarly programs. These three theological traditions have long shaped the personality of Messiah University's founding denomination—the Brethren in Christ Church—and continue to inform the University's educational mission.

The objectives of the Sider Institute include the following:

- **To support programming** that encourages and promotes a greater understanding of Anabaptism, Pietism and Wesleyanism
- **To promote the understanding and exploration** of Brethren in Christ history and contemporary life
- **To promote peace and conflict studies (PACS)** and to oversee the PACS program at Messiah University, especially the peace and conflict studies major and minor in the Messiah University curriculum

Messiah University has created endowments to support the work of the Brethren in Christ Historical Library and Archives, the Sider Institute and the Schrag Lectures, and to provide scholarship assistance to Brethren in Christ students at Messiah University.

Persons interested in contributing to any of these endowments should contact:

Messiah University  
Office of Development  
One University Ave.  
Mechanicsburg PA 17055  
717-691-6019

## IN HONOR OF THE SCHRAGS



The Schrag Lectures are named to honor Martin Schrag (1919–2002), professor emeritus of church history at Messiah University, and his wife Dorothy Schrag (1918–2017), assistant professor emerita of music. Both were also active in the Brethren in Christ Church.

Martin Schrag was an outstanding scholar of Anabaptist history and theology. His best-known publication was "The European History (1525-1874) of the Swiss Mennonites from Volhynia" (1974), in which

he traced his ancestors' journey from Switzerland to Russia and then to the United States. With co-author John K. Stoner, he also wrote "The Ministry of Reconciliation" (1973). His last book, "Christian Leshner: Nineteenth-Century Brethren in Christ Bishop" (2003), was in press at the time of his passing. His biography is one of three that is featured in "Embracing Scholarship, Piety and Obedience" (2009), published by the Brethren in Christ Historical Society.