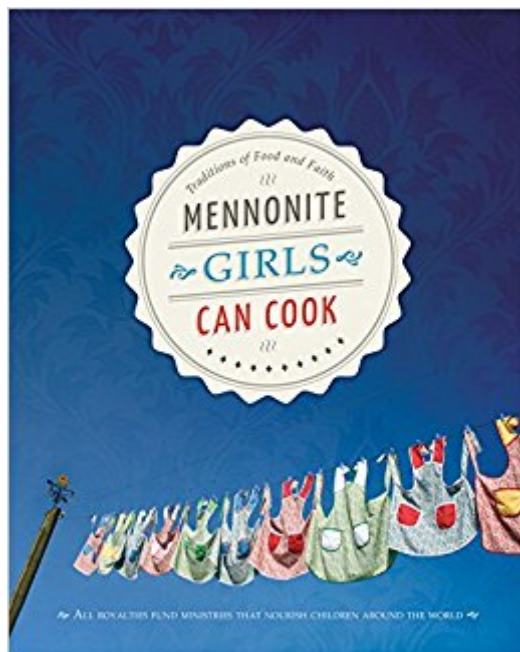


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# Mennonite Girls Can Cook



## Synopsis

Mennonite Girls Can Cook is a blog about recipes, hospitality, relationships, encouragement and helping the hungry-and now it's a book, too! Like the blog, Mennonite Girls Can Cook-the book-is more than just recipes. It is about hospitality, versus entertaining; about blessing, versus impressing. It is about taking God's Bounty, and co-creating the goodness from God's creation into something that can bless family and friends, and help sustain health and energy.No matter which way you look at it, wonderful things happen when people are given the opportunity to gather around the table-a chance to nurture and build relationships, fellowship and encourage one another and create a place of refuge for those who have had a stressful day.~\*~ •Charlotte Penner

## Book Information

Series: Mennonite Girls Can Cook

Hardcover: 208 pages

Publisher: Herald Press (May 2, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0836195531

ISBN-13: 978-0836195538

Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 0.6 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 63 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #379,419 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Mennonite](#) #159 in [Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Special Diet > Heart Healthy](#) #1312 in [Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Entertaining & Holidays](#)

## Customer Reviews

If this cookbook is any indication, Mennonite girls can indeed cook! 'Mennonite girls' Anneliese Friesen, Betty Reimer, Bev Klassen, Charlotte Penner, Ellen Bayles, Judy Wiebe, Julie Klassen, Kathy McLellan, Marg Bartel, and Lovella Schellenberg share delicious recipes that have graced their family tables over the years. While most recipes come from the Dutch-German-Russian tradition, such as kielke (noodles) and wareneki (cottage cheese pockets), the book also contains some non-traditional recipes such as barbecued salmon with sun-dried tomatoes. The addition of mouth-watering photos for each recipe makes browsing this cookbook a culinary experience in itself. Detailed instructions and helpful tips guide the cook through each recipe. The contributor often

shares a tidbit of information about the recipe or tells the reader how the recipe became a part of their family tradition. Devotional segments, Bread for the Journey, add opportunities for theological reflection throughout the book. This book would make a splendid addition to any cook's library.

--Rebecca Roman, The Messenger

A cookbook published earlier this year could assist with holiday menus. Along the way, the book might also help you keep the holiday frenzy at bay and, instead, reflect on the holiday's spiritual side. Ten women met through a cooking blog that eventually became *Mennonite Girls Can Cook*, a full-color book of recipes, stories and devotional essays. Nine of the girls, as they began calling themselves when someone offhandedly commented, You Mennonite girls sure can cook, are Mennonites living in Western Canada. The 10th lives in the Seattle area, and although not Mennonite, she shares the group's Russian Mennonite ancestry. The book captures the family traditions, family closeness and religious faith that united the women's ancestors during times of persecution. While the book does include recipes that could appear in any American cookbook -- enchiladas, pizza, stir-fry -- most are ancestral fare: kartoffelpuffer (potato pancakes), obst moos (cold fruit soup) and cabbage borscht (Russian soup), holubschi (cabbage rolls), spaetzle (German dumplings). There's a special emphasis on breads, cookies, coffee cakes and other baked goods that play a prominent role in traditional Mennonite cuisine. And many of those baked goods -- such as traditional Christmas cookies, like pfeffernuesse (peppernuts, see recipe below) and tee gebaeck (Linzer cookies) -- would add nicely to a holiday table. There is, too, a turkey-and-stuffing tutorial recipe, although Ms. Schellenberg notes that Thanksgiving is uniquely a U.S. and Canadian holiday and thus not part of Russian Mennonite heritage. Sprinkled among the recipes are pages devoted to the life story of each author, plus other pages titled Bread for the Journey -- devotional essays the women wrote to expound Bible verses and reflect on the Christian faith journey. Some of the essays promote hospitality, sharing of bounty and regarding the Word of God as spiritual bread; others express thanks for blessings even in hardship. So Thanksgiving the holiday might not figure in Mennonite tradition, but thanksgiving as a way of life, it would appear, does. --Rebecca Sodergren, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

*Mennonite Girls Can Cook* . . . is more than just recipes. We encourage you to think about HOSPITALITY versus entertaining. Our hope is that you find the joy in BLESSING versus impressing. Our recipes are about taking God's bounty, and co-creating the goodness from God's creation into something that we can use to bless family, friends and those who need a caring meal. We take everyday ingredients to make recipes which will nourish, provide energy and delight our taste buds. No matter which way you look at it, wonderful things happen when we gather around the

table. While sharing a meal, relationships are nurtured, encouragement and fellowship can be offered and a place of refuge is provided for those who have had a stressful day. (From Mennonite Girls Can Cook Blog)

One of my favorite cookbooks, and I keep it out in my kitchen to use it regularly. My family is so happy I bought it. Whenever I make something delicious, they ask me if the recipe came from my Mennonite cookbook. Some of the recipes are for big quantities, but you can cut them in half quite easily. I've also adapted some of the bread recipes for my bread maker, using the dough cycle and cutting the recipes in half. We're fans of the Mennonite Girls!

A great way to get access to many recipes from my heritage. I can remember the cold fruit soup, the cabbage borscht, the farmer sausage in cream sauce and so on ... but I only had a few of the recipes. Well, here we are with all that stuff and so much more. I'm really impressed.

My husband and I recently moved to a Mennonite town and one of our neighbors brought us Zweiback to welcome us. Another has been talking about making green bean soup. And all over town, there are meals advertised with foods we have never heard of. I decided to order this book to try my hand at some of these great recipes, and they are wonderful. I love the recipes in the book, as well as the "devotional" items that are included. I also think that it is wonderful that these ladies donate all of their royalty fees to feeding hungry children. It is a great recipe book that helps a great cause. Many people mentioned that found the metric measurements confusing, I for one did not. They are separated by a "/". I decided to order more of these books to give as gifts.

The book is filled with excellent recipes. Every recipe I've tried has turned out great, and my family has loved the food. My only challenge with this book is how it's organized. It's sectioned by the type of celebration. I can see using recipes indicated for one type of celebration in another, which makes navigating the book a little less intuitive. That said, it's worth perusing the book to look for recipes, whether for a celebration or for some good old home cooking. I'm using several at an upcoming graduation party I'm cooking for. I am now a Mennonite Girls fan.

This is a wonderful cookbook that also honors God. It would be a perfect wedding shower or housewarming gift. My grandmother was a loving homemaker/retired home ec teacher. I spent many days cooking with her. This book has many of her techniques which I was too young to write

down. Many thanks Ladies!!

My favorite blog come to book form! The recipes are very good but often simple...which I like.

This cookbook has everything I love in it... great recipes, photos, and even some lovely devotionals. Since the book is "written" by a number of the Mennonite Girls, it offers a wide selection of recipes for everything from tea parties to camping, to fancy meals, to pizza parties, to Holiday celebrations and much more. While this book will provide plenty of ideas for celebrations, I found many of the recipes can also be used for week night dinners. Which makes this cookbook different than many written about special occasions. It can be used every day of the week.. This would make a great gift for a bride as well as a grandmother like myself. It is such a lovely book, I've even enjoyed relaxing with a cup of tea while perusing its' chapters.

Awesome recipes! Has everything you can imagine in this beautiful book! The goodies and the breads are to die for!

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