



Osler Mennonite Church

*A Welcoming Community for Peace
Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation*

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent
Together on the Journey

Prelude

Welcome/Land Appreciation/Announcements

Advent Candle lighting

Reader 1: When we find ourselves between a rock and a hard place,
we may ask how to continue on.

Reader 2: When Daniel's persistent prayers brought him between
opposing laws of the land and the mouths of hungry lions in a stone-
covered den, despite the risk, he chose to trust God.

Reader 1: When Jesus found himself faced with persecution and false
accusations, he chose forgiveness over self-defense.

(First Advent candle is lit)

***All: Our path may meander through rocky situations,
but we will hold Christ as our center as we journey together.***

Call to Worship:

L: Responding to the call of the living God,

C: our Rescuer and Saviour,

L: we welcome the Holy Spirit's presence,

C: among and within us.

L: In the name of Jesus, our risen Lord,

All: we offer ourselves in worship.

Prayer of Invocation

Hymns of Praise: VT #218 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

VT #223 Bless'd Be the God of Israel

First Reading: Daniel 6:6-18

So the administrators and satraps conspired and came to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! All the administrators of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counsellors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an edict that whoever prays to any god or human, for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the den of lions. Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." Therefore King Darius signed the document and interdict. Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. Then those men watched and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, "O king! Did you not sign an edict that anyone who prays to any god or human, within thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the den of lions?" The king answered, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." Then they responded to the king, "Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the edict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day." When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, "Know, O king that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no edict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed." Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!" A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet ring of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no entertainment was brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

Children's Gathering Song: Today Earth is Singing

Story for All Ages: Luke, Fawzia, Alia

Offering Prayer/Choir *Jesus, Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child*
Sharing Joys and Concerns/Prayer of the Church

Prayers —new member: Nora Bergen-Braun by baptism; Noah, Casadi and Brad Schroeder by transfer of membership on Jan 12

Thanksgiving – for Frieda’s successful surgery

Candle Prayers for inner and world peace

Hymn: VT #225 We Come

Second Reading: Daniel 6:19-27

Then at dawn, the king got up and at first light hurried to the den of lions. When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?” Daniel then said to the king, “O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; also before you, O king, I have done no wrong.” Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him because he had trusted in his God. The king gave a command, and those who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and thrown into the den of lions. Then King Darius wrote to all peoples and nations of every language throughout the whole world: “May you have abundant prosperity! I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people shall tremble and fear before the God of Daniel who is the Living God, enduring forever, whose kingdom shall never be destroyed, and dominion has no end. The Living God delivers and rescues; works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth; and has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Scripture Response:

Leader: For the word of God in Scripture,
 for the word of God among us,
 for the word of God within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: VT #239 He Came Down

Sermon: A Journey Through the Lion’s Den (*and other stories*)

Hymn: VT #584 Jesus, Be the Center

Benediction: Go, borrowing the courage of Daniel and our new friends from Afghanistan, in the sure and certain hope of God's faithful presence. May the praise of God be on our lips, and the Holy Spirit at our side, and the peace of Christ within our hearts. Amen.

*Offerings can be done via e-transfer to osler.mc.treasurer@gmail.com

*Our Services are all Streamed and Archived on-line.

TODAY **Dec 1** *First Sunday of Advent*

Speaker: Luke Bushman Worship Leader: Patty Friesen

Song Leaders: Loretta, Ben, Benjamin Accompanist: Melanie

Story: Luke Sound: Keri/James Ushers: Bill/Anne

Offering Counter Team: Jim Dyck, Matthew Braun

Sunday School Leaders: Stephanie/Bree/Nora

Office Hours: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm Wednesday and Friday

Coffee at the office on Friday @ 10:00 am – *note change to winter hrs.*

Patty's Week: Tues. sermon prep; Weds. office; Fri Office

Luke's Week: Wed. NPMC Youth; Thurs. KCC; Fri. Office; Sat. to Mon. vacation

Birthdays: 2 – Oren Bird; 3 – Theresa Loewen; 4 – Rachel Clark;
6 – Braden Martens-Funk

Gathering Room Coffee Schedule: Dec 1 – Bergen Braun Family

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY First Advent will begin with 9:00 a.m. Advent choir practice in the sanctuary, followed by 10:00 service, 11:00 Forum in the sanctuary with Fawzia and Alia Hasani sharing about their family in Afghanistan and possible refugee sponsorship.

The Marefat School in Kabul, Afghanistan earned an international reputation for being a place where democracy, freedom, and education could flourish. But when the Taliban came back to power in August, 2021 many of the female students and teachers had to flee for their lives since it was against the law for girls who were 12 and older to attend school. With the help of a small group of lawyers, journalists, and human rights activists around the world, more than 200 of these students were brought out to safety, first to Pakistan and eventually to Saskatoon. Two of these girls are sisters, Fawzia and Alia Hasani.

12:00 is Potluck - M-Z please help set-up and clean-up. Please bring vegetarian dishes and label dishes with pork in it for our Muslim guests. *The youth will be auctioning their gingerbread houses during the potluck.*

Also today - Last chance to bid on the blankets for the MCC project

December 8 - Deacons will be meeting with new members at 11:11 in Room 3 to share faith stories - if anyone else is interested in joining the church through baptism or transfer of membership on Jan. 12 - please join us.

In preparation for our Annual Meeting on Feb.8 @ 9:30 am, Committee chairpersons- please email your year end report for the AGM booklet to Loretta no later than January 5th.

Friday, December 6th, 2:30 p.m. at the Osler Library Michelle Crawford, Volunteer Coordinator at the Warman MCC Thrift Shop will share her experience from a recent MCC Learning Tour to Uganda

Dramatic weather events have affected many parts of the world in the past months: hurricanes, floods, droughts, fires. Pray that we would respond as Christians: both in tending to those affected and in changing our lifestyles. Pray that governments, industries and other producers would move decisively toward changes that are sustainable and mitigate environmental situations. (Mennonite World Conference)

Tues. Jan. 7 @ 7 p.m. OMC Book Club: Peace by Chocolate - books coming end of Nov. Contact Jan Guenther if questions. Zoom option available if the weather is bad.

Sunday, January 12, 2025, Baptism and new members. There will be 4 joining OMC - others welcome too. Please talk to Luke or Patty.

From Canadian Mennonite: With the Canada Post strike, your December print issue will be delayed. Sign up for digital delivery to get it by email on November 29. CM sends an email each Friday and attaches a PDF copy.

Upcoming Christmas Concerts with OMCers:

Sun. Dec. 1, 3:00 p.m. Dayna with Golden Hour at A Very Shekinah Christmas, Shekinah Retreat Centre

Sun. Dec 1, 7:30 p.m. Matthew, Lucy, Rhonda with Warman Community Band present A Night at the Movies at the Warman Communiplex Theatre.

Sat. Dec 7, 2:00 p.m. “*All is well: Jesus is born!*” Bethany chorus Christmas concert with Special Guests Michelle Busa & Crystal Dueck, Bethany Manor Fellowship centre. Honorarium at the door. (new)

Sun. Dec. 8, 2:30 p.m. Doug with Saskatoon Men’s Chorus, Zion Lutheran Church at bottom of Broadway Bridge

Sun. Dec 8, 7:00 p.m. Anna, Lois and Lyle with the Bethany Choir

Fri. Dec. 13, 7:00 p.m. Theresa, Lynette and Kathryn with Handel’s Messiah, Knox United

Sat. Dec. 14, 2:00 p.m. Theresa, Lynette and Kathryn with Handel’s Messiah Singalong, Knox United Sun.

Sun. Dec. 15, 2:00 p.m. Michelle with Saskatoon Chamber Singers, Knox United

Thurs. Dec. 19, 7:00 pm Nora and Lanae with RJC Christmas Music Program. This concert will feature the Concert Choir, RJC Singers and Concert Band

MCC Connects: Mail delivery this Christmas will likely be impacted by the postal strike. While this creates uncertainty for many Canadians, we want to reassure you that MCC’s work continues. If you usually send your donations through the mail, we have some secure alternatives to consider. You may make a secure donation anytime on our website at <https://mcc.org/christmas> or we invite you to donate by phone at 306-665-2555. Thank you for your continued support during this season of giving.

Due do the Postal Strike our materials from MennoMedia are delayed which means the *Rejoice* will not be here for December 1. They have sent a digital copy which the office will pass on. For those needing a printed copy, let the office know and it will be printed for you.

Do you feel lost trying to navigate changes in your life? **Falling Upward: Life as a Spiritual Journey**, is an online course from the Center for Action and Contemplation, based on Richard Rohr's content on the concept of Falling Upward. It offers wisdom for transformation and self-discovery. Join us on Wednesday evenings at the church beginning October 23rd, at 7:00 pm, for this 15-week course and discover what it feels like when the soul finds its fullness. *Talk to Dave, Harold, or John G for further details.*

MC Sask News:

Remember MC Sask in year-end giving Through the fall, Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Council and staff have met with most of our 21 congregations to learn about and discuss issues that are impacting our church today. These conversations have been valuable in deepening our connections with each other. As we work together to strengthen these bonds across our regional and nationwide churches, we invite you to support this important ministry. Please consider MC Sask in your year-end giving. Visit <http://mcsask.ca/donate/>. Thank you for being part of this journey! (new)

A Very Shekinah Christmas Sunday, December 1 at 3 p.m. Enjoy Christmas goodies and the beautiful harmonies of Golden Hour. Funds raised go towards the purchase of additional snow removal equipment.

Wednesday, December 4 from 5:00-7:00, the Youth Farm Bible Camp will be hosting their annual Christmas Fundraising Supper. Menu is Slow Roasted Beef and Turkey, Stuffing, Potatoes, Salad and all the fixings! Admission is by donation. Come support the camp and learn about the ministry.

RJC Dine & Donate in support of Good Neighbours Food Centre | 5:00-7:00pm, Monday, December 9, 2024 You're invited to a perogy & sausage supper prepared by the RJC kitchen staff in support of the Good Neighbours Food Centre in Rosthern. Admission is by donation and all proceeds raised will go directly to GNFC for Santa's toy shop and food aid for families in need during the Christmas season. The supper will take place in the RJC High School dining hall in our dormitory building. All are welcome!

Shekinah's firewood blitz: Shekinah has deadfall! Do you have a chainsaw and friends that enjoy some spending a few hours out in the beautiful crisp fall air? Contact Kent at 306 945-4929 to let him know when you would like to come out and help prepare Shekinah for winter!

RJC Christmas Concert | 7:00pm, Thursday, December 19, 2024 You're invited to join us as we celebrate the Christmas season at RJC! Featuring performances by the RJC High School choirs and band, directed by Adelle Sawatzky. The concert will take place in the RJC Auditorium at 410 - 6th Avenue in Rosthern. Admission by donation.

The Merry Mega Menno Christmas will be happening at Osler Mennonite Church on Saturday, December 14th from 7-9 pm. Come out for a Christmas party with games, snacks, eggnog and prizes. Additional prizes will be awarded to whoever arrives in the most festive outfit for the evening. Email oslermcpastor2@gmail.com if you have any questions. (new)

Youth News

Saturday November 30th Christmas Market (10-2:30)

December

Sunday 1st Potluck and Gingerbread House Auction 12:00-1:00

Tuesday/Wednesday 10th or 11th Bethany Manor Serving

Saturday 14th MegaMenno at OMC 7-9

From the Trustees:

Osler Mennonite Church owns a *Maigropen* (Cauldron) that has been used by Ladies Aid groups for projects such as making soap for MCC. Since it has not been used in the past 30 years it will now be offered for sale. The asking price is \$350. Church members will be given the first chance – this ad will be open for 10 days and then we might have a prospective buyer. If you are interest please contact Dick Braun ph 306-230-1071. **(Ad open until Tuesday, December 3)**

CALENDAR

Sun. Dec 1 – 9:00 am Advent Choir practice

Sun. Dec 1 – 10:00 am Luke Bushman Daniel in the Lion's Den

11:11 am Forum with Fawzia and Alia Hasani

Noon Potluck – group M-Z helping

Gingerbread House Auction – for Youth Fundraiser

Sun. Dec 8 – 9:00 am Advent Choir practice

Sun. Dec 8 – 10:00 am Patty Friesen – Second Sunday of Advent

11:11 am Deacon mtg with new members in Room 3

11:11 am Community Connections mtg in Patty's office

Sun. Dec 15 – 9:00 am Advent Choir practice

Sun. Dec 15 – 10:00 am Patty Friesen – Third Sunday of Advent

NEXT SUNDAY Dec 8 *Second Sunday of Advent*

Speaker: Patty Friesen Worship Leader: Henry Funk

Song Leaders: Ben, Benjamin, Anna, Lynette Accompanist: Naomi

Story: Patty Sound: Matthew Ushers: Lloyd/Harold

Offering Counter Team: Jim Dyck, Garry Boldt

Sunday School Leaders: Kathryn/Olivia, Zoe

The Osler Mennonite Church, Box 129, Osler, Saskatchewan S0K 3A0

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Church Office – 306-239-2133

oslermcoffice@sasktel.net

oslermcpastor@sasktel.net

oslermcpastor2@gmail.com

website: <http://oslermennonitechurch.org>

We gather on Treaty Six Lands, Nehiyaw Territory, and the Homeland of the Métis