



Osler Mennonite Church

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

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

February 2, 2025

Wading into Change

Prelude

Welcome/Land Appreciation/Announcements

Call to Worship Psalm 24:1-6

L: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it, for Creator has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers.

C: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?

And who shall stand in the holy place?

L: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false and do not swear deceitfully.

They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from the God of their salvation.

*All: Such is the company of those who seek God,
who seek the face of the Holy One.*

Prayer of Invocation

**Hymns of Praise: VT #95 Praise the Lord, Sing Hallelujah
VT #120 For the Beauty of the Earth**

First Reading: Psalm 84 *The Joy of Worship in the Temple*

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my Creator and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers

it with pools. They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer. For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; who bestows favour and honour. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Children's Gathering Song: Today Earth is Singing

Story for All Ages: Kathy

Offering Prayer/Music for Meditation

Sharing Joys and Concerns/Prayer of the Church

Prayers – Karl Martens' family

- Melanie's friend's family

- MC SK youth on retreat at Shekinah this weekend

Thanksgiving - over 30 people responded on Facebook to our Anabaptism 500 celebration.

Candle Prayers for inner and world peace

Hymn: VT #715 Longing for Light

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people." And the child's father and

mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.” There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favour of God was upon him.

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: SJ #95 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Sermon: Wading into Change: A Retirement Sermon

Hymn: VT #581 Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Benediction: The Lord bless us and keep us. May God’s face shine upon us and grant us peace. Amen.

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

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

TODAY Feb 2 *Patty’s Retirement Sermon*

Speaker: Patty Friesen Worship Leader: Terry Stefaniuk

Song Leaders: Loretta, Kathryn Accompanist: Naomi

Story: Kathy Sound: Benjamin Ushers: Dick/Lloyd

Offering Counter Team: Susan Braun/John Reddekopp

Sunday School Leaders: Loretta/Youth Retreat

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

Luke's Week: Wed OMC office; Thurs. KCC; Fri. party prep, Sat. AGM

Birthday: 5 – Anna Rehan

Gathering Room Coffee Schedule: Feb 2 – Loretta

Feb 9 – Osler Donuts

Please consider signing up to bring snacks &/or make coffee/clean up

CALENDAR

Sun. Feb 2 – 10:00 am Patty Friesen's Retirement Sermon

11:11 am Forum on Enneagram Part 2 with Amanda Dodge

Noon – Osler restaurant lunch with Amanda

Sat. Feb 8 - 9:30 am Annual General Meeting

Sun., Feb 9 – 10:00 am Luke Bushman speaking

11:11 am Patty's Roast – special coffee time

Sun. Feb 16 – 10:00 am Lois Siemens speaking

Sun. Feb 23 – 10:00 am Dave Feick speaking

Sun. Mar 2 – 10:00 am Luke Bushman speaking

Sun. Mar 9 – 10:00 am S. Murugiah from *Shekinah* speaking

Sun. Mar 12 – 10:00 am Henry Funk speaking

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear OMC Congregants,

I'd like to invite you to the OMC annual meeting on February 8, 2025, at 9:30 AM. As you know, we are searching for a lead pastor to fill Patty's position. During the meeting, the OMC Council will present several budget scenarios that will require your consideration and help guide our hiring discussions.

The OMC Council has met Don Froese and recommends that he join us for a candidating weekend to be considered for the lead pastor position. Don is interested in the full-time position which means one of the decisions we need to make at the annual meeting is if we can commit to increasing our budget to accommodate one full-time (Don) and one 3/4-time (Luke) pastor (1.75 FTE). Last year we budgeted for 1.5 FTE wages.

I encourage you to prayerfully consider this matter and come prepared to discuss it at the annual meeting. Please contact me by phone or email if you have any questions or require clarification.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Kevin Boldt
OMC council chair

Please sign the Happy Retirement card and the Hymnal for Patty.

OMC Book Club: The next book *Kabul Beauty School* will be available on Feb 5th. If you would like a book please contact Margaret Dyck at 306-229-9492. There will be a book discussion at 7:00 pm, Thursday, March 6th at the church.

MCC Connects: Save the date! MCC's annual Relief Sale Festival will be held on Saturday, June 14 at Forest Grove Community Church in Saskatoon from 11 am - 3 pm. Stay tuned for more information.

MC Sask News:

MC Sask Youth Retreat, Jan. 31- Feb 2 at the Shekinah Retreat Centre. We are so excited to have a weekend of worship, community-building, and fun! We hope your youth can plan to join us! This year we managed to keep Kirsten Hamm-Epp around for a little longer as our speaker, and we also anticipate the retreat band (Zac Schellenberg and Clay Buhler) to make an appearance!

Sunday, February 2: Forest Church @ Shekinah 3pm. Josh Wallace will be our guide through outdoor worship under the theme "Hope In and Out of Season" based on 1 Peter 3:15 and 2 Tim 4:2. Come experience the beauty of this winter season; all are welcome! (updated)

Come to the Youth Farm Bible Camp for their annual Cinnamon Fund Raiser on Saturday, February 8 - 10:00AM. They will also be sharing about a recent trip to Italy/Greece (following footsteps of Paul) and the upcoming Nicaragua and Mexico Impact Trips through the 3E Internship Program.

Friday, February 14 – Please join us for our Hearts for Refugees fundraising dinner at Eigenheim Mennonite Church (8 kms west of Rosthern on Hwy 312). Two settings: 5:00 pm or 6:30 pm. RSVP by phone or text: (306) 232-7447. Admission by donation.

Shekinah Winter Family Fun Day: Monday, February 17. 11 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Tobogganing, snowshoeing, skating and broomball. Bring a lunch and join us in the chalet for hot chocolate!

Apply Now and Save \$500 at RJC! | Are you, or is somebody you know planning to attend RJC High School in September 2025? Apply by February 1 and save \$500 (open to new students only). Head to our website at rjc.sk.ca/apply to complete your application today!

RJC High School Employment Opportunity | Teacher RJC High School is inviting applications for a full-time teaching position beginning in the 2025/2026 school year. The ideal candidate will teach from a whole student perspective and be actively engaged in school and community programming. To apply, please submit a cover letter and resume to the president, Ryan Wood, at executiveoffice@rjc.sk.ca no later than Friday, February 28, 2025. For more information, please review the full job description on our website.

RJC announces the addition of Grade 9! In response to parental and student requests, and in an effort to expand and enhance our school program and mission, RJC High School is pleased to announce the addition of grade 9 for the 2025/2026 school year. Grade 9 is the natural intake for most high schools in the province, and an increasing number of students and families have requested this program. We are excited to now provide this opportunity for our students. For details go to <https://www.rjc.sk.ca/2024/12/04/rjc-announces-addition-of-grade-9/>

Save the date! The MC Sask Gathering 2025 (annual delegate sessions) will be held at RJC High School on March 7 & 8, 2025. The theme is "Differences for the Common Good". All are welcome to attend. More details available soon

InCERT - Cutting greenhouse gas emissions at home. In 2017, we made a series of energy improvements to our 1950s house in Haultain: 400mm external wall insulation, state-of-the-art energy efficient windows from Austria, and a heat recovery ventilation system. This cut the greenhouse gas emissions from heating the house by 1/3 (even after thermostat settings somehow drifted upwards), cut our gas bill similarly, and made the place substantially more comfortable in winter. In 2024, we continued the process. Having had our chimney demolished the previous year in conjunction with re-shingling, we increased our loft insulation to about 500mm, and installed photovoltaic panels on the roof. It's too early to announce results, but we are confident to have further reduced furnace use - and in the early autumn we were producing

more electricity than we used and selling it back to Saskatoon Light and Power.

The 2017 retrofit was possible for us only because of funds from my late mother's will. The 2024 additions are partly financed through the City of Saskatoon's HELP scheme: we will pay back in increased local taxes but our reduced energy costs will more than counterbalance that. People on low income, and especially those in rented accommodation, would not be able to do what we have done. I invite readers to advocate for policies which would enable those most in need of cutting their fuel bills to do so through energy efficiency and solar panels. I'm open to discussions as to what policy changes could achieve that aim. *Mark Bigland-Pritchard* mark@lowenergydesign.com

Mennonite Church Canada Gathering 2025: "Each Person Has a Gift" What would it look like if we, as a church, truly recognized the unique gifts God has given each of us? How might our communities change if we boldly celebrated those gifts and the people who hold them? At Mennonite Church Canada Gathering 2025, we'll explore these questions and more, as we come together to discover how God is calling us to use our gifts for the good of the church and the world. See what to expect on individual days:

<https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/nationwide-events/Gathering2025>

We pray for Ecuador, a small and beautiful country located on the equator. We are living through a time of much violence, uncertainty, and deepening poverty. We ask that God may have mercy on us and help all those well-intentioned people working to sow seeds of peace, justice and hope. May these seeds germinate and grow strong so that they overcome all fear and hopelessness to produce a present and a future filled with peace, justice, and bread. *Alexandra Meneses, Iglesia Cristiana Menonita de Quito, Ecuador (MWC)*

Short-term Witness worker, Nancy Epp, in Thailand Pray for Nancy Epp, Rosthern, Saskatchewan, working with Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers in Thailand [www.mennonitechurch.ca/Thailand] as a short-term resource person in education. Phim and Joseph Poovong need to be home-schooled in the next few years as parents Tom and Christine serve with Thai colleagues forming a community of faith supported by sustainable agriculture in northeastern Thailand. Nancy will help to set

up the home schooling as well as contribute to the foundations of English teaching ministry

NEXT SUNDAY Feb 9 *Dicipleship*

Speaker: Luke Bushman Worship Leader: Becca Bushman

Song Leaders: Kathryn, Benjamin Accompanist: Lynette

Story: Luke Sound: Stephanie Ushers: Harold/Lloyd

Offering Counter Team: Diana Buhler, Stephanie Siemens

Sunday School Leaders: Lynette, Olivia, Emmett

Hasani Family Update

Alia has started classes at the U of S as of January.

The youngest brother was on his way to the market this past week. He was stopped by a group and threatened with a knife.

They took his phone and all the money he had. This took place in Quetta, Pakistan where the parents and 3 brothers are refugees.

MCC has received 75 sponsorship applications. This list was shortened to 21 this past week. Our project involving the Hasani family is on that shortened list .MCC is waiting to hear how many projects they will be granted for this year.

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

Vol. LXVI

February 2, 2025

No. 5

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