



Osler Mennonite Church

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

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

December 14, 2025

*Third Sunday of Advent
Be Amazed: Joy in the desert*

Prelude

Welcome/Land Appreciation/Announcements/Focus Statement

Imagine wandering thirsty through a desert wasteland and happening upon a spring of clear, cold water. On this third Sunday of Advent, you are invited to lay down your cares; find rest, comfort, and joy in God's amazing provision, in the places where you least expect it.

Call to Worship: Based on Isaiah 55:1–13

One: Come, all who hunger and thirst for more—
God calls us to the feast!

**Many: We are weary exiles, longing for home,
caught in a world that drains our hope.**

One: “Listen, so that you may live!
My covenant is everlasting, my promise sure.”

Many: Can joy reach us here, in this place of waiting?

One: God's vision is higher than the heavens,
stretching beyond what we can see.

**Many: The invitation is for all people,
from the farthest reaches of the earth.**

One: The word of the Lord does not return empty—
it brings forth life!

**Many: The mountains and the hills will burst into song,
the trees of the field will clap their hands!**

All: You are the source of true joy, O God.

*You expand our vision, lifting our eyes beyond the moment,
beyond despair, into amazement.*

We stand before you, ready to enter your story and be amazed.

Prayer of Invocation

**Hymns of Praise: VT #210 O Come, O Come, Immanuel
VT #247 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Candle Lighting Litany:

One: We have been wandering in the dark, cold,
desert of grief and despair,
and we feel heavy, dry and lifeless.

Many: Come, Joy of the world. Come amaze us.

*All: May your joy water our thirsty souls,
that we may become your fountains of joy,
freely sharing your joy with the world.*

First Reading: Based on Isaiah 55:1, 6, 9–12 *NRSVue*

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters;

and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Seek the LORD while he may be found;

call upon him while he is near;

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven

and do not return there until they have watered the earth . . .

so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;

it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose

and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Offering Prayer/Music by the Choir

Sharing Joys and Concerns/Prayer of the Church

Prayers -Cornie Guenther after his surgery on Dec. 12

- Betty Friesen's move into *Hospice* after suffering a stroke
- Continue to pray for those grieving loss during the holiday season

Prayers of lament for the cancelled Mennonite World Council in Ethiopia. Prayers for mending of broken relationships between Mennonite Conferences.

Candle Prayers for peace and our hearts' desires...

Hymn: VT #237 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

Second Reading: Luke 2:8-20 *NRSVue*

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying.

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.

Sunday School Program – Outstanding in Their Field

Hymn: VT #240 Joy to the World

Benediction: Eat and drink, be filled with the abundant joy of the Lord, delighting as the Holy Spirit moves here among us. May your heart be open, ready to receive God's abundant love. Watch and wonder, for signs of God's promised One are everywhere. Go in the knowledge that, at any moment, God's glory will break through our assumptions and amaze us with new possibilities.

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

*Our services are all streamed and archived on-line.

TODAY Dec 14 *Third Sunday of Advent*

Sunday School Program Worship Leader: Julie

Song Leader: Kathryn Accompanist: Naomi

Sound: Stephanie Ushers: Carl/Lanae

Offering Counter Team: Susan/Matthew

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

Luke's Week: Wed. OMC office; Thurs. work from home; Fri. OMC office; Sat Jan 4th Sermon prep

Brad's Week: usual work days are Mon, Wed. and Fri. but not necessarily in the office – he may be out visiting. If you'd like a visit please call him @ 306-361-0601.

Coffee Time Friday - 10:00 am with the OMC staff

Birthday this Week: 19 – Shelley Penner

Sunday Coffee: Dec 14 – Sharing Christmas Baking

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Christmas choir practices will be on December 14 & 21 at 9:00 am. We will practice one song each Advent Sunday morning and sing it that Sunday. Anyone interested is very welcome to come!

Sunday School Christmas Project for 2025 – MCC Christmas Gifts
Total raised from Loose Change last Sunday - \$288.50

The Nominating Committee is asking for your help....we need two members to fill vacancies on the Community Connections Committee. If this is a committee that you are interested in being a part of please speak with Shelley Penner, Ben Buhler, Steve Guenther or Louise Buhler.

Annual meeting reports from Committee Chairpersons and Pastors are due by January 5, 2026. Please email your report to Loretta at loretta.s@hotmail.ca

Annual Meeting will be on Saturday February 14, 2026 at 9:00 am.

"Contemplative checkin" Wednesday evenings at 7pm, meeting bi-weekly at OMC. Please contact John, Dave or Harold for more information.

Check the bulletin board for:

- Christmas greeting from MC Sask
- Letter from Micah Mission
- Card from MCC Sask

December 15, 7:30 pm - Warman Community Band Presents *Sounds of Christmas* at the Warman Family (Mennonite) Church. Entrance by donation, also a collection will be taken for the Warman Food Bank. Stay for cookies.

MCC Connects: Thank you to everyone who participated in Grow Hope Saskatchewan's 8th season! With your generosity, 533 acres were sponsored and over \$326,600 was raised through crop sales and donations. Grow Hope believes restoring our relationship with God also means sharing from our abundance with those who face hunger. In doing so, we become part of a bigger story of healing, hope, and "turning darkness into light as bright as the noon" (Isaiah 58:10). For more information about Grow Hope, visit: www.growhopesk.ca

MC SASK Updates:

Third Advent - Love

In a world where so many experience hatred
God lights a candle of love in our hearts.
We wait together for a Saviour,
who will be Immanuel, Christ the Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord:

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but may have eternal life. John 3:16

from Carol Penner, "Leading in Worship"

RJC Dine & Donate in support of Good Neighbours Food Centre | 5:00-7:00pm, Monday, December 15 Join us in the RJC Dining Hall for our Dine & Donate Supper, serving ham & scalloped potatoes, with live music, kids' crafts, festive photo ops, and a Dash & Donate take-out option. Proceeds raised will go to GNFC for Santa's toy shop and food aid for families during the Christmas season.

RJC Christmas Concert | 7:00pm, Thursday, December 18 Join us in the RJC Auditorium for our Christmas Concert, an evening of student music and community. Admission by donation. All are welcome!

December 12–14 & December 19–21 (5:30–8:30 pm) Youth Farm Corn Maze Christmas Join us for a peaceful, family-friendly evening of lights, music, Bethlehem Characters, and warm Christmas hospitality at the Youth Farm. A meaningful way to begin the Advent season together. Cost per vehicle is \$22 when purchased online at www.cornmazechristmas.com (new)

Save the date! The 2026 MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions will be on March 13 & 14 at Shekinah Retreat Centre. Lodging will be available. Details will come out in the new year.

As we look forward to 2026, we recognize that it will be a year of transitions. Please pray for the staff and volunteers of Mennonite Church Saskatchewan as we manage this time of change. Your financial support will help us as we hire a Faith Development Minister to work with our youth and young adults. Please consider a donation to MC Sask. Visit <https://mcsask.ca/giving> (new)

January 30-February 1 // MegaMenno Youth Retreat // Shekinah Retreat Centre // Save the Date! Details and registration coming soon!

Youth Farm Staff & Interns Travel Through Reformation & Paul's Journey As part of their discipleship and leadership formation, eight Youth Farm Bible Camp staff and interns traveled to Europe in November, spending time in Germany, France, and Switzerland exploring key sites of the Radical Reformation. They then continued on

to Greece, tracing the Footsteps of Paul through Philippi, Thessaloniki, Berea, Athens, and Corinth.

This Advent, as we reflect on the coming of Christ and the call to follow Him courageously, we are grateful for how these journeys deepen faith and shape the next generation of leaders. A few reflections and photos from the trip can be found at www.3einternship.com/blog. (new)

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan is pleased to announce the position of Faith Development Minister. This position will focus on cultivating relationships and supporting the faith and leadership development of youth and young adults across MC Sask. This role reimagines our approach to youth ministry — moving away from an event-based model toward a relationship-driven, collaborative ministry that meets young people where they are. For full details about this position, please see the MC Sask website at <http://mcsask.ca/FaithDevelopmentMinister>. Applications and enquiries can be sent to minister@mcsask.ca (new)

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan is seeking a full-time Office, Communications, and Financial Administrator to join our ministry team. This position provides key support in three areas: Office Administration, Communications and Financial Administration. For a full job description see <https://mcsask.ca/officeandfinancialadministratorjobdescription> Applications will begin being reviewed December 1, 2025. If you or someone you know may be interested, please send a resume and cover letter to: minister@mcsask.ca (new)

InCERT: Solar Panels Meet Agriculture II: The days definitely will become longer any day now. Think solar energy! Read about the effect 1700 sheep can have doing their work among solar panel farms. <https://www.leravi.org/they-placed-1700-sheep-among-solar-panels-and-the-animals-unexpected-behavior-surprised-researchers-16255/> (new)

Mennonite Church Canada Prayer Requests

Christians in Palestine are entering the Advent season with great trepidation. In Gaza, military incursions and blockage of aid continue. In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, settler attacks are increasing with impunity. Let us pray for resilience, hope, and bold witness in the face

of genocidal violence and ethnic cleansing. *MC Canada Palestine-Israel Network* (new)

Please pray for peace and wisdom for government and military leaders in Thailand and Cambodia as tensions escalate with land mines and aerial bombardments in the region. Tom and Christine Poovong are asking for your prayers as they again host evacuees. In the city of Ubon Ratchathani, where Tom and Christine live, they have been told to be on stand-by for possible evacuation. (new)

CALENDAR

Sun. Dec 14 – 10:00 am Sunday School program – 3rd Advent

Sun. Dec 21 - 10:00 am Brad Schroeder preaching – 4th Advent

Thur. Dec 24 - 7:00 pm Candle Light Service

Sun. Dec. 28 – 10:00 am Brad Schroeder preaching

NEXT SUNDAY Dec 21 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Speaker: Brad Schroeder Worship Leader: Dave

Song Leaders: Ben, Benjmin, Loretta Accompanist: Melanie

Story: Brad Sound: James Ushers: Carl/Lanae

Offering Counter Team: Susan/Doug

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website: <http://oslermennonitechurch.org>

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