

MCC Connects: Christmas Blessings to you from the Board and Staff of MCC Saskatchewan! May our celebrations of the birth of the Christ child nurture and strengthen our living and serving in the name of Christ throughout the coming year.

***Note from our Treasurer:**

Budgeted giving to Dec 14 is \$181,250.9

Actual giving to date is \$165,364.4

We have given 91% of what we said we'd give. This doesn't reflect all the other, non-budgeted giving people have done through-out the year. People have been very generous this year and we are nearly at our goal for the year. Talk to me if you would like to give a gift outside of your regular amount. Thank you.

OMC CALENDAR

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candle light service, 7:00 pm
Jan 5/19 Taste of Syria, 5:30 pm
Jan 10 Missions & Service meeting, 7:00 pm
Jan 20 Winter Study & Potluck
Jan 25 Deacons meeting, 12:45 pm
Feb 2 Annual General Meeting, 9:30 am
Feb 1-3 Senior High retreat @ Shekinah
Feb 10 Communion
Feb 8-9 Church picture days for Photo Directory

Worship Leader: Patty Friesen Sound: Doug McKinnell
Choir director: Keith Boldt Soloist: Merel Kreigsman
Pianists: Lynette Janzen, Mark Bigland-Pritchard
Ushers: Karl Martens, Anna Peters Nursery: Lucy Friesen

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OSLER MENNONITE CHURCH

Osler, Saskatchewan

A Welcoming Christian Community for Peace

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle: Luke 1:46-55

Choir: Wie soll ich dich empfangen (S.A.T.B.) - Christmas Oratorio, J.S. Bach – acapella

“Oh, how shall I receive Thee, how meet thee on thy way? Oh Jesus, be the torch that lights my way and help me serve Thee day by day”.

READING Christ did not wait until the world was ready by
Madeline L'Engle

Choir: Brich an, o schoenes Morgenlicht (S.A.T.B.) - Christmas Oratorio, J.S. Bach – acapella

“Break forth, O beauteous morning light and fill the heavens with glory! Be our comfort and joy, against Satan sustain us, and bring us peace at last!”

INVOCATION

Choir & Congregation: Blue/HWB #201 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (S.A.T.B.) -F. Mendelssohn – piano

READING: The Hidden Jesus by Donald Spoto

Choir: Sleep Well, Dear Heavenly Boy (Schlummerlied der Hirten)
(S.A.T.B.) - German Carol arr. by H. Schroeder – piano

OFFERTORY: Panis Angelicus (O Lord Most Holy) (Solo/S.A.T.B.)
-C Franck – piano

“The bread of the angels becomes the bread of the world. The bread of heaven is given a bounded form. O wondrous thing! All serve their lord.”

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Choir & Congregation: The First Nowell (S.A.T.B./solo)
- Trad. arr. by D. Wilcox – piano

READING: Christmas Calls a Community by Nathan Mitchell

Choir & Congregation: Blue/HWB #212 “O Come all ye Faithful”

READING: Expecting by Gretchen Wolff Pritchard

Choir: Silent Night (Solo/S.A.T.B.) arr. By B. Gosse – acapella/piano
Choir & Congregation: Blue/HWB #193 Verse 1 “Stille Nacht”

SUNG BENEDICTION: Der Friedensfuerst

Spoken Benediction: Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate World: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. Amen.

To all our visitors: WELCOME. We are delighted that you are worshiping with us.

Scent Free: We are striving to be considerate of those with sensitivities to scents/fragrances and ask all to avoid wearing scented products.

Children’s Worship Binder, an instrument to help children through the worship hour, is available in the foyer.

TODAY:

- **Centering Prayer** in Classroom 1 at 9:15 - 9:30 am.
- **Beverages & Snacks** available after the worship service.
- **No Sunday School today and December 30th.**

THIS WEEK:

- **Tomorrow: Christmas Eve Candle Light Service, 7:00 pm.**

Next Sunday, Dec 30: “Mary’s Ponderings” – Patty Friesen

Worship Leader: Patty Friesen Song leader: Loretta Sawatzky
Pianist: Naomi Schellenberg Sound: Doug McKinnell
Nursery: Sarah Buhler Children’s Time: Wilf Buhler
Ushers: Karl Martens, Anna Peters

Patty’s Week: Dec. 25-27 Edmonton, Fri. a.m. office

Terri Lynn’s Week: On holidays beginning Dec 25, returning the week of January 7..

UPCOMING SERVICES

- Dec 24 Candlelight Service, 7:00 pm
Dec 30 “Mary’s Ponderings” by Patty Friesen
Jan 6 “It takes Family & Friends to Raise a Child” by Patty Friesen
Jan 13 “It Takes a Faith Community to Raise a Child” by Patty Friesen
Jan 20 “My Journey with Ignatian Prayer” by Pauline Steinman, MC SK Spirituality Resource Team
Jan 27 “The Spirituality of Social Justice” by Jan Bigland-Pritchard

Remember in Prayer:

- Children’s ALL-STAR program!
- OMC Choir Program
- family and friends home for Christmas
- thankfulness for Christmas hamper donations
- concerts/banquets of the season that make it meaningful.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Shekinah Cabin Project. You have the opportunity to contribute up until December 31, after which funds donated will be forwarded to Shekinah.

***There is an opportunity for Caroling at City Hospital** on Dec. 25 at 8 a.m. Contact Lucy Friesen 306-239-2039 if interested or just show up at the volunteer office on that morning.

***Committee Reports due** Tues. Jan. 8 for AGM book to karlwmartens@gmail.com. **Our AGM is on Saturday, February 2, 9:30 am**

***Service opportunities in January:** Please check bulletin board for January sign-ups for Friendship Inn, Sunday school and Coffee. Thank you for serving our community in this way.

***Winter Study on January 20:** “Spiritual Practices” by Pauline Steinman and the MCSK Spirituality Team of John Gascho, Eileen Klaassen and Melody Neufeld. The day will include the worship service, Adult Sunday School presentation, Potluck and an afternoon follow-up session. **Lunch Committee Group M-Z with leaders Carl Martens-Funk and Diane McKinnell, in charge of potluck set-up & clean-up.**

***Considering baptism or church membership in the new year?** Please talk to Terri Lynn or Patty for a possible March 24 Shekinah Retreat Joining Day.

***Child Dedication** will be on Mother’s Day, May 12.

***March 8 & 9:** MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions at Zoar Waldheim co-hosted by Eigenheim Mennonite and Zoar Mennonite.

***Save the Date: Church Photo Directory pictures will be taken here on February 8 & 9. If you will not be able to come to have your picture taken on those dates, please submit your own photo by Feb 3.**

***Our Sunday School Giving Project** this year is *Buckets of Thanks* - a Mennonite Central Committee program that provides essential hygiene supplies for families whose lives have been disrupted by war or disaster. Relief buckets are one of MCC's most requested material resources, and for every \$50 that we collect, a relief bucket can be sent to somewhere like Jordan, Haiti, Ukraine, or Syria. This is a project for everyone, regardless of your age or the size of your contribution! There are learning resources for families, and the youth have helped decorate the donation bucket in the lobby. Thanks for considering *Buckets of Thanks* as part of your Christmas giving.

Taste of Syria - On Saturday, January 5, 2019 at 5:30pm OMC will host a Syrian meal prepared by the Alnouri family with help from the Sponsorship group. We encourage the church family to come out, enjoy the food and get to know the family that we and the Living Sky group have sponsored and continue to support. More information about the family was in the last church newsletter. Come help us bring in the new year by celebrating the Alnouris’ first 8 months in Canada. To help cover the cost of the meal we are suggesting donations of \$10.00 per adult or \$20.00 for a family. If you plan to come please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board before Dec. 30th to assist in planning. If you have any questions please talk to Linda Stucky or Margaret Dyck.

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, who has looked with favour on the lowliness of a servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God’s name. Mercy is for those who worship our Saviour from generation to generation. Our Creator has shown strength; and has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. The Mighty One has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. The Holy One has helped Israel, in remembrance of mercy, according to the promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever