

OMC Calendar
December 2018

| Sunday | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|---|
| Each Sunday Worship: 10:00 am. Sunday School: 11:15 am | | | | | | 1 Ladies & Girls Christmas Luncheon 11:30-1:30 Youth 7-9 pm |
| 2 First Advent & Communion | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Adult choir practice 7:00 pm | 7 | 8 |
| 9 Terri Lynn Friesen preaching | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Adult choir practice 7:00 pm | 14 | 15 Sunday School pageant practice 10 am. Men's Breakfast 10 am. |
| 16 Sunday School Christmas program 10:00 am | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Adult choir practice 7:00 pm | 21 | 22 |
| 23 Adult choir program 10:00 am | 24 Candle- light Service 7:00 pm | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 Patty Friesen preaching | 31 | | | | | |

Note: Meetings and church activities can also be found on the Events Calendar on the church website. www.omchurch.org

The Osler Mennonite Church
DECEMBER 2018 Newsletter

Osler Mennonite Church
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<http://www.omchurch.org>
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A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE



UPCOMING SERVICES

- Dec 2 First Advent and Communion
- Dec 9 Terri Lynn Friesen preaching
- Dec 16 Sunday School Christmas program - "Star of Wonder", 10:00 am.
- Dec 23 Adult Choir Christmas program, 10:00 am
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00 pm
- Dec 30 "Mary's Ponderings" - Patty Friesen

"WHILE THEY (MARY AND JOSEPH) WERE THERE, THE TIME CAME FOR THE BABY TO BE BORN, AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRSTBORN, A SON. SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS AND PLACED HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN." LUKE 2:6-7

Pastor Patty's Ponderings:

I'm grateful to everyone who took the time to fill out our congregational/pastoral reviews and those who have made informal reviews in visits. I personally seek feedback kindly given as an up-front measure of where we are at as a congregation and how we can be the most engaged, compassionate congregation anywhere. Someone asked my personal vision for the congregation. I think my vision for the congregation flows out of my personal vision for my own work.

1 - From my hybrid chaplaincy/pastoral orientation, I love to hear people find comfort and the presence of God in all their life experiences, but especially in the difficult experiences of illness, conflict and death. I see worship and preaching as integrating these important life realities with hope and faith.

2 - I love when I see people finding their groove and joy in using their talents for the common good in church and larger community.

3 - I love building community through celebration, i.e.

Syrian/Canadian Thanksgiving, OMC 90, Blossom Blessings, Christmas concerts, etc.

Some things I'd like to work on in the next three years is trying to read/learn more from guest speakers to challenge myself with new thoughts and create more intimate, small group opportunities for sharing of life and faith stories as a way of deepening community and our walk with God. I think we are all treasure chests of wisdom that others can benefit from - especially young people.

We must learn to reawaken and keep ourselves awake, not by mechanical aids, but by an infinite expectation of the dawn, which does not forsake us even in our soundest sleep.

- Henry David Thoreau

Terri Lynn's Takes: Advent Resources:

For families with children:

[God's Goodness: Advent-At-Home 2018](#)

This booklet follows the lectionary cycle with activities that can be adapted for all ages. Consider it as a collection of suggestions to be chosen from, rather than another checklist to accomplished.

A number of print copies are available at the church.

For Adults On-line

Waiting in the Margins: An Advent Reader:

[Sign up here](#) to have an advent reflection sent to your in-box. From the New Leaf Network - bringing together a diverse collection of voices from denominations across Canada.

It's not December yet, but to make sure you have plenty of time to get these events on your calendar, here is what is coming up!

From RJC - The *Snow White Variety Show* will be performed in the Pit Theatre on Wed, Nov 28 and Thur, Nov 29 at 7:00 pm. This play is appropriate for all audiences! Tickets are \$5 and are on sale now. You can call the RJC office (306.232.4222) or email the RJC Office <office@rosthernjuniorcollege.ca> to book your tickets!

Mega Menno Run – Sat, Dec. 1 @ 6-9pm, Osler Mennonite Church. A crazy, fun event, Menno Run takes youth back a few hundred years, when Mennonites were on the run avoiding persecution. This year youth won't just be trying to win the game, along the way they will attempt to fill MCC Buckets of Thanks, but watch out, a 'persecutor' may take things out of the bucket! Open to all youth in gr. 6-12, no cost. Unless the windchill is severe, *we will be outside so make sure to bring a toque and mitts, and some friends!*

Youth Christmas Party! - Sat, Dec 22 - 6:30-8:30pm at Terri Lynn & Thomas' (419 Ave E S Saskatoon)

A fun evening of Christmas festivities: snacks, cookie decorating and games! Friends are welcome! If you are able to drive, please respond on the google calendar invite.

OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

*Christmas Giving: Please consider a contribution to our OMC Shekinah cabin. **Donation deadline December 31, 2018.** Thank you to everyone who has contributed to help build a nice, new cabin for 2019 campers.

***Ladies & Girls Christmas Luncheon, Saturday, Dec 1, 11:30-1:30.**

*The Osler School will present a Christmas concert here on Friday, December 7, 9:45 am. Everyone welcome!

***Men's Breakfast, Saturday, Dec 15, 10:00 am at the Osler Café.**

A Taste of Syria is an event being planned for **Saturday, January 5, 2019 at 5:30pm at OMC.** The Alnouri family with the help of the Sponsorship group will be preparing Syrian food to share that evening. We want to encourage the church family to come out that evening and spend some time enjoying delicious food and getting to know the lovely family that we have sponsored and welcomed to Saskatoon. Come help us bring in the new year by celebrating the Alnouris' first 8 months in Canada.

The family consists of the mother and father – Ana and Akram, son Bassam and his wife Hiba as well as their daughter Buthayna and her energetic 2 year old son Mohammed. They have extended family in Saskatoon who will also be attending, son Mohamed and his wife Athar. Mohamed and Athar arrived in Saskatoon 4 years ago and have been very helpful in helping their family settle in.

To help cover the expenses for the meal we are suggesting donations of \$10.00 per adult or \$20.00 for a family. In order for us to know how much food needs to be made we ask for you to please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board before Dec. 30th. If you have any questions please talk to Linda Stucky or Margaret Dyck.

Save the Dates:

December 31, 2018: End of Shekinah Cabin Fundraising
Saturday, Jan 5, 2019: Syrian/Canadian New Year Celebration
Saturday, Feb 2, 2019: OMC AGM, 9:30 a.m.

WAITING..... A POEM for ADVENT

They waited four thousand years - the People of God...

Waiting to be redeemed, waiting to be brought back from all that snatches us up into slavery and sin.

That is the real waiting.

We wait for weeks.

Really, we too, wait for a lifetime.

For waiting is the stuff of life,

waiting is the stuff that gives us grace to understand gift, patience, humility - the miracles of time.

O Lord, help us to wait, watch, keep vigil,

understand and love these passing days

until your Son is born again

in our vacant, yearning souls.

Pastor Patty's Ponderings on Advent

A little girl came to her first confession and began by chatting about her mom and dad, her new puppy, the classes she loved, a recent vacation...she could hardly be stopped. Finally the priest intervened: "Would you like to say a little word about your sins?" She retorted: "That's getting kinda personal!" Advent is about God getting kinda personal with us.

Advent is a season of difficult self-reflection and confession - of making things right with ourselves, God and others. "How do you know if you have forgiven? You tend to feel sorrow over the circumstance instead of rage, you tend to feel sorry for the person rather than angry. You tend to have nothing left to remember to say about it at all. You understand the suffering that drove the offence to begin with." *Clarissa Pinkola Estes.*

"Forgiveness is and always has been an impractical, illogical and uncommon approach to life: forgiving our enemies, doing good to those who hurt us, reaping evil with kindness. Contrary to myth, forgiveness is not instinctive, and most of the time it is a very difficult and time-consuming enterprise." *-Doris Donnelly*

Advent is a season preparing us for the first and last coming of Christ to be revealed in the depths of our own souls as well as in the world.

LECTIONARY PASSAGES FOR DECEMBER

December 2, 2018 – Advent 1- Fulfill the promise

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (14)

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

December 9, 2018 – Advent 2 – Prepare the way

Malachi 3:1-4 (1)

Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

December 16, 2018 – Advent 3 – Rejoice in the Lord

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7 (4)

Luke 3:7-18

December 23, 2018 – Advent 4 – Restore us

Micah 5:2-5a

Psalms 80:1-7 (3)

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

December 24/25, 2018 – Christmas Eve & Christmas Day – Sing for joy

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms 96 (12)

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14, (15-20) or

Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalms 97

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20 or

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalms 98

Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)

John 1:1-4

December 30, 2018 – Praise the Lord

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalms 148 (1)

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

Jesus was the First Refugee in the New Testament

Now after they [wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him”. – Matthew 2:13

Joseph and Mary and the baby Jesus, left Bethlehem out of fear for their lives. Herod the Great, a vassal king of the Romans, was about to kill Jewish males under the age of two. They very likely travelled on the Via Maris to Egypt (Latin for the “way of the sea” trading route) along the Mediterranean Sea to an area near Memphis for refuge. This area was also under the control of the Romans. Other displaced Jews also lived there. They stayed there until the death of Herod the Great in 4 BCE. They were very careful not to return to Judea, because a brutal son of Herod the Great, Archelaus, had been appointed king. Instead they went to Nazareth which was right on the Via Maris Highway, and under the control of his brother, Herod Antipas, ruler of Galilee. Jesus grew up in Nazareth where his father, Joseph, worked as a carpenter. Jesus was a true convention refugee who with his parents fled Judea and found safe haven in a second country that would later become a Muslim state.

Refugees Osler Mennonite Church has sponsored partly/completely:

- 1. Two single Mennonite women after WW2.**
- 2. Saycoccie Lao Family in 1980.**
- 3. Interakosit Vietnamese Family in 1984**
- 4. Roberto Gomez Colombian Family in 2006**
- 5. Joshua Key American Family in 2007**
- 6. Maria Gomez Colombian Family in 2008**
- 7. Al Nouri Syrian Family in 2018**

Please consider making a tax deductible donation on Christmas Eve, or any time during the holiday period, to Osler Mennonite Church for the Refugee Fund.

-OMC Refugee Committee

❁ **Pieces of Peace** ❁

“The soul is kissed by God in its innermost regions.
With interior yearning, grace and blessing are bestowed.
It is a yearning to take on God's gentle yoke, it is a yearning to give
one's self to God's way.” -*Hildegard of Bingen, Twelfth century*

HUMOR

What did Adam say to his wife on Christmas?

“It’s finally Christmas, Eve!”

What do you get when you mix a Christmas tree and an ipad?

A pineapple.

What’s every parent’s favourite Christmas carol?

Silent Night.

What do you call a snowman that can walk?

Snow-mobile.

Why did the kids start eating the puzzle on Christmas?

Because their uncle said it was a piece of cake!

Sign at the Alberta border: “Do not bring wood with bark into
Alberta.” I assume this refers especially to the “dog” wood species.

-submitted by Art Z

CAPSULE SERMONS

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

Progress has little to do with speed and a lot to do with direction.

***Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Update:** We are thankful for Akram and Anna, their son Bassam and wife Hiba, daughter Bethania and her son Mohammed's first Canadian Christmas. Please consider giving to our Refugee Fund this Christmas season for the sponsorship of Wallah, Bethania's found husband coming from Turkey next year and for our joint sponsorship of Lina Al-Nouri and her 5 children as we continue to try to reunite our beloved Syrian family in 2019.

***New Church Library Books Coming on Faith Formation in Children:**

- Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home by Traci Smith
- Formational Children's Ministry: Shepherding Children Using Story,
- Ritual and Relationship by Ivy Beckwith
- Shaped by the Story by Michael Novelli
- This Child of Faith - Raising a Spiritual Child in a Secular World by Sophronia Scott and Tain Gregory
- Will There Be Faith by Thomas Groome

Our Statement of Purpose

The purpose of Osler Mennonite Church
is to be a supportive community in which people can meet God
through worship and fellowship.

We seek to teach

an Anabaptist understanding of scripture,
led by the Spirit to imitate Christ in word and deed.

We strive to nurture faith and discipleship,
committing ourselves individually and corporately
to respond to the needs of others

PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

-from "Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship"

O God, whose love blesses and unites us in this place and time, we come before you with hearts gladdened by this holy season, its lights, its colours, and, most especially, its message of peace and good will to all.

In the birth of Jesus, you have given our weary and struggling world reason to rejoice. In the cry of an infant, you have given hope to all who cry. By the light of a star, you have helped us find our way again.

We thank you, good and generous God, that in Jesus the Christ, you have made yourself known and have beckoned us to join you in the continual creation of a world where wolf and lamb shall dwell together and justice will roll down like waters.

Create in us, O God, hearts devoted to shaping that world and bless especially those for whom such a world seems only a distant dream – the poor, the imprisoned, the ill, the lonely, the despised. Open our hearts, Spirit of Life, to the news of angels and the wonder of shepherds that these days may renew us for the days to come.

Grant us, for the sake of Christ's ministry, hearts that may discern how to make meaningful the gospel which we cherish. Grant, to your glory, that those whose lives we touch may hear in our words and see in our lives that truly you are merciful and gracious and abounding in steadfast love! These things we ask, trusting in your care for us today and always. Amen.

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, O Promised One. Once again we come to this time of Advent and await your presence.

Give us the patience to seek the meaning of these busy days.

Give us the courage to wait in times of pain and trouble.

Give us the compassion to wait for one another.

Give us the faith to wait for the Messiah when we are threatened by the Herods of this world.

Give us the hope to wait for the Savior even when we cannot hear the angels singing.

Give us the love that does not wait when it meets Christ in our neighbour. Amen.

We sing, "O come all ye faithful," God, but we confess that we are not always faithful. We could have shown love this past week, but we kept ourselves busy with other things. We spoke without thinking and hurt someone. We treated the gifts and greetings and meals as chores, leaving out the most important ingredient – caring. We are sorry. Please forgive us, and accept our worship.

Amid the bright colours that surround us this season – the red, the green, the gold – send the light of your Christ, that all that is good may be revealed more clearly and all that is wrong may be exposed and changed.

We pray in the name of Jesus who was born in Bethlehem, who lived and died for our sakes, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.



O Christ, light of the world, come to our lives and reveal meaning and truth.

O Christ, hope of the despairing, come to our lives and teach us simple joy.

Jesus Christ, bread of the soul, come to us and nourish us to true and eternal life.

Jesus Christ, shepherd of the flock, come and lead us to the springs of living water.

Living Christ, just and gentle judge, come and reveal us to ourselves.

Living Christ, healer of the wounded, come make us whole. Show us the way to new life.

Jesus Christ our life, we celebrate your birth. May our celebration be more than mere remembrance; may our worship be an opening of ourselves to you, in Spirit and in truth. Be born in us today, renew our spirits, and strengthen us to be your people in the world, through the indwelling power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.