

***MCC Connects** - Pray for the body of Christ worldwide. MCC works with churches from Colombia to Ethiopia to Iraq. Choose a country, a city, a region and pray for the churches as they teach others about the hope of Christ and reach out to their neighbours. Find stories in MCC's magazine A Common Place and at mcc.org/stories.

***Grade 8-10 Youth are invited to SPEND-A-DAY** (and night) at RJC, on Friday/Sat. March 2 & 3. Those who cannot stay Friday overnight are welcome to come for the day and evening and leave before the sleep-over. There will be brunch and an information session Saturday morning for everyone, including those who did not spend the night. See the bulletin board poster for details or contact Valerie White at val@rjc.sk.ca. Registration forms are due Feb. 16th. **Please let Leslie know if you would like attend.**

***Songfest** will be at First Mennonite Church, **March 23 & 24**. See the bulletin board for a poster and registration forms.

* **"Youth Ministry as School of Love"** is a youth ministry conference planned for **June 1 - 2** at CMU. Participants can register for this conference separately or participate as part of a week long course. Contact abergen@cmu.ca

Worship Leader: Stephanie Siemens
Song Leader: Art Zacharias
Accompanist: Lynette Janzen
Sound: Abe Braun
Ushers: Susan Braun, Cornie Guenther
This Sunday nursery care: Leslie Allaby
Next Sunday nursery care: Amalia Aldana & Loren Gomez

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

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OSLER MENNONITE CHURCH

Osler, Saskatchewan

**A Welcoming Christian
Community for Peace**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
February 26, 2012

WHERE DO I SIGN?

Lent One

Focus Statement: *Covenants are a two-way street: both God and we sign on together. God's covenant with Noah is a commitment to give up violence as a way of "solving" the problem of sin. But covenant making also requires something from us – usually more than once. How can we continue to sign on for this relationship of new life?*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

Chiming to Worship / silent reflection

Theme song: SJ #44

"The love of God"

Call to Worship

Leader: We lift our souls to the Lord,

People: and in God we put our trust.

Leader: We seek to know God's ways,

People: and desire to follow in God's paths.

All: Today and every day, may God lead us in truth and teach us how to follow; for our salvation is in God alone.

Invocation

***Hymns: HWB #16**

"God is here among us"

Sharing of joys and concerns

Discipline of Silence & Prayer of the church

PRAISING AND HEARING

Children's Time

Stephanie Siemens

Hymn: HWB # 226 "You are salt for the earth"

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 9:8-17

Drama – Part One

Gospel lesson: Mark 1:9-15

Drama – Part Two

Offering and Offertory Music

Offertory prayer

Hymn: HWB #535 "Who now would follow Christ"

Confession: (in unison)

God, you who established a covenant to renounce violence, we confess that we have tried to eliminate our enemies and failed to protect the vulnerable people with whom we share your earth. Forgive and transform us, so that every time we are reminded of your signature bow, we will follow in your way of peace. Amen

Assurance of pardon:

The Lord does not remember the sins of our youth, nor the transgressions of our old age, but, in steadfast love, God remembers us. Let us follow in the footsteps of Jesus, confident that the words he heard are also for us: "You are my beloved; in you I am well pleased."

Sermon: "The Arc above the levee" Gordon Allaby

RESPONDING

Hymn: HWB #393 "A charge to keep I have"

*Benediction

***Please rise**

We welcome all who are worshiping with us today.

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

Nursery care is provided during the worship service for those who desire it (children over 4 years should be accompanied by an adult).

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

TODAY

- **Beverages and snacks** available after the service.
- **Sunday School for children** begins at 11:15 am.
- **Floor hockey:** 7:00 – 7:30pm – younger children
7:30pm-8:30pm – older kids, youth and adults

NEXT WEEK

- **Monday, February 27, 7:00pm, Baby shower for Sydney Smith Zacharias**
- **Note: Council meeting moved to Wednesday, March 7th**

Remember in Prayer

Aron Friesen and Connie Friesen, experiencing health issues, and awaiting medical procedures/surgery.

Dave & Joanne Feick and family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Today is the first Sunday of Lent.** Our theme: "Where do I sign" can suggest signing in, signing on or signing up. All variations imply the present moment and the future, and signing one's name is pledge to commit. During Lent the Old and New Testament passages contain adventures about those in a relationship with God, including those who were invited to follow Jesus. Lent prompts us to commit to God / to be a follower of Christ.

***Monday, February 27, 7:00pm Baby Shower for Sydney Jalen Smith Zacharias, daughter of Sherma and Sheila.** Everyone welcome.

***Deadline for submissions for March newsletter** is Wednesday, February 29. Please submit your favorite potluck main dish, soup or dessert recipe, along with anything else for the newsletter to the office.

*Copies of “**Sign Up and Follow Jesus**”, a **Lent At-Home resource** are now available in the foyer. Help yourself to this booklet produced by Mennonite Church Canada for daily and weekly worship, as we make holy space in our homes and hearts for God during the season of Lent. The booklets include Children’s activities.

***In the last 3 weeks 140 blankets were made** by a group of volunteers working in our church. These blankets have been taken to MCCS to be distributed to people in need around the world. Thanks to Anna Peters for coordinating the work and to all the women who came out to help.

***OMC Book Club** is reading "The Midwife's Confession" for the month of February. Anyone interested in a copy of the book please see Leslie. Discussion will be on Monday, March 5, 7:00 pm.

***“Do Art”**, an **Art Club for Grades 4 to 9 students** is coming up three Tuesday evenings in March – **March 6, 13 & 20th**. Snacks are needed for the kids. If you can **provide snacks** for the kids for **March 13th**, please let Adeline know.

***Our OMC prayer chain** is now being updated. To add your name, or to be removed from the current prayer chain, sign up on the bulletin board or let the church office know.

***Saturday, March 10, 2:30 – 4pm, OMC Family Swim at the Shaw Centre** sponsored by the Deacons. Meet at the Shaw Centre
Rates: Adults: \$8.30, Youth \$5.00 (but save 50cents if part of group)
Family (2 adults & up to 5 kids) \$16.60. Bulk tickets can be purchased in packs of 10 tickets for \$66.40, for more savings.

***Saturday, March 10, YOUTH Glow Bowling – Meet at the church at 6:30pm.**

***Saturday, March 3, 1pm-7:30pm The Passion of the Earth: Nuclear Waste in Saskatchewan** Everyone is welcome to attend this Kairos Lenten event in solidarity with the Committee for Future Generations. See the bulletin Board poster for details.

***Rejoice devotionals** for March/April/May are now in the foyer, available to take home.

***Just Food Exhibit.** In this Canadian and worldwide art exhibit, visual artists add their voices to growing numbers connecting the right to food with a faith-based response to hunger in our world. For the month of April, one half of the exhibit will be hosted at the Rosthern Station Arts Centre, and the other half at MCC on 600-45th Street West, Saskatoon. Check out the poster on the bulletin board.

***Writer Rudy Wiebe:** On March 2-3 Rudy Wiebe, one of Canada's most famous novelists, will speak twice at the Mennonite Historical Society of Sask (MHSS) annual meetings to be held at Bethany Manor in Saskatoon. On Friday evening at 7:30 pm his topic will be *An Anabaptist Tracking Big Bear: A Great and Sad Life*. Joy Singers will entertain that evening. On Saturday morning at 11:00 am he will speak on: *An Anabaptist Tracking Big Bear: A Continuing Legacy*. The MHSS business session will begin at 9:30 am. Lunch will be served. The storytelling session will go from 1:30 to 3:00 pm with Chief Ben Weenie, Lutheran minister Jason Johnson and Ray Funk. Admission is free. Contact Jake Buhler 244-1392 for more info.

***Did you know that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings stream live over the internet?** The TRC is holding 12 Community Hearings throughout Saskatchewan, and the schedule appears in the information posted on the bulletin board. Watching or attending these hearings is a good way to prepare ourselves for attending the event in June. For the latest information go to <http://sk.mcc.org/truth-and-reconciliation-commission-canada>

***Prayer Request from MC Canada:** As the tragic history of Indian Residential Schools continues to be revealed through the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Mennonite Church Canada is exploring how Mennonite involvement in Indian Day Schools fits into this larger story of assimilation. Pray for understanding, courage and discernment as we strive to articulate a honest history that will help bring hope and healing to our relationships with indigenous peoples.

***RJC Guys & Pies Fundraiser and Dessert Auction** - Sunday, March 11, 7:00 pm at RJC. Come and enjoy an evening of pie, coffee and music and fun, featuring A Buncha Guys and the RJC Man Choir. Included in the evening will be a dessert auction, with funds going towards RJC program projects.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Genesis 9:8 - 17 (NRSV) ⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Mark 1:9 - 15 (NRSV) ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”