

MCC Connects – Alarmed by continuing violence in Syria and consistent reports that unrest is likely to escalate elsewhere in the Middle East in coming months, MCC is preparing for a humanitarian crisis in the region. MCC is appealing for \$500,000 to strengthen conflict prevention strategies and disaster preparedness. Please pray for people affected by violence. Check mccsk.ca for more information.

March 2013 – where will you be? You could be swimming with sharks in South Africa or hiking a volcano in Guatemala, or improving your camel riding skills in French Africa, all while learning about different cultures and deepening your relationship with God. Apply for **CMU's Outtatown** program before these sites are completely full! www.outtatown.com

*Come enjoy a wonderful evening of singing! **Sonrisa Women's Choir's** end of the year concert at Knox United Church, 7pm March 31st. Theme: "The Real Things We Live By" If you are interested tickets are \$10 and available on March 4th from Erin or Kathy Boldt."

Worship Leader: Gordon Allaby
Song Leader: Ben Buhler
Accompanist: Mark Bigland-Pritchard
Scripture reader: Lyle Stucky
Sound: Dave Klassen
Ushers: Sarah Hiebert, Russ Friesen
This Sunday nursery care: MaryAnn Braun
Next Sunday nursery care: Jan Guenther, Katherine Allaby

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

Vol. LIII March 11, 2012 No. 11

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OSLER MENNONITE CHURCH

Osler, Saskatchewan

**A Welcoming Christian
Community for Peace**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
March 11, 2012

WHERE DO I SIGN?

Lent Three

Focus Statement: *In today's world, "the law" may seem especially outdated or unattainable; God's wisdom often appears foolish. Jesus' cleansing of the temple looks like a foolish act that brings on the wrath of his detractors. Yet when we live in God's law, we begin to realize the blessing of God's call to be a holy people. Are we foolish enough to sing on as a covenant people?*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

Chiming to Worship / silent reflection

Theme song: SJ #44

"The love of God"

Call to Worship:

Leader: The instructions of the Lord are perfect; they revive our souls.

Side 1: The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy; they make us wise.

Side 2: The precepts of the Lord are right; they bring us joy.

Leader: The Lord's commands are clear; they give us insight for living.

All: God has given us gifts more valuable than gold, sweeter than honey in the honeycomb.

Invocation

***Hymn: HWB #124 “O worship the Lord”**

Sharing of joys and concerns

Discipline of Silence & Prayer of the church

PRAISING AND HEARING

Children’s Time

Kathy Braun

Hymn: HWB #566 “In the cross of Christ I glory”

Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 20: 1-17

New Testament Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

Offering: Offertory music by the Children’s Sunday School-

“Jesus loves me” “God is a good God”

Offertory prayer

Hymn: HWB #163 “Obey my voice”

Confession: (in unison)

Jesus, we confess that our pride and greed have led us to break God’s laws and disrespect God’s house. We wear crosses of gold and silver, worship in beautiful buildings. Yet you do not live in houses made by human hands, but in the people who have signed their lives over to you. Make us foolish enough to follow in your footsteps, weak enough to draw all our strength from you. Amen.

Assurance of pardon:

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Sermon: "Figuring out the Law and the Cross" Jake Buhler

RESPONDING

***Hymn: SS #49 “I will come to you in the silence”**

*Benediction

***Please rise**

We welcome all who are worshipping with us today.

To all our visitors: WELCOME. We are delighted that you are worshipping 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.
- **Easter choir practice:** 11:15 am.
- **Floor hockey:** 7:00 – 7:30pm – younger children
7:30pm-8:30pm – older kids, youth and adults

THIS WEEK

- **Tuesday, March 13, 7:00 pm** “Do Art” for kids
- **Wednesday, March 14, 7:30 pm**, Education Committee meeting
- **Thursday, March 15, 7:30 pm**, Worship Committee meeting
- **Saturday, March 17, 2:30-4:00 pm**, Family Swim @ Shaw Centre

NEXT SUNDAY: Loose Change collection

Remember in Prayer

**Aron Friesen and Connie Friesen,
who are both facing surgery**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Today is the third 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. Lent prompts us to commit to God / to be a follower of Christ.

***There will be Easter choir practice today, and for the next three Sundays, at 11:15 am. Everyone welcome!**

*Warman Thrift Store is looking for a volunteer custodian for three times a week after 4:00 pm. to clean floors, windows, and washrooms. For more information, call Sheila at 933-3293.

Church Directory Updates: email address for Jan Braun is now

janguentherbraun@gmail.com

Joel Sawatzky's new phone # - 403-392-7460

March 29 – 6:30 pm – All young adults are invited to a pizza supper and informal conversation with Sara Wenger Shenk, AMBS President at Nutana Park Mennonite Church.

March 29 - 7:30 pm - Come and meet Sara Wenger Shenk, AMBS President. She will be speaking on the topic “Opportunities and Challenges of Theological Education for the 21st Century” at Nutana Park Mennonite Church. Dessert and coffee will be served. For more information contact Pauline Steinmann or Allan Klassen.

***MDS Update:** Large groups of local MDS volunteers were on the ground helping with clean up immediately following the series of tornados that swept the mid-west of the USA last week. Local MDS leaders need prayers for wisdom as they work with communities in discerning the most appropriate areas for MDS long-term response. The damage to families and communities is incalculable. Canadians are asked to respond in prayer, through financial donations, and openness to serve in volunteer capacity once long-term response is determined. Thank you for working together to not only repair and rebuild homes, but to touch lives, nurture hope, faith and wholeness. For current updates, check the MDS website www.mds.mennonite.net or on Facebook.

*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>

***Thank-you:** In times of grief and loss, it is a blessing to have the care and support of family. When family is small or far away, tasks can become rather daunting. In our case, we were blessed to have a church family to step in to help with a number of details. We wish to say a heart felt thanks to all who helped out with Mom's funeral last Saturday. Even though you may have felt you didn't do much, it meant a lot to all of us. Thank you also for your thoughts and prayers during this time. Your care and support has been greatly appreciated. Dave and Joanne Feick and family.

***RJC Guys & Pies Fundraiser and Dessert Auction** – Today, March 11, 7:00 pm at RJC. Enjoy an evening of pie, coffee & fun.

***OMC Book Club** is reading “The Elegance of the Hedgehog” for the month of March. Anyone interested in a copy of the book please see Robin Neudorf. Discussion will be Monday, April 2, 7:00 pm.

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

***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.

***The Saskatoon Men's Chorus** conducted by Lynn Driedger, will be presenting their **spring concert “A Gift of Song” at Osler Mennonite Church on Friday March 30 at 7:30 pm** and Knox United church on Sunday April 1 at 2:30 pm. The concert will feature both sacred and secular selections. Tickets are available from choir members, McNally Robinson Book Sellers, Doug McKinnell 239-4603, men's chorus email “inquiries@saskatoonmenschorus.ca” or at the door. The cost is \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door and \$10 for seniors and students.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Exodus 20:1 - 17 (NRSV) ¹Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. ¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

1 Corinthians 1:18 - 25 (NRSV) ¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

*Shekinah Retreat Centre Fundraising Banquet and Silent Auction on Saturday, March 31, at Mount Royal Mennonite Church.

5:30 – Doors open

6:30 – Supper

7:30 – Entertainment: The Friesen Family Band

Tickets available from Shekinah Board Members or Shekinah office 945-4929 or email office@shekinahretreatcentre.org

*Shekinah Retreat Centre Fundraising Concert at Bethany Manor, Saskatoon on Sunday April 1, 2:30 pm. Featuring - The Friesen Family Band Free Admission - Opportunity will be given to donate to the ministry of Shekinah Retreat Centre.

Note from our Treasurer: "General Fund giving for the month of February was \$12,593.13 bringing our total for 2012 to \$21,380.21. This is 13.8% of our annual budget after 16.4% of the year has passed. Thank you for your continuing support of our church's ministry."

