

***MCC Connects:** Give peace for Christmas. Your gift of peace helps communities build understanding and resolve conflicts. \$45 helps to support peacemakers as they share stories of past conflicts. Give at donate.mcccanada.ca or call 306.665.2555.

***RJC Choir Concert** - Today, 7:30 pm at Knox United Church, Saskatoon. RJC Chorale, Women's Choir and guest choir SONRISA will present a Christmas Concert in Knox United, 838 Spadina Crescent East, Saskatoon. Admission is free; a collection will be taken in support of RJC. Everyone is welcome.

***RJC Christmas Concert** - December 19, 7:00 pm in the school auditorium. Join us as we celebrate the Christmas season with music and fellowship. A time of refreshments will follow the concert.

***Station Singers present "A Celebration of Carols from Around the World"** at the Station Arts Centre in Rosthern on **Monday, Dec 15th** at 7:30. Tickets are available from singers or from the Station. Call 306-232-5332. Assigned seating - so get your tickets early.

Worship Leader: Stephanie Siemens
Song Leader: Loretta Sawatzky
Accompanist: Naomi Schellenberg
This week's Nursery care: Shelley Penner
Next Week's Nursery care: Sarah Guenther
Sound: Doug McKinnell
Ushers: Dick Braun, Susan Braun

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
December 14, 2014

Third Sunday of Advent

"Oh, that you would reveal your joy"

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

GATHERING

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us worship in faith the God who is here and desires our worship. Redeeming God, work in our hearts, that our worship would be filled with the joy that comes from remembering your splendor.

All: *Oh, that you would reveal your peace to us, O Lord.*

Leader: We celebrate the year of the Lord's favour,

People: **a time of comfort for those who mourn.**

Leader: There will be crowns instead of ashes.

People: **joyful anointing instead of mourning.**

Leader: cloaks of praise instead of spirits of despair,

People: **cities of renewal instead of devastation.**

All: *The Lord will wrap us in robes of righteousness.*

Come, O God, and clothe us in garments of salvation.

Confession:

Leader: Today, in this safe but dark and holy place we become aware of your presence, God. We focus now on our congregation and the wider Anabaptist Mennonite Church family.

People: We are a faithful church, but sometimes we've kept our riches to ourselves.

Leader: Sometimes we have excluded the inquirer who has come to our door seeking faith. Sometimes we've refused to admit our weaknesses. Sometimes we've been too quiet in the land. Sometimes we've helped those far away but ignored our neighbours. Sometimes we've tried so hard to serve that we've forgotten the joy of worshiping you. Hear our honest confessions, O God, and remember us in mercy.

People: Restore to us the joy of being your faithful people.

All: Restore our joy, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Moment of silence in Darkness

Lighting of Advent Candle

Words of Assurance:

Leader: The Lord has done great things in and through God's church, and has bestowed rich blessings on us, his Anabaptist people.

People: When we place our lives into your hands, O God, you willingly transform our timid hearts with your infectious joy.

***Hymns: Blue/HWB #318 "Joy to the World"
Blue/HWB #184 "Hark the glad sound"**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns and Prayer of the church

LISTENING

Children's Time Kathy Braun

Children's Advent Song: Blue/HWB #204 "Gloria"

Hymn: Purple/SS #10 "Come walk in the joy, come walk in the joy of Christ."

Offering and Offertory Music
Offertory Prayer

Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11, Luke 1: 46b-55

Hymn: Blue/HWB #181 "My soul proclaims with wonder"

Meditation "There's something about Mary" Patty Friesen

RESPONDING

***Hymn: Blue/HWB #178 "Come thou long expected Jesus"**

*Benediction

**Please rise.*

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.

The blank, coloured papers in the pew are for **thank-you notes to God or someone in the church**. Place the note in the offering bag. Notes with names will be delivered to that person. The rest will be saved. Share your thankfulness as an offering.

TODAY

- **Beverages and snacks** available after the worship service.
- **Sunday School for all ages** begins at 11:15am.
- **Choir Practice: 12:00 – 12:20**

THIS WEEK

- **Next Sunday, December 21, Fourth Advent – "Oh, that you would reveal your love",** Christmas scriptures, songs and special music.
 - **Pizza lunch at Noon next Sunday, followed by Sunday School practice for Christmas program**
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*Every year, our Sunday School has a special **Giving Project** for Christmas. This year, the Youth Sunday School class has chosen the **“Gift of Water” through Mennonite Central Committee**. Water is a life giving resource that many parts of the world need. For example, \$350 buys pipes and plumbing to connect families to clean water sources, like Samia Baderir in Egypt. MCC and BLESS, a service arm of the Optic Orthodox Church, work to connect low income households to clean water supplies. BLESS also reduces water-borne illness by training community members to share lessons on hygiene and safe water. A giving jar will be set up in the foyer and offerings can be designated for this project.

***Winter Walkers:** OMC gym will be open for walking Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, 9:00 a.m. beginning Monday, January 5th. *Forever in Motion Senior Fitness Class* will meet Wednesdays and Fridays 10:00-10:45 a.m. Walkers and all ages welcome to join us. Contact Patty with questions.

***The Youth Farm Bible Camp** is once again selling frozen food packages to raise money for our annual mission trip to Tijuana, Mexico in April. Each package is \$100 and includes 80 servings of food. Go to our website at www.yfbc.com/foodpackage for more information and to place your orders before December 14th. Food for your Family = A House for a Mexican Family. The Sale ends December 14th. See the bulletin board for more details.



***Featured prayer request from the wider church:** Due to some visa complications, Mennonite Church Canada workers Andrew and Karen Suderman are returning to Canada in December with their two young children, Samantha and James. They will be arriving several months earlier than planned. Please pray for travel and transition mercies, and for joy in the midst of unexpected circumstances.

Next Sunday: Worship leader: Stephanie Siemens
Song leader: Loretta Sawatzky
Pianist: Naomi Schellenberg
Children's time: Kathryn Janzen
Sound: Dan Schellenberg & Liam Boldt

Remember in Prayer

Thanksgivings:

Ladies Christmas Lunch, our schools, our church

Intercessions:

Joel and Chalan Sawatzky in Philippines during typhoon. Another super typhoon—Hagupit—is headed for the island nation of Philippines this weekend. Pray that it will not make landfall. The country is still recovering from the devastating impact of Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013. Please also pray for Mennonite Church Canada workers Darnell and Christina Barkman of PeaceChurch Philippines and Dann and Joji Pantoja of the Peacebuilders network as they make preparations to assist in relief efforts should the typhoon strike.

Announcements

***Patty's Week:** Tuesday: sermons and prayer, Wednesday: office 8:30-12:30, visits. Friday: office 8:30-12:30. Please feel free to call Patty at home: (306) 955-2928.

***Christmas Choir Practice** today, 12:00-12:20 p.m. in the sanctuary. The choir will be singing next Sunday during the morning worship service, as well as Christmas Eve. The 4th Advent service on December 21 will include Lessons, Carols, Christmas Choir & other special music.

***OMC Visioning Process has begun!** with 30 minute interviews with wonderful listeners from MC Sask at OMC and Saskatoon. Please sign up for a spot now on the bulletin board Sign-up sheets.

*Anne Peters would like to thank everyone for their well wishes and prayers.

*Mission & Service Committee will be putting together **Christmas Hampers** which will be **distributed on Saturday, December 20th**. If you would like to contribute non-perishable food items, baking or other items please bring them to the church and put them in the serving room. If you wish to donate money for the purchase of such items please designate Christmas Hampers on your cheque or envelope.

***OMC Winter Wednesdays Bible Study "Good God, Good Sex"** led by Joe Heikman, Wildwood Mennonite Church
Wednesday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m.

1. "Sexuality for Everyone" - Sexuality is about more than sex: it's about our longing for connection and the many ways that we go about fulfilling that need. What is it that we're longing for, and what is the connection between sexuality and spirituality?

Wednesday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.

2. "We are all Eunuchs" - All of our expressions of sexuality, even within marriage, are imperfect and incomplete. What does it mean to pursue healthy sexuality in light of our broken humanity?

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.

3. "Sexual Tensions" - Freedom vs. Boundaries. Individual Rights vs Community Values. Our sexual choices, for better or worse, have real-world outcomes. How do we stay faithful to God, each other, and ourselves, in light of the realities of our broken world?

***Do you have OMC pictures from 2014?** The Worship Committee would like to again present a year-in-review Slide Show, and needs your photos. Please email your pics to the church office or talk to Adeline about sharing your pics.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; the Lord has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the

captives, and release to the prisoners; ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display God's glory. ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁸ For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for God has clothed me with the garments of salvation, the Lord has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Luke 1: 46b-55

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, ⁴⁸ for the Lord has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God's name. ⁵⁰ God's mercy is for those who fear the Lord from generation to generation. ⁵¹ The Lord has shown strength with God's arm; the Lord has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵² The Lord has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ The Lord has helped God's servant Israel, in remembrance of the Lord's mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise God made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.'