

**\*MCC Connects:** Give education for Christmas. Your gift of education helps children learn so that communities benefit and lives change. \$25 provides breakfast to one student for a school year. Give at [donate.mcccanada.ca](http://donate.mcccanada.ca) or call 306.665.2555.

**\*RJC Tournament of Memories** - January 9 & 10, 2015 - Basketball and Hockey are waiting for you! Alumni, family and friends should register by January 1st by email ([deneldafast@hotmail.com](mailto:deneldafast@hotmail.com)) for basketball and hockey. Basketball with a skills competition and Street hockey. This is something new and will be played in the parking lot in front of the school. Reconnect with old classmates and friends and exercise your mind, body and spirit at the same time! Your alumni bulletin "RJC CONNECT" will be in the mail soon (and is already on the RJC website) with more details. If you have questions contact Denelda at 306-221-2846 or RJC office at 306-232-4222.

**\*"Speaking Out: Voices of Sexual Diversity"** Sat., January 24, 2015, 6:30pm Wildwood Mennonite Church invites all to hear the stories of our LGBTQ brothers and sisters- and allies, too. See the bulletin board poster for more information.

---

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: Dan Schellenberg, Liam Boldt  
Ushers: Dick Braun, Susan Braun

---

The Osler Mennonite Church, Box 129, Osler, Saskatchewan S0K 3A0  
Vol. LV                      December 21, 2014                      No. 51  
Church Office – 306-239-2133  
Fax – 306-239-2279  
[oslermc@sasktel.net](mailto:oslermc@sasktel.net)                      [oslermcpastor@sasktel.net](mailto:oslermcpastor@sasktel.net)  
website: <http://omchurch.org>



## OSLER MENNONITE CHURCH

Osler, Saskatchewan  
A Welcoming Christian  
Community for Peace

10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
December 21, 2014

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
*"Oh, that you would reveal your love"*

Prelude: Martens-Funk family  
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 your redeeming love.

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

**Leader:** When Mary was sent away, she found an embrace in your arms.

**People:** **When we feel isolated by the world, we find security in your kingdom.**

**Leader:** The world does not see us as the Lord does.

**People:** **They do not value us as the eternal One does.**

**Leader:** The world cannot love us like the Lord does.

**People:** **They cannot comfort us as our Creator does.**

**All:** *When others abandon us, God makes a home with us.*

#### **Confession:**

**Leader:** Today, in this safe but dark and holy place we become aware of your presence, God. In your presence we focus on your worldwide church and its story across the centuries of church history. We offer confession on her behalf because her story is also our story. At time we have killed

enemies with whose faith or politics we have differed, instead of loving them. We have been the agents of slavery instead of freeing people to live within your reign of righteousness. We have perpetuated racism and devalued those you call your own.

**People: We have acted in your name, but have often failed to reflect your nature.**

Leader: Most of all, we have failed to demonstrate to all God's people the boundless love of God in Christ. We confess these heavy sins to you, Lord, knowing we cannot carry the burden of these sins committed in your name. We pray that you would remove the weight of the church's sin from our shoulders.

**People: Restore your love in us, part of your worldwide church. Grant even to us the expansive love revealed in this holy season.**

*All: Restore our love, Lord 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 declares: I will gladly restore my love in you, my never-ending love for the church and for all peoples.

**\*Hymn: Blue/HWB #197 Angels we have heard on high**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns and Prayer of the church

Joy Singers: Birthday of a king  
Mary's boy child  
The Virgin Mary

LISTENING

Children's Time Kathryn Janzen  
**Children's Advent Song: Blue/HWB #204 "Gloria"**

Choir: Coventry Carol, Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Offering and Offertory Music: "Gesu Bambino" Michelle McKinnell  
Offertory Prayer

**Hymn: Blue/HWB #208 "Love came down at Christmas"**

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38 Poem: "Emmanuel"

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7 Poem: "And Did It Happen"

Special Music: Trio

Scripture: Luke 2:8-8-14 Poem: "They Have Heard It On the Hills"

**Hymn: Blue/HWB #201 "Hark! the herald angels sing"**

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

**Blue/HWB #215 "What child is this"**

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7 Poem: "God Comes Down"

**\*Hymn: Blue/HWB #193 "Silent night, holy night:**

**\*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.



\*Mennonite Church Canada has already sent some bridge funding to our Philippines ministry partners to address immediate food and medicine needs in the wake of Typhoon Hagupit (known locally as Typhoon Ruby). This will help address urgent needs along with assistance from other agencies including Mennonite Central Committee. Please help support victims of this tropical storm via <https://donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/Hagupit>

\*This week's "Invest in People" giving theme from Mennonite Church Canada's Christmas Giving Guide focuses on kickstarting a new ministry in China. Long term workers George and Tobia Veith will be teaching future pastors in a seminary who in turn will train other pastors and more for one of the fastest growing churches on earth. Your gift will help with travel, housing, and basic needs costs for their new assignment:

[donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/ChinesePastors](https://donate.mennonitechurch.ca/project/ChinesePastors)

**\*Featured prayer request from the wider church:** Mennonite Church Canada often sends short term workers to Nazareth Village in Israel, where the story of its most famous citizen, Jesus, is told in fascinating and interactive ways. Every year thousands of people tour the village. Pray that visitors' lives may be touched with Jesus' love during this Christmas season. Also pray for wisdom for Lloyd and Margaret Oakey as they serve on a short term ministry assignment with SERVE Nazareth that includes ministry at Nazareth Village.

\*View and share this homegrown, multi-lingual Christmas 1 minute-long greeting video at [www.mennonitechurch.ca](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca). Together, the Mennonite church family of congregations is bringing the message of God's gift of love through Christ in many languages. May you experience the joy of God's love as you do so this Christmas!

## TODAY

- **Choir Practice at 9:15am**
- **Beverages and snacks** available after the worship service.
- **Sunday School for all ages** begins at 11:15am.
- **Pizza lunch at Noon, followed by Sunday School practice for Christmas program**

## THIS WEEK

- **Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm – Christmas Eve Children's Pageant and Candlelight Worship Service**
- **Next Sunday, December 28, Christmas One – "Your beauty is revealed."**  
**Sermon: Jan Braun**

**Next Sunday:** Worship leader: Jake Buhler  
Song leader: Kevin Boldt  
Pianist: Lynette Janzen  
Children's time: Jake Buhler  
Sound: Stephanie Siemens

---

## Remember in Prayer

### Thanksgivings:

OMC 50th anniversary for women's vote, Matt and Craig's wedding, hosts for youth progressive supper, Christmas program and choir practices

### Intercessions:

Dan Schellenberg's parents and other staff on the closing of Bethany College, American Christians praying for race relations, Canadian relations with aboriginal people and new immigrants, Adeline Cox and Linda Doell on the death of their step- mother Tina Doell.

---

## Announcements

**\*Patty's Week:** Tuesday: sermon and prayer, Wednesday: 8:30-12:30 office, Christmas Eve service. Please feel free to call Patty at home: (306) 955-2928.

\*Adeline will be in the **church office** on Wednesday morning (December 24<sup>th</sup>), but *not on Friday* this week. Please submit all next Sunday's bulletin items **by 9am, Wednesday, the 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**\*December 14<sup>th</sup> Sermon correction:** While there were numerous Marys at Jesus' burial and resurrection; Mary, the mother of Jesus wasn't actually listed among them. Where was she? What was she pondering?

\*Your articles, humor and suggestions for the OMC **January newsletter** are invited. Please submit to the church office by 9:00am, Wednesday, Dec. 31.

\*We are looking for some **volunteers** to help serve the brunch for Craig and Matt on New Year's day. Please call Russ or Lucy at 239-2039 if you are interested in helping us out.

\*This year our Sunday School special Giving Project (as chosen by the Youth Sunday School class) is the **"Gift of Water" through Mennonite Central Committee**. Water is a life giving resource that many parts of the world need. **\$50: Irrigation:** Dry, rocky soil in the drought-prone Latehar district of India's Jharkhand state makes it difficult for people, such as women's group leader Reena Toppo, to grow crops year-round. MCC is partnering with the Mennonite Church in India to help farmers capture rainwater for their crops. A giving jar will be set up in the foyer so we, too can help MCC provide life giving water.

**\*OMC Visioning Process will continue in January. Watch for opportunities to sign up for** with 30 minute interviews with wonderful listeners from MC Sask at OMC and Saskatoon.

**\*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.

**\*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?

**\*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.

**\*Mark your calendars for 2015:**

SMYO Sr. High Retreat: Jan 30 – Feb. 1 at Shekinah Retreat Centre  
OMC AGM: Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

Mennonite Church Sask Annual Delegate sessions: Mount Royal Mennonite, March 13 & 14

**\*Merry Christmas from Canadian Mennonite University!** Please note: Our offices will be closed December 24 through January 1, re-opening January 2, and the winter term classes begin on January 6.