

***MCC Connects:** Give food for Christmas. Your gift of food gives families and communities the power to improve their own lives. \$40 provides garden seeds that will help families in Mozambique, Guatemala or Cambodia grow vegetables. See Christmas Giving at mccsk.ca or call 306.665.2555.

***Mennonite Disaster Service seeking volunteers for rebuilding in High River, AB:** Come and help rebuild High River! MDS is scheduling weekly groups (Tuesday to Saturday work weeks) beginning January 2014 for work in High River. Please call Chantel Runtz in the Winnipeg office to book. Volunteers are also still needed in Staten Island, NYC and other locations. Call 1-866-261-1274 Food and accommodations provided.



*Please pray for those in the conflict regions of the world who continue to be internally displaced: Syria, Palestine/Gaza, Colombia, Sudan, Congo, and many other places. The United Nations estimates that "About two-thirds of the world's forcibly uprooted people are displaced within their own country."

Worship Leader: Tony Funk
Song Leader: Kevin Boldt
Accompanist: Mark Bigland-Pritchard
This week's Nursery Care: Adeline Cox
Next week's Nursery Care: Shelley Penner
Sound: Chris Buhler
Ushers: Harold Loewen, Lloyd Sawatzky

The Osler Mennonite Church, Box 129, Osler, Saskatchewan S0K 3A0
Vol. LV January 5, 2014 No. 1
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OSLER MENNONITE CHURCH

Osler, Saskatchewan
A Welcoming Christian
Community for Peace

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
January 5, 2014

*O, the mystery of God's dwelling
Epiphany ... in diversity!*

Welcome & Announcements

INVITING THE MYSTERY

Chiming to worship and silent reflection

Call to Worship

One: Come as fellow heirs of the living God!

Many: Let us awake to the marvel that in Christ we are one.

One: Oh, the mystery of God's dwelling in our diversity!

Many: Our hearts thrill and rejoice

All: as we open wide the house of the Lord!

Invocation

***Hymns: Blue/HWB #216 "Christ whose glory fills the skies"
Blue/HWB #218 "As with gladness men of old"**

Confession and lighting the Advent Wreath

One: Lift up your eyes and look. There is no partiality in Christ.
How might we let all people in on this mystery?

Let us confess our unwillingness to share Christ with those of other nations, tribes, races, families, social classes and denominations. The Advent wreath reminds us that our light has come.

**Many: In this light, we celebrate forgiveness:
the glory of the Lord has risen upon us!**

Sharing
Discipline of silence and Prayer of the Church

ENGAGING THE MYSTERY

Children's Time Wilf Buhler

Hymn: Blue/HWB #190 "Twas in the moon of wintertime"

Offering and Offertory music
Offertory Prayer

Old Testament: Isaiah 60:1-6
Gospel lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

CELEBRATING THE MYSTERY

Hymn: Blue/HWB #200 "Where is this stupendous stranger"

Sermon: "How do you say it?" Gordon Allaby

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

*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.

Epiphany Focus Statement: In God's mysterious ways, outsiders become insiders, strangers become brothers and sisters, and enemies become friends. So let us welcome all who come to the dawning from on high, that the house of the Lord may be established – *there is light!*

***TODAY**

- **Beverages and snacks** available after the worship service.
- **Sunday School for all ages** begins at 11:15am.
- **Open gym** tonight at 7:00pm – Basketball or hockey

THIS WEEK

- **Wednesday, Jan. 8, 7:30pm** - Deacons meeting.
- **Thursday, Jan. 9, 7:30pm** – Council meeting

Remember in Prayer

Sarah Hiebert, who has started medical treatments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Our Sunday School Christmas Giving Project this year was in support of the CFGB ***Christmas Ornament Project***. The aim was to provide food for starving Syrian war refugees through the Canadian Food Grains Bank. To feed one refugee takes \$12.00 a month. Thanks you for your gifts to this project, totaling \$2,792.45, which will feed 232 people for one month.

***Committee Chairpersons are asked to submit reports** for the Annual Meeting Report Book to Diana Buhler by Tuesday, January 7. Also, the 2013 closing date for accounting purposes will be Jan. 3.

*Thank you to Bill Peters and Art Zacharias for clearing snow from the church yard and sidewalks. And thanks to Bill for taking on custodian duties while Sarah is in hospital.

*Coming Soon – The Education Committee again invites Grades 5 – 9 students to come and bring their friends to **"Do Art"**! Mark **Tuesday, January 14th** on your calendars: 7:00pm to 8:30pm

***Blanket Making for MCC** will take place at the church on January 20, 21 and January 27 & 28.

***Winter Study – Week of Prayer January 18-25**

* Saturday, January 18 at 8:00 pm

* Sunday, January 19 during worship service at 10:00 am

* Monday-Saturday, Jan. 20-25 at 8:00 pm

***RJC Winter Theatre** - Friday & Saturday, January 17 & 18, 7:30 pm in the Pit Theatre. The Theatre Arts Class will present four short plays and a Musical Theatre excerpt from “Matilda - The Musical.” This is the final project for the class, and looks to be a very entertaining evening. Tickets are \$10. Call or email RJC (306 232-4222 or office@rjc.sk.ca) to reserve your tickets.

***RJC Spend-A-Day, Jan. 17 & 18, 2014.** Come spend a day at RJC to learn more about the school by attending several classes, enjoy great food and stay overnight in the dorms. Interested students in grades 8-11 may contact Valerie White for more information. (306 232-4222 or val@rjc.sk.ca) All student guests will attend the Winter Theatre performance Friday evening free of charge. Spend-A-Day will conclude with a Saturday brunch for attendees and their families. Please register by January 10, 2014.

***Sask Women in Mission** is looking for women interested in joining several of their committees: program committee, president elect and secretary. SWM is open to all women in Mennonite Churches in Saskatchewan. Look around your congregation for women who would have the gifts/talents or interests that would suit these positions. Contact one of the nominating committee: Denise Epp, Rosthern (306) 232-4801 l.d.epp@sasktel.net or Glenis Koop, Saskatoon gleniskoop@hotmail.ca (306) 665-8011

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and God’s glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses’ arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.