

***MCC Connects:** MCCS is looking for input from educators, both past and present, for a project called "**Bread for Success**". This is for our Meadowgreen Kids Club program that will include a homework help and nutrition element for youth aged 10-15. Volunteers are needed starting September of 2014. A brainstorming session is planned for March 20, 2014 at 6pm. Contact coordinator Kaytee Edwards for more information: kayteeedwards@mccs.org or 306.221.1729.

***A Buncha Guys Spring Concert** - Sunday, April 6th 7:00 at Knox United Church, Saskatoon. Tickets (\$5.00) are available at McNally Robinson, MCC Saskatchewan, Russ Regier (249-3650), any of the guys or at the door. **An offering will be taken to support the Appleby Kids and Youth Club in Saskatoon.** (Appleby is a Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan program in the Meadowgreen neighbourhood.)

***Saskatoon MEDA Supper Event:** Thursday April 10th at Bethany Manor, Reception at 6PM Supper 6:30. Marion Good from Waterloo is guest speaker.

Worship Leader: Gordon Allaby
Song Leader: Kathryn Janzen
Accompanist: Mark Bigland-Pritchard
Scripture reader: Adam Boldt
This week's Nursery Care: Jennifer Rowan
Next week's Nursery Care: Shelley Penner
Sound: Liam Boldt
Ushers: Dick Braun, Karl Martens-Funk

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
March 16, 2014

*Lent Two – Encountering God: What have we witnessed . . .
in our blessings?*

Prelude
Welcome & Announcements

ENCOUNTERING

Chiming to Worship and a silent reflection

Call to worship

One: We look to the hills and to the mountain tops;

Many: where does our help come from?

One: We look to sun, the moon, and the stars above;

Many: where does our help come from?

One: We look to the God of Abraham, maker of heaven and earth;

All: our help comes from the Lord!

Invocation

***Hymn: Blue/HWB#26 “Holy Spirit, come with power”**

Confessing our sin

One: We think that who we are makes us heir to God's kingdom:

Left: the family we are born into,

Right: the name game we play.

One: We think that what we have done makes us citizens of God's nation:

Left: which school we went to,

Right: what agency we volunteered with.

One: We think that what we look like will make us worthy of God's blessing:

Left: the marks we do (or don't) put on our bodies,

Right: the clothes we wear.

One: We think that what we believe will save us from death:

Left: the laws we follow to the letter,

Right: the certitudes we're confident we know because we've verified them.

All: We want who we are, where we come from, what we have done, what we believe to be enough. Like Nicodemus, we do not understand how to be reborn. We speak only about what we know, testify only to what we can prove. Lord, hear our prayer. (silence)

Claiming our assurance:

One: Let go of who you are, let go of where you come from, let go of what you have done, let go of what you believe. Receive new birth; open your hands to God's gift of a transformed life.

All: For the gift of Jesus Christ is the gift of rebirth as a child of God, an heir to the heavenly kingdom, and is ours through faith and not our works.

Hymn: Green/SJ #81 "Take, O take me as I am"

Sharing

Discipline of silence and Prayer of the Church

WITNESSING

Gospel lesson: John 3:1-17

Drama

Collection of Loose Change and Children's Time Gordon Allaby

Hymn: Blue/HWB #167 "For God so loved us"

Offering and Offertory music
Offertory Prayer

Hymn: Green/SJ#14 "Lord Jesus, You shall be my song"

Sermon: "Journey towards Grace" Rick Schellenberg

RESPONDING

***Hymn: Blue/HWB #150 "Wonderful grace of Jesus"**

*Benediction: We have encountered God's love and call. Let us go then as witnesses to that love, eager to call others to the generosity we've experienced, on the lookout in the week ahead for where God is meeting us – body, mind, and spirit.

**Please rise*

Focus Statement: We encounter God in our blessings. Abraham met God through the promise of becoming a great nation: of being blessed and being a blessing. Nicodemus came face-to-face with Jesus' offer of rebirth. We witness the gifts of grace and eternal life God offers to all people.

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 worship service.
- **Sunday School for all ages** begins at 11:15am.

THIS WEEK

- **Tuesday, March 18, 7:00-8:30pm** – "Do Art" for Grades 4 – 9 students.
- **Thursday, March 20, 7:30pm** – Education Committee meeting
- **Friday, March 21, 7:30pm** – Deacons Movie Night

***Tuesday, March 18 - 5:00-7:00 - Youth Farm Bible Camp's annual Vereniki and Sausage Supper at the Rosthern Mennonite Church. Admission by Donation.**

***Friday, March 21, 7:30pm:** A Celebration of the 50th anniversary of Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan “50 years of Faith in Action” will be held at Warman Bergthaler Mennonite Church. This service will recognize the work of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, including John Ens speaking about a CFGB food study tour he and his wife Helen did visiting projects around the world.

"A celebration of music" - *Sonrisa Womens Choir with guests *A Buncha Guys* - **Sunday March 30, 2:30 pm** at Knox United Church in Saskatoon. Tickets: adults \$10, students & seniors \$8, children free at the door or in advance through choir members.

***MDS FAMILY PROJECT – MDS HIGH RIVER - MDS** is grateful for the outpouring of support for Southern Alberta recovery from the June 2013 flood. The rebuilding project is in full swing and will run all year. We're currently looking for skilled individuals or couples who would be willing to provide leadership to small crews of weekly volunteers this spring and summer. Call 1-866-261-1274 to book a spot.



Prayer Requests: Pray with and for the church for:

***Indian Residential School Survivors Honour Walk:** Winnipeggers Brad Langendoen, Nathan Thorpe, Laurens Thiessen van Esch and Ann Heinrichs are walking from Stoney Knoll, Sask. to Edmonton, Alta. March 7-26, arriving in time to attend the final Truth and Reconciliation event. Can you help them find and/or network with possible hosts for hospitality/overnight stays along their route? They also welcome fellow walkers to join them for a part of the walk. View their walking route and find more information at: <http://www.honourwalk.ca/>

Remember in your Prayers

Michelle McKinnell and Sarah Hiebert, recovering from surgery, **and Abe Braun**, who is scheduled for treatment this week.
The Pauls family, including Edna and Art Zacharias, who are serving with MDS and grieving the death of Edna's brother Bob.
Also, continue to pray for Linda Doell, Haylee Wall and Leslie's father, Mike Myers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Friday, March 21, 7:30pm - Deacons Movie Night.** Popcorn, movie and great fun for everyone, including youth! We will be showing the movie: "Despicable Me 2".

***Youth Events:**

Friday, March 21 at 7:30 - Movie Night at Church

Friday, March 28th - RJC Friday Night Live - Coffee House - 7:30 pm. Youth meet at the Church at 6:45 pm. *If anyone is able to drive the youth to Rosthern for this event, please talk to Shelley.*

*RJC is including **Spend-A-Day** in this event! If youth would like to come for some classes, be part of the "behind-the-scenes" activities of Friday Night Live, and stay the night in the dorms, and you are in grades 8-11, YOU ARE WELCOME! Email val@rjc.sk.ca, or download the registration forms at www.rjc.sk.ca

***Our Lenten theme is: "Encountering God: What have we witnessed?"** Is encountering something *we* do? Or is the word an adjective describing an attribute of *God*? This season invites us to reflect on encounters with the encountering God who changes lives. The second part of our theme, "What have we witnessed?" also has a double focus: both what we have *seen* (been witness of) and what we have *told* others about (witnessed to).

****"Ring in Spring with a Musical Thing": Saturday, March 29,** 7:30pm at OMC – a concert of stories and songs with Chelsea Cox, Andrew Hecker, Christine Hecker and Heather Macnab from Piapot, SK. Admission by donation: proceeds toward our piano repairs.

***Lent Worship Banners**, are being prepared by the Junior Youth and abstractly explore the spiritual power of the encounters being explored in worship. **Lent Two**: The blue line becomes a skyline and the green line drops down to open into a swath of land available to be filled with God's swirling promise of a nation of blessing and the rebirth that happens when we encounter God's grace. Please note the significance of the colors being used. **Yellow**: a primary color which represents God, Christ and the Holy Spirit. **Blue**: a primary color representing water, breath and wind. **Green**: the resulting encountered color from yellow and blue, it also represents new life, blessings and fertile land.

***Sunday, March 30, noon – Potluck lunch.** During the Sunday School hour, the adult Sunday School classes will be invited to join Erica Baerwald and Claire Ewert Fisher for a discussion in the sanctuary, on Mennonite Thrift Stores.

***Custodian - The church needs a custodian from now until Sarah is able to return.** The current monthly remuneration and list of duties is available at the office for those interested in applying for the position. We are also open to a group of people doing the work on a schedule. If you are interested in serving the church in this way, please contact one of the Trustee committee members (Dick, Glen, Lyle, Bill, or Doug), who hope to hear from you soon.

***Today: Festival of Choirs, March 16, 2:30 pm -** RJC Chorale, CMU Singers & Station Singers of Rosthern are all part of the Festival of Choirs event at Third Avenue United Church . Free admission .

***MCC Connects:** 50 years of Faith in Action at MCCS. Imagine a world without hunger. MCC works to end global hunger through Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB). Join us Friday March 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Warman Bergthaler Mennonite Church, 206-2nd St. West, Warman to celebrate and hear a report from John and Helena Ens, recently returned from a Learning Tour to Ethiopia.

***Friday, April 4 – Fundraiser for Haylee Wall at the Brian King Centre in Warman.** See the bulletin board poster for details or speak to Naomi by March 24th for details or to purchase tickets.

***Shekinah Banquet and Fundraiser: April 5, 2014** at Mount Royal Mennonite Church. Doors open-6pm. Supper-6:30. Tickets \$25...call the office or chat with a board member. More details coming soon.

***Shekinah** still has staff openings. See the bulletin board for posting for 2 positions: **Food Services Assistant & Maintenance/Assistant School Group Programmer/Kitchen Coordinator.**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

John 3:1-17

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.'³Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'⁴Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?'⁵Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above."⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'⁹Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?'¹⁰Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?'¹¹'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?'¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.¹⁶'For God so loved the world that God gave God's only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.