

**OMC Calendar  
December 2012**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Each Sunday: Worship:10am SundaySchool @ 11:15am Floor Hockey 7pm						<b>1</b> Ladies Bangladesh Luncheon at the church 12Noon
<b>2</b> Advent One	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Missions &Service Comm. Meeting	<b>6</b> Church Council Meeting 7:30pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Youth- Scavenger Hunt –Meet at OMC 1pm
<b>9</b> Advent Two	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Worship Comm. meeting 7:00pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Youth - making cookies at church 1-5
<b>16</b> Advent Three	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Advent Four	<b>24 7pm</b> Sunday School Christmas Eve Program	<b>25</b> Christmas Day!	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> No Sunday School	<b>31</b>					

**Note: Meetings and church activities can also be found on the Events Calendar on the church website. [www.omchurch.org](http://www.omchurch.org)**

## The Osler Mennonite Church December 2012 Newsletter

Osler Mennonite Church  
[olsermc@sasktel.net](mailto:olsermc@sasktel.net)  
<http://omchurch.org>  
 Volume VIII, Tenth Edition

212 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. P.O. Box 129  
 Osler, SK S0K 3A0  
 306-239-2133

A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE



### Upcoming Events and Opportunities

\***Saturday, December 1 at noon: OMC Ladies Luncheon** will be a Bangladesh meal at the church.

\*The deacons would like to arrange for **two meals a week for John and Rhonda Gascho** and a sign-up sheet is now on the bulletin board. Meals can be frozen and if you are able to help but unable to deliver a meal, arrangements can be made to get it to the Gaschos.

\*Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> is the first Sunday of Advent.

\***Choir practices** for Christmas will begin Sunday, December 2 at 11:15am. The Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> worship service will feature mostly Christmas Music.

\*Our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service and Pageant** will be held on Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Everyone welcome and bring your neighbours and friends!

## Pastor's Note

I have received requests inquiring about ways to enhance spiritual growth, including how to better prepare for Sunday's worship experience. One of the advantages of being a church pastor is that part of my job is to, each day, engage in spiritual disciplines, and I have more resources readily available than most people. So, I will offer, to anyone who requests, to daily send out an email containing thoughts that may help prompt spiritual reflection, and the Tuesday to Saturday email will share some ideas about the upcoming Sunday's theme (for those Sundays that I preach). The email will include a few brief passages I found inspirational, my insights and something to add to your devotional prayer for the day. The email will be sent out during the day, and could be used the following morning, if you have morning devotional time.

Let me know if you would like to be included in this email list; send your reply to my personal email - [gallaby@sasktel.net](mailto:gallaby@sasktel.net).

~~~~~

Again this year, I will not be sending out paper Christmas cards; however, that does not mean that I, including my family, are lacking in Christmas Spirit or in deep appreciation for everyone in the church. In fact, we are not mailing cards to our extended family either. Regardless, Leslie, Katherine and I feel very blessed and fortunate to be a part of such a wonderful and loving church, full of passion and commitment to serving Christ. All of you have been very kind and supportive to us and to each other. It is good to be in Osler Mennonite Church. And, from our home to yours, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a New Year full of joy and fulfillment.

Gordon, Leslie and Katherine.



## Humour ~ The Isaac Section

### PRAYER

An elderly gentleman passed his granddaughter's room one night and overheard her repeating the alphabet in an oddly reverent way.

"What on earth are you up to?" he asked.

"I'm saying my prayers," explained the little girl.

"But I can't think of exactly the right words tonight, so I'm just saying all the letters. God will put them together for me, because He knows what I'm thinking."

---

A man was driving to work when a truck ran a stop sign, hit his car broadside, and knocked him cold. Passersby pulled him from the wreck and revived him. He began a terrific struggle and had to be tranquilized by the medics.

Later, when he was calm, they asked him why he struggled so. He said, "I remember the impact, then nothing. I woke up on a concrete slab in front of a huge, flashing 'Shell' sign...and somebody was standing in front of the 'S'!"

### Kids' letters to God

Dear God,

I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tuesday. That was cool!

Eugene

Dear God,

I do not think anybody could be a better God. Well I just want you to know that I am not just saying this because you are God already.

Charles

Dear God,

I think about you sometimes, even when I'm not praying.

Elliott

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

\*Travel the world, learn, and stretch your faith! Mennonite Church Canada has 3 to 12 month assignments that will connect you and your congregation with the global church. Check out <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/serve/>.

\***MCC Connects** – This Christmas bring joy to the world by choosing gifts of love and compassion from MCC's Christmas Giving 2012. Gifts that will help one more child go to school, one more family have clean water or one more community find peace. Give at [mcccanada.ca/Christmas](http://mcccanada.ca/Christmas) or call MCCS at 665-2555 or 1-888-622-6337.

### ✿ Pieces of Peace ✿

#### Prayer for Peace from a Distance

Lord of Heaven and Earth, even from a distance, we sense the blast of missiles and the stench of explosions

Yet we cling to your promise of peace.

Lord of Heaven and Earth, even from a distance, we feel the loss of children and mothers

Yet we hold to your promise of never leaving us.

Lord of Heaven and Earth, even from a distance we pray that all your children from Gaza to Syria, from Cairo to Jerusalem may sleep unafraid

Yet we lament the tanks, and rifles and warplanes that explode the night with terror.

Lord of Heaven and Earth, even from a distance we can hope, because we pray, that your peace will prevail, that your people will choose life, true life in you, Giver of all Life.

-prayer submitted by MCC Saskatchewan

## Our 2012 Advent theme is OUT FROM THE SHADOWS

Advent invites us to receive not only the meaning of Christmas-- Emanuel, but to also receive Christ--God executing justice and righteousness in the world. The passages for the Sundays of Advent present strong messages calling us to risk, to be bold in order to join in God's saving intervention. We are provoked to come out from the shadows to see and be seen as we claim Christ as our saviour.

**Advent One** is filled with promise and hope. It is the turning away from darkness to the light.

**Advent Two** points out that things will change, we will change as we engage in God redemption actions.

**Advent Three** shifts to joy, even confidence as we live rejoicing in God's justice and peace.

**Advent Four** is full of music, warmth and love because it is time to be ready.

Also note: **Sunday, December 23** is our **Christmas music program**, and this year we want to include lots of different flavours. So, if you are willing and would like to participate through playing an instrument or singing, then please let Kevin or Kathryn know. They are planning this service.

\*\*\*\*\*

John Neufeld will be presenting 5 Sessions on the theme of:

**“Revisiting Revelation – A Discovery Tour”** at Bethany Manor Fellowship Centre Feb. 10-12, 2013.

**Session 1:** Sunday, Feb. 10, 2:30 pm **Session 2:** Monday, Feb. 11, 2:30 pm

**Session 3:** Monday, Feb. 11, 7:00 pm, **Session 4:** Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2:30 pm

**Session 5:** Tuesday, Feb.12, 7:00 pm

Each session is an hour in length. Everyone is welcome. No registration fee.

Contact Esther Patkau 242-6416 for additional information.

## MORE CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### Lectionary Passages for the next 6 weeks:

#### **December 2, 2012 Advent I**

*Theme: Fulfill the Promise*

Jeremiah 33: 14-16, Psalm 25: 1-10, I Thess. 3:9-13, Luke 21: 25-36

#### **December 9, 2012 Advent 2**

*Theme: Prepare the way*

Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1: 6-79, Philippians 1: 3-11, Luke 3: 1-6

#### **December 16, 2012 Advent 3**

*Theme: Rejoice in the Lord*

Zeph. 3:14-20, Isaiah 12: 2-6, Phil. 4:4-7, Luke 3: 7-18

#### **December 23, 2012 Advent 4**

*Theme: Come to save*

Micah 5: 2-51, Psalm 80: 1-7, Hebr. 10: 5-10, Luke 1: 39-45,(46-55)

#### **December 24/25, 2012 Christmas Eve/Day**

*Theme: Sing for joy*

Isaiah 9: 2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2: 11-14, Luke 2: 1-14, (15-20)

or

Isaiah 62: 6-12, Psalm 97, Titus 3: 4-, Luke 2: (1-7), 8-20

or

Isaiah 52: 7-10, Psalm 98, Hebrews 1: 1-4, (5-12), John 1: 1-4

#### **December 30, 2012 First Sunday after Christmas**

*Theme: Praise the Lord!*

I Sam. 2: 18-20, 26, Psalm 148, Colossians 3: 12-17, Luke 2: 41-52

#### **January 6, 2012 Epiphany**

*Theme: The mystery of Christ*

Isaiah 60: 1-6, Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3: 1-12, Matt. 2: 1-12

.....



## OMC YOUTH GROUP DECEMBER 2012 ACTIVITIES

| Sunday                                                   | Monday                                   | Tuesday                       | Wed | Thurs | Friday | Saturday                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|-------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                          |                                          |                               |     |       |        | 1                                                            |
| 2<br>Worship Service - 10 am<br>Sunday School - 11 am    | 3                                        | 4                             | 5   | 6     | 7      | 8<br><b>WDM Scavenger Hunt</b><br>Meet at the church at 1 pm |
| 9<br>Worship Service - 10 am<br>Sunday School - 11 am    | 10                                       | 11                            | 12  | 13    | 14     | 15<br><b>Cookie Baking at the Church</b><br>- 1 pm to 5 pm   |
| 16<br>Worship Service - 10 am<br>Sunday School - 11 am   | 17                                       | 18                            | 19  | 20    | 21     | 22                                                           |
| 23<br>Worship Service - 10 am<br>Sunday School - 11 am   | 24<br><b>Christmas Eve Program</b> - 7pm | 25<br><b>Merry Christmas!</b> | 26  | 27    | 28     | 29                                                           |
| 30<br>Worship Service - 10 am<br><b>No Sunday School</b> | 31                                       |                               |     |       |        |                                                              |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**\*Friday and Saturday, November 30 and December 1 - "Embracing the Spirit of Reconciliation"** event sponsored by Willow Cree Health on Beardy's - Okemasis First Nations reserve, at the Constable Robin Cameron Education Complex is open to all. Includes statement gathering, sharing circles, discussions and workshops, ceremony, birthday party (9:30 a.m. to 3:30 pm with lunch served both days, as well as supper on Friday with entertainment beginning at 7 pm). Offering support to our nearby First Nations neighbors and deepening our own learning and understanding, through our participation, is a significant opportunity in walking the path together, in a good way, towards healing, reconciliation and mutual respect. Contact Rita MacDonald (232-5310) for further information.

\*RJC Chorale, RJC Women's choir and Sonrisa will present a **Christmas Concert** in beautiful Knox United Church on Saturday, December 15 at 7:30 pm. Free admission/A collection will be taken.

**\*RJC Christmas Concert** - Rosthern Junior College will present its annual Christmas Concert on Friday, December 21 at 7:00 pm in the school auditorium. Everyone welcome to join the celebration of the Christmas season with music and fellowship and refreshments.

\*Come this summer to learn with other peacebuilders – local and international, young and old, students, practitioners and those new to peacebuilding – at the fifth annual **Canadian School of Peacebuilding**. Participate in your choice of five-day courses for personal inspiration, professional development, or academic credit. More information is available at [csop.cmu.ca](http://csop.cmu.ca) or [csop@cmu.ca](mailto:csop@cmu.ca).

**\*Worship + Imagination** (formerly Refreshing Winds) symposium will take place **February 7 – 9 at CMU**, exploring the theme of "Worship & Witness." *Who should come?* Worship planners and leaders, pastors, musicians, church leaders, and lay people. Registration cost increases after Dec 17. Learn more about the resource persons, schedule and registration details by going to [www.cmu.ca/wi](http://www.cmu.ca/wi)

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

\*The newsletters for Micah Mission and Shekinah Retreat Center are posted on the bulletin board (and have already been emailed to those receiving this newsletter electronically.)

**\*Student Bursary Fund applications:** A Bursary fund was started by a donation from the Estate of Rev. Corney Boldt for students who will be attending one of our church schools. A once-in-a-lifetime bursary of \$500.00 per student will be available as long as there is money in the fund. To qualify, the applicant or their parents must be members of Osler Mennonite Church or must have been active in the church program for the past three years. All applications must be submitted to the Bursary committee by December 7<sup>th</sup>, so they can be processed this year. The applications can be obtained at the office or from one of the committee members. Please return the completed application to Doug McKinnell. Thanks from Doug McKinnell, Linda Stucky and Margaret Boldt.

### **\*The Canadian Mennonite magazine**

One of the ministries of our church is to provide a subscription to the Canadian Mennonite for all regular attendees who would like to receive it. Please inform the church office if you would like to receive the magazine, but are not. Likewise, let us know if you are not reading it and would rather not receive it. In addition, the annual rate is \$40.00 per subscription. If you are able and would like to free up that money so as to be used in other church ministries, then please consider an additional contribution to cover that cost.

\*Mennonite Church Sask is pleased to welcome **Kirsten Hamm to the position of Area Church Youth Minister**. Kirsten will begin her ministry with MC Sask in the summer of 2013.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

\***Shekinah Retreat Centre** invites applications for an **Executive Director**, starting Feb. 2013. For job description and remuneration, speak to a Board of Directors member. SRC is also seeking a **Program Director, a Maintenance Supervisor and an Office Administrator**. Posters for all of these positions can be found on the church bulletin boards. For more information, contact Jesse Ens, Interim Administrator, Shekinah Retreat Centre by email: [jesse@shekinahretreatcentre.org](mailto:jesse@shekinahretreatcentre.org)

**\*To: Youth Pastors, Sponsors, Pastors, Parents and Youth!!**

The Mennonite Church Canada Youth Assembly 2013 Newsletter is now on the MC Canada website: <http://fatcalf.mennonitechurch.ca/>. Please check this site regularly for updates and registration information.

A bus has been reserved for Mennonite Church Saskatchewan participants. The **preliminary, tentative** plan is to leave Saskatoon on Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup> and spend the day and night at the Kenosee Superslides in the Moose Mountain Provincial Park. On Monday it's off to Camp Assiniboine and the Youth Assembly. The **tentative cost** for the transportation to and from Youth Assembly would be \$200. There would be an additional cost for the slides. Please include this information as you begin your planning and fundraising!!

\*CMU's Alumni invites nominations for the **2013 CMU Blazer Award for Distinguished Alumni**. The goal of the award is to celebrate alumni who, through their lives, embody CMU's values and mission of "service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society." The award is presented annually at Fall Festival. The 2012 recipients were: Bill Janzen, Sarah Klassen, Patrice Nagant, and Bonita Sawatzky. To nominate someone, or for a complete listing of recipients, visit: <http://www.cmu.ca/blazeraward.html>.



### OMC Sunday School Christmas Giving Project

This year the project chosen by the Education Committee for our annual Christmas Giving Project is MCC's "**Supporting People Caught in Crisis**" in Syria.

Due to the violence and unrest in Syria, families are leaving their homes, sometimes with only a suitcase and the clothes on their backs.

Our support through MCC can provide emergency assistance through shipments of school kits, relief kits and comforters. Vital items such as medicines, milk powder and diapers are purchased locally, and financial support is needed to buy them. MCC also supports 'Caritas Jordan' where Syrians can register as refugees, enroll children in an afterschool program and receive material resources.

A giving jar will be placed in the church foyer for the Advent season and you may place donations there, or designate gifts made through the offering as for: "**Christmas Giving Project: MCC Syria**".

*"I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Matthew 25: 36*

\*\*\* Sleep in heavenly peace. \*\*\*