

**OMC Calendar
December 2014**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Each Sunday:</u> Worship:10am <u>SundaySchool</u> @ 11:15am	1	2	3	4	5 Osler School Concert here 9:45am	6 12 Ladies Christmas luncheon 11:30am
7 2nd Advent	8	9	10	11	12	13 Youth Christmas Party 6pm
14 3 rd Advent	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 4th Advent Pizza lunch, followed by Sunday School Christmas program practice	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Program 7:00pm	25 Christmas Day 	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Note: Meetings and church activities can also be found on the Events Calendar on the church website. www.omchurch.org

**The Osler Mennonite Church
December 2014 Newsletter**

Osler Mennonite Church
oslermc@sasktel.net
<http://omchurch.org>
 Volume X, Tenth Edition

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A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE



Our Advent themes:

Advent One, November 30 – Oh, that you would reveal your hope
 Advent Two, December 7 – Oh, that you would reveal your peace
 Advent Three, December 14 – Oh, that you would reveal your joy
 Advent Four, December 21- Oh, that you would reveal your hope
 Christmas One, December 28 – Your beauty is revealed.

Upcoming OMC Events

***Osler School's Grade 4-6 choir** is proud to present a morning of praise and peace through Christmas songs and hymns. They are excited to spread some Christmas cheer throughout our community of Osler. Please join us at the **Osler Mennonite Church on Friday, December 5th at 9:45am**. Everyone is welcome!

Patty's Ponderings

Advent is here already. We were gifted with a beautiful fall and it has felt like we just finished harvesting and how we're hanging the greens. It has been a whirlwind fall for me, quitting one job and starting another and trying to buy out my neighbour plus move my mom into assisted living. I'm looking forward to Advent as a quieting down season of being forced indoors by weather, forced to light candles because of the dark and forced to meditate on the meaning of this season.

As the Leader magazine says, "Advent may well be one of the most overlooked yet most important times of the year. We live in a culture that depreciates the value of waiting. One sad consequence of this is the increased difficulty we have embracing God's promises that seem so long in coming. We're in danger of losing our ability to yearn for the revelation of God's mystery in our world."

Let's invite the revealing of God's hope, peace, joy and mystery to us in a personal and congregational way this season.

Patty

Patty's Picks

The Bright Continent by Dayo Olopade, a Nigerian-American writer is a hopeful reflection on African connections and economic innovation.

The Blue Sweater by Jacqueline Novogratz is also a hopeful reflection on African social connections and innovations by women.

Humour ~ The Isaac Section

An atheist complained to a Christian friend, "You Christians have your special holidays, such as Christmas and Easter. Jews celebrate their national holidays, such as Passover and Yom Kippur. But we atheists have no recognized national holidays. It's unfair discrimination." His friend replied, "Why don't you celebrate April first?"

A Jewish lady named Mrs. Rosenberg many years ago was stranded late one night at a fashionable resort - one that did not admit Jews. The desk clerk looked down at his book and said, "Sorry, no room. The hotel is full."

The Jewish lady said, "But your sign says that you have vacancies." The desk clerk stammered and then said curtly, "You know that we do not admit Jews. Now if you will try the other side of town..."

Mrs. Rosenberg stiffened noticeably and said, "I'll have you know I converted to your religion."

The desk clerk said, "Oh, yeah, let me give you a little test. How was Jesus born?"

Mrs. Rosenberg replied, "He was born to a virgin named Mary in a little town called Bethlehem."

"Very good," replied the hotel clerk. "Tell me more."

Mrs. Rosenberg replied, "He was born in a manger."

"That's right," said the hotel clerk. "And why was he born in a manger?"

Mrs. Rosenberg said loudly, "Because a jerk like you in the hotel wouldn't give a Jewish lady a room for the night!"

-submitted by Adeline

Peace ON EARTH
GOOD WILL TO MEN



Canadian Mennonite University cmu.ca

CMU Graduate School of Theology and Ministry winter courses are now available for registration. The CMU Graduate School of Theology and Ministry invites students into a community of scholarship, committed to the life of the church, experienced in mission and service, and accomplished in research and publication. Details on our website, cmu.ca/gstm.

*Learning Tour to the Philippines | April 27 – May 17, 2015

Led by [Wendy Kroeker](#), a study tour to the Philippines is being planned for students studying in the area of Peace & Conflict Transformation Studies (IDS/Geography relevant). The course will provide students with opportunities to study the impact of development on local communities and the implications for peacebuilding, resilience, and social justice. For details, please visit cmu.ca/philippines.

*Middle East Study Tour | April 29 - May 18 2015

Led by Gerald Gerbrandt and Sheila Klassen-Wiebe, a CMU tour to Israel deliberately focuses on the Holy Land both as the ancient land of the Bible, but also as a land of contemporary conflict. We will study both the “ancient stones” of archaeology, and interact with the “living stones” in the land today. The tour includes significant features often not included in tourist-oriented tour packages. Visit cmu.ca/met2015 for details.

*Are you looking to challenge yourself? Learn a language, volunteer to provide clean water and housing for others and explore caves together in a community of new friends in Outtatown’s Guatemala program. Apply now to CMU’s **OUTTATOWN** discipleship program for fall 2015. Find details online at www.outtatown.com or contact Kate kschellenberg@cmu.ca 1.204.487.3300 ext. 661 for more information.

OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***Christmas Choir Practice** starts Sunday, November 30th, 12:00-12:20 p.m. in the sanctuary and continues the next two Sundays; Dec. 7 and Dec. 14. The choir will be singing during the Sunday morning worship service on Dec. 21 as well as Christmas Eve. The 4th December 21st Advent service will include lessons, carols, the Christmas Choir & the Joy Singers.

Please sign up by Nov. 30*, if you are attending the **annual Ladies Christmas Luncheon, here at OMC next **Saturday, Dec. 6 at 11:30am**. Cost: \$15 per person for a sausage & veranekyi lunch, with salad and dessert. The price includes a bit extra to help cover the cost for some for whom it is unaffordable. We want *ALL* ladies to attend and your guests are welcome. If you need financial help with the cost or a ride, please speak to Loretta, Kathryn or Adeline.



***The Mennonite World Conference** is being held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in July 2015. We, **Osler Mennonite Church**, would like to send as many youth (Grade 8-12) that would like to go to go to this Assembly, plus a sponsor or two. The cost is \$1000 per person, each youth is asked to contribute \$500 of their own money and so we would like to raise the remainder of that amount, as well as cover the whole cost of the sponsor(s) to go. Thank you all for your support for the November 29th supper and silent auction! If you wish to make a direct donation to help, simply write a cheque and designate the funds to the Youth – World Conference. And of course we need your prayers; this is a huge undertaking and a huge trip for our youth!

***OMC Visioning Process** will begin in December with 30 minute interviews with wonderful listeners from MC Sask at OMC and Saskatoon. Sign-up sheets are coming.

OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

*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.**

Through MCC and its partners, sand dams are becoming a reality for communities in Kenya. Dams trap water, reduce erosion and provide an atmosphere where trees and gardens readily grow. Some 300 people — using 715 bags of cement — came together to build a dam in Makueni County, Kenya, in 14 days. Your gift of \$10 helps buy cement to build the sand dams. A \$50 gift helps communities in India have water for crops.

Your gift offers a life-giving resource to families and communities.

A giving jar will be set up in the foyer and of course, offerings can be designated for this worthy project throughout December.

*To the thirsty I will give water as a gift
from the spring of the water of life. (Rev. 21:6)*

***Saturday, December 13, 6:00pm – Youth Christmas party**

***Forever in Motion Senior Fitness Program Update**

Char Walush from Forever in Motion, Saskatoon Health Region gave an interesting presentation on the physical and social benefits of 50+ fitness groups. The next steps for OMC as a host site will be to send some leaders to training workshops in the new year. If anyone has any interest in the program, please let us know and Mission and Service will keep us updated on how to stretch ourselves in the new year.



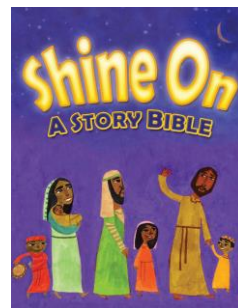
Lectionary Passages for the next 4 weeks

December 7, 2014—Advent 2 Prepare Isaiah 40:1-11 (3) Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 14, 2014—Advent 3 Testify Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28 (7)

December 21, 2014—Advent 4 Rejoice (CEB) 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:46b-55 (46) or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

December 28, 2014—First Sunday after Christmas My eyes have seen your salvation Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40 (30)



*This Christmas, give the gift that will grow the faith of that special child in your life. The new, beautifully illustrated **Shine On: A Story Bible** (also available in Spanish as **Resplandece**) presents stories from the Bible in fresh and engaging ways, and is the perfect at-home complement to the new Shine Sunday School curriculum. Available from

the MC Canada Resource Centre at phone: 1.866.888.6785 or:

www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/2394

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***RJC Choir Concert** - December 14, 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.

***RJC Winter Theatre** - January 10 and 11, 2015, 7:30 pm. The Theatre Arts Class will present "Anne of Green Gables" in the Pit Theatre. L.M. Montgomery's beloved story of Anne with an "e" is brought to life in this charming adaptation for the small stage. Tickets are \$10 (rush seating), and must be reserved by calling the RJC Office at 306 232-4222. Tickets go on sale Dec. 1st. Please call early as the school office is closed from December 20 to January 5.

*You are invited to attend "Making Your Case: Environmental Action as Christian Action," a workshop with Bishop Don Bolen and Dr. Jim Harding on Saturday, December 6, 2014 from 9:30 am to 3:40 pm at Resurrection Lutheran Church (310 Lenore Drive, Saskatoon) Please RSVP to 306-653-1633 or admin@pcecumenism.ca. Lunch will be by donation.

❁ Pieces of Peace ❁

**“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace, goodwill among people”**

Luke 2:14

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***A Buncha Guys Christmas Concerts**

Sat. Dec. 6 7:30 pm at Knox United Church, Saskatoon

Sat. Dec. 13 7:30 pm at Shekinah Retreat Centre

Doors open at 6:45 pm

Tickets (\$5.00) are available at McNally Robinson Book Sellers in Saskatoon,

Russ Regier (306-249-3650), any of the Guys, **or at the door.**

An offering will be taken to support Shekinah Retreat Centre.

***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.

***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.

