

**OMC Calendar  
December 2015**

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><u>Each Sunday:</u> Worship:10am</p> <p><u>SundaySchool</u> @ 11:15am</p>		<p><b>1</b> Youth Planning Committee 4:30pm</p> <p>Thrift Store Volunteer Supper 6:30</p>	<b>2</b>	<p><b>3</b> Church Council Meeting 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>4</b> Small group – sing at Warman Altenheim for Helen P. and John B.</p>	<p><b>5</b> Ladies Heart to Heart Christmas Luncheon 11:30am</p>
<p><b>6 Second Advent</b> 9am – Choir Practice 9am – Staffing Committee Mtg 2pm - Sing for John Wall</p>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<p><b>10</b> Osler School Concert at OMC 9:30 am</p>	<b>11</b>	<p><b>12</b> Volunteering at Friendship Inn -Youth &amp; Young family Christmas Party</p>
<p><b>13 Third Advent</b> 9am – Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>14</b> Warman Community Band Concert@ Warman MC 7pm</p>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<p><b>18</b> Bring baking, etc for Christmas Hampers</p>	<p><b>19</b> 10am – Assemble Christmas Hampers in Youth Room</p>
<p><b>20 Fourth Advent</b> 9am – Choir Practice</p>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<p><b>24</b> Christmas Eve Candlelight Program 7:00 pm</p> 	<p><b>25 Christmas Day</b></p> 	<b>26</b>
<p><b>27</b> No Sunday School Today</p>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<p><b>31</b> New Year's Eve</p>		

**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 2015 Newsletter**

Osler Mennonite Church  
[oslermc@sasktel.net](mailto:oslermc@sasktel.net)  
<http://omchurch.org>  
 Volume X1, Tenth Edition

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A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE



Upcoming OMC Events

**\*Christmas Hampers** - Mission & Service Committee will be distributing Christmas hampers **on December 19th** and are looking for participation from OMC. The box in the foyer labelled Christmas Hampers will be used to collect non-perishable food items. Other items that would be appreciated are baking, homemade jams, pickles etc. Baking and perishable items should be brought to the church on December 18th or 19th. These hampers will be assembled and distributed at 10:00am in the Youth room on December 19th. If you have any questions please talk to a member of the M&S Committee.

**\*Forever in Motion Walking: Wednesdays, November 18 – Fridays, December 18.** Come and walk anytime between 9am and Noon on Wednesday and Friday mornings. Any questions? Please speak to Susan Braun or Patty Friesen.

## **Patty's Ponderings**

I'm hardly in the mood for Advent as I write this on another beautiful sunny snowless November day. I'm still pretending like fall will last until December 25 but the growing darkness reminds me we are moving into "that season." I dread the long darkness of this season and am counting the weeks until the light grows again. Psalm 130:5,6 says, "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in God's word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning."

In this season of darkness has come the most amazing sunrises. We need the dark sky to contrast the flaming orange and purple sunstreaks. What spiritual contrasts come to us in this Advent season? What is more precious because it comes through more difficulty? What does God want to stay to us in the dark?

**Youth Catechism Review of OMC:** Without hesitation the youth SS catechism class said that our church's greatest strengths were: close-knit, family-like, it's home, lots of neat diverse people, welcoming and accepting of everyone, potlucks, great building, cool youth!, lots of kids, lots of music and service projects. What we may need to work on as a congregation is: racial diversity - which we can get through helping refugees and make them come to church, do more weekly youth stuff and let youth be in charge of their own money and planning, make stop-motion videos from the Old Testament and New Testament, play Mission Impossible.

## **Patty's Picks**

Edible Histories by Marlene Epp is a fascinating read about our Canadian culinary heritages.

Last Bus to Wisdom by Ivan Doig is his last gift to us before his death last spring.

Sons and Mothers: Stories from Mennonite Men by Mary Ann Loewen is a touching and honest tribute.

Road Trip Rwanda by Will Ferguson is an enjoyable and eye-opening read.

The Newsroom DVD Season 3/as delightful as the first two seasons. Arthur and George DVD BBC Season 1 - is typically British slow and intelligent.

Frozen Planet DVD BBC - is a wake-up call to the beauty and fragility of our polar caps in climate change.

## **Humour ~ The Isaac Section**

### **A Few More Things I've Never Done Before Working in Osler:**

1. Had a Mennonite Sausage Hangover - thank you Lord of the Sausage Rings.
2. Heard at cow read scripture (Cow Sunday :)

- Patty Friesen

A ten-year old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible.

Then one day she floored her grandmother by asking, "Which Virgin was the mother of Jesus? The Virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"

### **The Advent Wreath**

Four weeks before Christmas, Reverend Jones of the Lutheran Church was leading a children's service featuring an Advent wreath. He had told the children what the three purple candles represented, then asked, "Does anyone know what the pink one means?" No one answered. Finally little Sara's hand went up. "Are they expecting a girl?"

### **Christmas Nuts**

Pastor Patrick got this note accompanying a box of Christmas goodies, addressed to him and his wife, from an elderly parishioner.

*Dear Pastor,*

*Knowing that you do not eat sweets, I am sending the chocolates to your wife – and nuts to you.*

### **Three Wise Women**

You do know what would have happened if it had been three wise women instead of men, don't you? They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought diapers as a gift.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

\***A Buncha Guys Christmas Concerts** with special guests – the Friesen Family Band. Fri. Dec. 4 7:30 pm at Knox United Church, Saskatoon, Sat. Dec. 12 - 7:30 pm at Shekinah Retreat Centre  
Doors open at 6:45 pm. Tickets are \$5.00 ea, available at McNally Robinson Book Sellers in Saskatoon, any of the Guys, or at the door. An offering will be taken to support Shekinah Retreat Centre.

\***Thursday, December 10, 9:30am – Osler School concert at OMC.**

\***Saturday, December 12, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm: Warman Thrift Shop Christmas Bake sale.** Proceeds going toward MCC Relief kits fund. *Donations of baking are welcome!*

\***RJC Christmas Concert - December 18, 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.

\***On Saturday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:30, Station Singers** presents “Sing We Now of Christmas”, featuring Prairie Virtuosi accompanying the choir in a concert of seasonal music at the Station Arts Centre, Rosthern. Tickets are available from choir members or from the Station Arts Centre. (232-5332)

\*The Prairie Centre for Ecumenism is pleased to support “**Engage Difference: Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry**” Register now for *Engage Difference!* @ [www.ccforum.ca/duim](http://www.ccforum.ca/duim)  
5 Days focused on faith, heart, mind, and skills for the art of intercultural ministry -**Winter 2015: Saskatoon, SK January 25-29, 2016** - See the Bulletin Board poster for more details.  
Registration deadline December 28. Spring 2015: Beausejour, MB. Registration deadline: April 2015

\***RJC Winter Theatre - January 17, 2016, 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm.** The Theatre Arts Class will present "The Fearsome Pirate Frank" in the Pit Theatre. The play is a child appropriate (and adult friendly!) pirate adventure/comedy. Tickets are \$10 (rush seating) and will go on sale in the new year

## OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

\***On Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am** at OMC – our annual **Ladies Christmas Luncheon** will feature wonderful Indian food from the Osler Café, including rice, spring rolls, broccoli cauliflower carrot cooked vegetable, green salad, naan, chocolate and vanilla flapper pie and their special Butter chicken! **The cost per person is \$15 .00 and guests are welcome.** If the cost is prohibitive, please come anyway. *Please sign up on the bulletin board asap so we can confirm plates needed for the Café.* Come and enjoy the fellowship and celebration of the Advent season.

\***Christmas Choir practice starts Sunday, December 6 at 9:00am.** The choir will be singing during the December 20<sup>th</sup> worship service. If you love to sing songs of the season, please come out and join the choir!

\***Sunday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2:00pm** - Anyone interested is invited to **join Patty to sing Christmas songs for John Wall** in his room at Saskatoon City Hospital. Just ask at the front desk for the room number.

\***Stuart Murray and Membership Conversations:** Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>: 11:15 Sanctuary: We'll be discussing “*Belonging/Believing/Behaving in Church after Christendom*” - copies on lobby table.

\***Friendship Inn: Final opportunity to serve this year: December 12<sup>th</sup>.** Sign up on the bulletin board if that date work for you!

\***YOUTH & YOUNG FAMILIES: Saturday, December 12 – 5pm: Christmas Party** with pizza and games for Youth and Young families. Every family is asked to bring a snack and a group game.

## Lectionary Passages for the next 4 weeks

**December 6, 2015:**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

Love: Love may overflow

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

**December 13, 2015:**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

Joy: Be glad and rejoice

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

**December 20, 2015:**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Peace: He will bring peace

Micah 5:2-5a

Psalms 80:1-7

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

**December 27, 2015:**

**First Sunday after Christmas**

Praise him

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalms 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

## Prayers from the Doopsgezinde Gemeente Groningen

We pray for comfort for those who are homeless in shelters, in doorways and byways; lost, invisible, neglected; hungry and emotionally wounded. In Groningen, around 1,500 people are registered at shelters as homeless. Thank you for the ministry of Doperse Dis, providing a warm meal and fellowship to those who have no network of support to fall back on. With winter approaching, there is a need for gloves, socks and hats. With our human condition, there is a need for healing and community. Lord, equip your church to meet the needs of our fellow humanity.

We lament the violence and crisis in the Middle East, Africa and Europe. We pray for all the refugees, those who have lost their homes, who are hurting, with nowhere to turn. We are alarmed by the situation of those seeking asylum in the Netherlands. There is a general tendency for our governments to close borders and to stop the growing influx of refugees. We feel that our moral responsibility calls us to act: to avoid the burden and sorrow connected with giving shelter to refugees means refusing to regard violence and injustice as a common problem. Our faith that God wants unity for humankind urges us to reject inaction and instead take sides with asylum seekers. We pray for courage and wisdom to encourage local governments and institutions to meet their responsibilities. We thank God for the power of faith communities to provide support, prayer, friendship and welcome, stemming from our belief. **Author:** Doopsgezinde Gemeente Groningen

**\*Forever in Motion Walking** at OMC has begun – Every **Wednesday and Friday till December 18**, come and walk anytime between 9 am and Noon. Any questions? Please speak to Susan Braun or Patty Friesen.

**\*The Youth Farm Bible Camp** is fundraising for their annual trip to Mexico in March. Once again **Frozen Food Packages** are available for purchase before December 9th. The cost is \$100. Details and online ordering can be found at [www.yfbc.com/foodpackfundraiser](http://www.yfbc.com/foodpackfundraiser).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**\*The MCSask Ad hoc Committee on Same-Sex Marriage** has begun its work of listening and guiding MCSask congregations in their discernment around same-sex marriage. The committee will be helping our congregations listen and talk to one another, seeking greater understanding of one another and a richer communion. Please talk and share with the committee members. The committee is made up by: Josh Wallace (facilitator), Warman Mennonite Church, 306-381-7260, [pastorjoshwallace@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjoshwallace@gmail.com), Cheryl Woelk, Wildwood Mennonite Church, 306-381-9046, [clwoelk@gmail.com](mailto:clwoelk@gmail.com), Curtis Wiens, Herschel Mennonite Church & Eigenheim Mennonite Church, 306-945-2054, [curtis.wiens@gmail.com](mailto:curtis.wiens@gmail.com), Andrew Waithe, Grace Mennonite Church (Regina), 306-584-2555, [andrew@gracemennonite.ca](mailto:andrew@gracemennonite.ca), Terry Stefaniuk, Osler Mennonite Church, 306-225-2522, [bts@sasktel.net](mailto:bts@sasktel.net), Frieda Rempel, Osler Mennonite Church, 306-239-4361, Armin Krahn, Nutana Park Mennonite Church, 306-384-1206, [eakrahn@sasktel.net](mailto:eakrahn@sasktel.net), Bruce Jantzen, Laird Mennonite Church, 306-467-4807, [bjantzen@xplornet.com](mailto:bjantzen@xplornet.com), Craig Friesen, Wildwood Mennonite Church, [cfj334@mail.usask.ca](mailto:cfj334@mail.usask.ca)

**\*RJC Choir Concert at Knox - December 6, 7:30 pm** at Knox United Church, Saskatoon. RJC Chorale and Women's Choir 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.

**\*Invitation:** Everyone is invited to enjoy cookies and carols and music by the **Warman Community band** at the Warman Mennonite Church on **Dec. 14 at 7 pm.**

✿ **Pieces of Peace** ✿

My peace I give to you.

Jesus

## \*Congratulations to Joe Guenther – Corman Park's Citizen of the Year.



Clark's Crossing Gazette photo and article

Joe Guenther, an Osler-area farmer, is the first recipient of Corman Park's Citizen of the Year award.

Guenther and his wife Gaye were on hand at the Corman Park annual general meeting of ratepayers in Saskatoon on Wednesday, October 21 to receive the honour.

"I'm very surprised at having been selected," said Guenther after receiving the award from Corman Park Reeve Judy Harwood. "I want to say thank you. It's a pleasure living in this municipality."

Guenther's low-key acceptance speech was in line with his dedicated work in the community that has gone on for many decades. As Harwood explained during her introduction of the recipient, Guenther exemplifies the outstanding leadership and commitment that the new award is designed to recognize.

"Joe was born and raised in Corman Park on a family farm near Osler," said Harwood. "He has dedicated lots of time and energy to the community, and was always there to lend a helping hand to family, friends and neighbours. His service to his church has always been important, and the recipient helped to raise money to build the Mennonite Church in Osler."

Harwood said the establishment of a "Citizen of the Year" award for Corman Park was long overdue.

"It's been a long time coming," she said. "We look forward to many more award ceremonies in the coming years."

It's our wounds and scars that may cause us to inflict pain and suffering on others.

We may find the path to healing, so long as we begin to disclose our transgressions.

God is so good!

- John Gascho



United nations conference  
on climate change

COP21/CMP11

On November 30th, the crucial COP21 **Conference on the Climate starts in Paris**. This is possibly the last opportunity for international leaders to commit to policies which can prevent runaway climate change and build a positive clean-energy future.

**You can help by:**

- praying for the earth: a small group currently meets on Thursday mornings (talk to Mark about location)

- joining an international day of praying and fasting for the climate on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

**-Sunday November 29 @ 1:00pm - Come Rally & Walk for Climate Change:** Meet at the Vimy memorial to walk across Broadway Bridge to Oskayak for an indoor rally. Speakers to include (RC) Bishop Don Bolen, Nina Wilson (Idle No More), Jenna Gall (home organiser for Canadian youth delegation to COP21)  
- **praying for MC Canada Executive Director Willard Metzger** as he prepares to represent the National Council of Churches in Paris. More details from Mark Bigland-Pritchard 306 249-4101 mark@lowenergydesign.com.

**Meet the Minister Meeting, November 3, 2015**

**Osler Mennonite Church**

Present: 24 representatives from Osler, Rosthern, Warman Mennonite Churches

Welcome, Ephesians 4, Prayer by Ryan Siemens

Introductions of those present and what they are excited about in their congregations.

How does MC Sask help congregations and what else can we do? – Ken Warkentin

1. Mega-Menno important to small youth groups (can Kirsten give more time to this?)
  2. VBS Troupe helpful
  3. Focus on 3 priorities for MC Sask – what to cut? What to keep?
  4. Better web-site: updated calendar events for conference and individual congregations
  5. Searchable database for resources, linking to a Facebook page
  6. Monthly bulletin inserts or weekly bulletin connects like MCC
  7. University chaplain/Young Adult Minister/Mega-Menno for Young Adults for Saskatoon and Regina areas supported by local churches
  8. Make connections with aboriginal neighbours, i.e. Touring Mission Fest of reserves, local resources like funeral home directors Brian Funk, John Martens, MCC resource people
  9. Supporting/including new immigrant groups
  10. Church plants in growing communities like Moose Jaw, La Ronge
- \*Meeting the New Conference Minister, Ryan Siemens, last month with Warman and Rosthern Mennonite Churches yielded enthusiastic sharing for our congregational lives.

OMCers shared the following joys of congregational life: Centering Prayer, all the children at children's time, Heart to Heart, upcoming baptism and strong youth Sunday School, great worship services, vibrant children's Sunday School, Thrift Store and MCC work, Patty as permanent pastor, Friendship Inn volunteers, sponsoring refugees and blanket making, diversity of gifts and commitment to the church. Warman shared about their bible studies, children and upcoming Jazz Fest, Dec. 14. Rosthern's joys were their after-school program and ecumenical food-bank.

## OMC CALENDAR

**Sunday, November 29 – First Advent**

**Sun Nov 29** 9:15am Centering Prayer in Classroom 1  
10:00am Worship Service  
11:00am Beverages and snacks after worship service.  
11:15am Sunday School for all ages  
11:15am - Deacons Meeting  
1pm – Rally for Climate Change – Vimy Memorial, Sktn  
**Sun Nov 29** 7:00pm - Carol Fest at Warman Brian King Center

**Tues Dec 1** 4:30pm - Youth Committee Meeting  
Tues Dec 1 6:30pm - Warman Thrift Shop Volunteer Supper  
**Thur Dec 3** 7:30pm - Church Council Meeting  
**Fri Dec 4** 7:30pm - A Buncha Guys @ Knox United Church  
**Sat Dec 5** 11:30am – OMC Ladies Christmas Luncheon  
**Sun Dec 6** 9:00am – Christmas choir practice  
**Sun Dec 6** 9:00am – Staffing Committee meeting  
**Sun Dec 6** 11:15am – Membership Conversations: OMC Sanctuary  
**Sun Dec 6** 2:00pm – Sing for John Wall at City Hospital  
Sun Dec 6 7:30pm – RJC Choir Concert at Knox United Church  
**Thur Dec 10** 9:30am – Osler School concert at OMC  
**Sat Dec 12** 5pm - Youth & Young families OMC Christmas Party  
**Sat Dec 12** 7:30pm - A Buncha Guys concert @ Shekinah  
**Sun Dec 13** 9:00am – Christmas Choir practice  
**Sun Dec 13** 11:15am – Membership Conversations: OMC Sanctuary  
**Mon Dec 14** 7pm - Warman Community Band at Warman MC  
Fri Dec 18 7pm - RJC Christmas Concert at RJC  
Sat Dec 19 10am – Assemble Christmas Hampers in Youth room  
**Sun Dec 20** 9am – Christmas choir practice  
**Thur Dec 24** 7:00pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Program  
**Sunday, Dec 27** – No Sunday School this Sunday.

## 2016

**Sat Jan 2** 7:00pm - Youth Movie Night at Ben & Diana's



## OMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Celebrating December birthdays of our Children & Youth



### Happy Birthday!

Emily – December 1  
Noah - December 2  
Rachel – December 4  
Braden – December 6  
Blake – December 8  
Kendra – December 12  
Ben D. – December 15  
Adam - December 31

### Coming in January 2016

**\*Youth: January 2, 2016, 7:00pm – Movie night** at Ben and Diana's. Bring your favourite movies.

### **\*Deacons Winter Study:**

**1. End of Life Discussions on Sunday, January 10** - Julie Bergen and Patty Friesen.

Why is it so hard to talk about death? What makes a good death?  
How can we begin preparing spiritually for death now?

**2. Sunday, January 17 - Karl Martens** - Power of Attorney, Wills and Living Wills - how can we help our families prepare?

**3. Sunday, January 24 - Death with Dignity** - What is the role of the church in this hot topic?