

**OMC Calendar
February 2012**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Each Sunday: Worship: 10am Sunday School @ 11:15am, Floor Hockey 7:00-8:30pm			1	2	3	4 AGM 9:30am – Noon & Youth Fundraiser
5	6 Book Club Meeting 7:00pm	7	8 Blanket Making in the morning	9 Blanket Making Deacons Meeting 7:30pm	10	11
12	13	14	15 Blanket Making Education Committee meeting 7:30pm	16 Blanket Making Worship Committee meeting 7:30pm	17 Deacons Adult Games Night 7:30pm	18 Youth – meet at church 6pm for Swim @ ShawCtre
19 Communion	20	21	22	23 Missions & Service Committee meeting 7:30pm	24 MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions Shekinah	25 MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions Shekinah
26 LENT 1	27	28	29	March 1 Church Council Meeting 7:30pmk		

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

**The Osler Mennonite Church
February 2012 Newsletter**

Osler Mennonite Church
olsermc@sasktel.net
<http://omchurch.org>
Volume VIII, Second Edition

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

A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE



***Our Annual General Meeting is on Saturday, February 4: 9:30 am to noon. The Youth will provide a fundraiser lunch following the meeting.**

***OMC's book club** is reading "Secret Daughter" and will meet to discuss thoughts on the book on Monday, February 6th at 7:00 pm.

***Blanket Making at the church: February 8, 9, 15 and 16.**

***Adult Games Night sponsored by the Deacons Committee on Friday, February 17, 7:30pm.** Bring snacks and drinks and games to play.

***Friday, February 18 : Youth Swimming** at the Shaw Centre. Youth will meet at the church to leave for Saskatoon at 6:00 pm.

***Sunday, February 19th : Communion Sunday**

Pastor's Note

I read an article about a pastor who encourages all his adult parishioners to share with him what they would like said at their funerals. He keeps a file for each individual containing her/his wishes and the desired message to be presented at that person's funeral. For practical reasons, having a compilation of information on hand would simplify the process of preparing for a funeral. The events between death and burial are usually full, often chaotic and laden with emotions for all who are involved in planning the funeral. Enacting the content of the deceased's file would be much like executing a will; however, there is a big difference between dispersing assets and presenting a life once lived. The whole idea felt too clinical, sterile and ... controlling. I humorously thought to myself as I read the concept, "I wonder if his church gives a discount if a person pre-books the day of the funeral?"

The pastor also said that there is another benefit to asking people's input about their funeral: it gets them thinking about their life and how to put it into words. I don't agree with his proposal. I will gladly honour any "broad brush stroke" requests, such as lots of singing or even a favourite scripture passage to be read, and I'll keep a file for anyone who wants to share such things with me. Yet, I believe one of the wonderful gifts of death is that it forces us to finally understand that we are not in control. I think it would be a shame to encourage anyone to assume that he/she can reach into this realm once she/he has moved on. Moreover, funerals are for the living / the survivors, and they will think and say how they feel. Contemplating how others will regard us, once we are dead, is far more thought provoking and soul-troubling, than crafting our own memorial. And, that is something to think about.

Gordon Allaby

Humour ~ The Isaac Section

Da End Iss Near!

Ole is the pastor of the local Norwegian Lutheran Church , and Pastor Sven is the minister of the Swedish Covenant Church across the road.

One day they are seen pounding a sign into the ground, which said:

DA END ISS NEAR!
TURN YERSELF AROUND NOW
BAFOR IT ISS TOO LATE!

As a car speeds past them, the driver leans out his window and yells, "Leave people alone, you Skandihooovian religious nuts!" From the curve, they hear screeching tires and a big splash.

Shaking his head, Rev. Ole says, "Dat's da terd one dis mornin'."

"Yaa," Pastor Sven agrees, then asks, "Do ya tink maybe da sign should yust say, 'Bridge out?' "

-submitted by Gordon

Groaner

Good King Wenceleslas went out to the pizza parlour and ordered a pizza. The assistant asked Do you want your usual? Deep pan, crisp and even?

-submitted by Adeline

A Troublesome Fruit

It wasn't the apple that caused the trouble in the Garden of Eden, it was the pair on the ground.

God said to Adam, "I am going to make you a helper, a companion. What would you like your companion to be like?" Adam replied, "Well I want someone that is humorous, witty, intelligent, compassionate, caring, loving, trusting, polite, generous and beautiful."

God paused a moment after Adam's wish list and told Adam that a companion like that 'would cost him an arm and a leg.' Adam seemed a little dejected and then brightly replied: "What can I get for a Rib?"

-submitted by Adeline

OUR MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA MINISTRIES

* **Canada's crime omnibus Bill C-10** threatens to aggravate already overcrowded jails and siphon much needed money away from social programs and other proactive crime-reduction initiatives. Mennonite Church Canada staff Vic Thiessen, Executive Minister, Church Engagement and Elsie Rempel, Formation Consultant, attended a rally challenging the purported benefits of Bill C-10. Your national church is working to voice concern for both victims of crime while wishing to reform perpetrators in the best way possible.

*The experiences of **Canada's First Nations people** at the hands of colonizers parallels our own, often forgotten Mennonite story, says Steve Heinrichs, Director of Native Ministry for Mennonite Church Canada. With your help, national church staff have walked with and supported those whose painful stories of abuse and segregation are being heard at Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Your support helps make this ministry possible.

*Your **interest in First Nations issues**, your willingness to learn more about them led to Mennonites visiting a Six Nations community, cultural museum, residential school and reclamation site near Caledonia, Ontario as part of the 2011 Mennonite Church Canada Assembly. There were more interested participants than space available. Thank you for your support of Native Ministry.

*Mennonite Church Canada is one of a small group of churches calling on government leaders to address issues of **climate justice**. Increasing numbers of people are being affected by drought or flooding, displacement and reduced access to food – conditions that can lead to violence as people struggle to survive. It's not a matter of whose science is correct, says Willard Metzger, Executive Director of Mennonite Church Canada. The planet and all that is in it is a gift from God, and we have not been treating this gift with the respect it deserves. Your national church has voiced the moral and biblical imperative for climate justice at to Federal MPs in Ottawa, the Canadian Council of Churches, and the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban South Africa. With your help, we can continue to share biblical/faith perspectives of climate justice.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Mennonite Church Saskatchewan Annual Delegate Sessions are scheduled for Feb 24-25 at Shekinah Retreat Centre

The Annual Delegate Sessions of Mennonite Church Saskatchewan will be held on February 24 and 25 at the Shekinah Retreat Center. Our overall Theme is "The First Shall Be Last: Connecting with God through Aboriginal Realities". Our speaker is Wendy Peterson, a faculty member at Providence College and Seminary, Otterburne, Manitoba. An octet from CMU will be singing. The Friday afternoon session will feature dialogue with Harry Lafond from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, and Howard Cameron, an elder from Beardys and Okamasis First Nation. All committees and commissions will report on their work. Come for inspiration, information, dialog and fellowship.

Our congregation may appoint 5 delegates to the Annual Delegate Sessions. **Please see Carl if you are interested in representing OMC as a delegate.** MCSask also encourages us to appoint one or two people who are interested in relationships with First Nations, to serve as contacts with the Ministries Commission. Those appointees should then attend the ADS, including the important Friday afternoon session. A discussion time for Ministries Commission and congregational contact people is being planned for Friday (Feb 24) over supper.

The Registration Form, accommodation information, and the Report Booklet are now available at www.mcsask.ca. Note: registration forms can be printed from the site and returned to the MCSask office by February 15, the early fee deadline. Several copies of the registration forms are on the church bulletin board.

The Moderator's Report (Page 3 & 4) contains important information from Renata that should be studied by congregational chairs and delegates.

MORE CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***The Worship Committee thanks all** of those who contributed to the Advent and Christmas worship experience at our church. We are grateful for the many people who shared their gifts and time including the following: those who sang in the choir; the youth who provided the puppet skits each Sunday; the worship leaders, and the decorators-- Linda, Ruth and Cheryl Haas. Thanks!!

*Also, please inform the Worship Committee if you would like to help decorate the church during special seasons or each Sunday.

***The Deacons have been progressing on the Heritage Room** (also the buffet room). The Heritage Room will feature mementoes from our history, and will be a welcoming place for all to share in our past. This room will always be a work in progress as displays will change from time to time.

*** ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** please note when your committee meets this month. The first meeting following our church's annual business meeting is when each committee welcomes new members and organizes for the year, including determining who will serve on council.

Deacons - Thursday, February 9 at 7:30 pm
Education - Wednesday, February 15 at 7:30 pm
Worship - Thursday, February 16 at 7:30 pm
M&S - Thursday, February 23 at 7:30 pm
Trustee - Gordon will contact the trustees to schedule a meeting.
Council - Thursday, March 1 at 7:30 pm

A thank-you note from Osler School for using our gym is posted on the bulletin board.

***Support Group**

For approximately the past two years, a group of individuals in the Sask Valley area have been meeting for a very specific purpose. As families of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered persons (GLBT) that purpose is to be supportive to the uniqueness of our families, listen to each other and learn to fully embrace God's gifts. This has been a very rewarding and rich experience for all of us. Slowly our group has grown as interested persons have become aware of our existence. Our desire is that more people could experience what we have. We are open to more people joining us, being called to speak to individuals or groups and/or helping a new support group get started.

We are a support group doing what Jesus taught, 'to love one another.' We have no agenda or lobbying aspirations! We simply want to 'be with.' Our goal is to provide a safe and confidential space for those who wish to participate. If interested, contact:

Russ & Lucy Friesen
luus@yourlink.ca
239-2039

Harold & Lynn Loewen
loewencattle@yahoo.ca
242-7084

***The Academy of Discipleship is offering two courses** this season, beginning February 13 & 14th:

The Serpent and the Dove: Light from Genesis 1 to 11

Look at Genesis in its contemporary setting and search for its modern meaning.

When: Tuesday Nights at 7:30pm for 8 weeks

Where: Mount Royal Mennonite Church

Text: The Bible

Instructor: Dr. Walter Klaassen Cost: \$40

Stories Jesus told : The parables of Christ

Stories that have inspired, engaged and confounded people for generations.

When: Monday Nights at 7:30pm for 8 weeks

Where: Nutana Park Mennonite Church

Text: The Bible

Instructors: Vern Ratzlaff & Leighton Tebay Cost: \$40

Register at AcademyOfDiscipleship.org or call toll free 1-855-219-1479

Potluck Recipe of the Month



Thank you, Leslie Allaby, for being willing to share this month's featured recipe; a Sweet and Crunchy Broccoli Salad that is perfect for church potlucks. Yum!

Sweet and Crunchy Broccoli Salad

1lb bacon
1 large head broccoli
1/2 head cauliflower
Medium red onion, chopped fine
1c. raisins
1/2 c. sunflower seeds

Fry one pound of bacon until crispy and crumble into tiny bits. Chop broccoli and cauliflower into 1/2 in. chunks. Slice onion, chop up fine and add to the vegetables. Mix in raisins and sunflower seeds. Toss with dressing below. Chill and serve.

Dressing:

Stir together 1 c. salad dressing or mayonnaise, 1/2 c. sugar and 2T vinegar. Mix well with salad.

This is the third month we have featured different salads. Desserts, soups & casserole recipes are also welcome. If you can share your family's favourite "secret" recipe for future issues, please pass it on to the church office.

.....

A poster read: "God is dead" - Nietzsche.
The graffiti underneath read: "Nietzsche is dead" - God.

Lent to Easter 2012
"Where do I sign?"



Lent begins on Sunday, February 26, and ends on Palm Sunday, April 1. The theme "Where do I sign" can suggest signing in, signing on or signing up. All variations imply the present moment and the future, and signing one's name is pledge to commit. During Lent the Old and New Testament passages contain adventures about those in a relationship with God, including those who were invited to follow Jesus. Lent prompts us to commit to God / to be a follower of Christ.

Holy week services will be announced later, and there will not be an Ash Wednesday meditation this year.

FUN STUFF @ OMC

***February 17, 7:30 pm Adult Game Night** presented by the Deacons. Bring snacks, drinks, and games to play.

***OMC Education Committee plans to offer an Art Club for kids** three consecutive Tuesday evenings in March. If you would like to volunteer as a helper and join the fun, contact Adeline or Gordon. Snacks will also be needed to provide sustenance to young artists – please talk to Adeline if providing snacks is your gift.

***Winter Walking in the church.** Don't forget you can come in from the cold, off the ice and come walking in the church on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9am to noon. Bring a friend!

***Everyone is invited to the Osler Winter Carnival on March 2-3rd.** There will be a Shiny Tournament to be held the evening of Friday the 2nd and Saturday the 3rd, and other fun activities for all ages. Come for the Funland, food booths, ice/snow sculptures and bonfire.

Canadian Mennonite University (CMU)

***Mar. 9-11, 2012** – Canadian Mennonite University invites high school students to attend **PIT 2012**. CMU speakers include Irma Fast Dueck, assistance professor of practical theology, and lecturers Kenton Lobe and Justin Neufeld. Registration increases after January 31, 2012. Visit www.cmu.ca/pit for more details.

*Journey through time on the **CMU Study Tour: Ancient Stones, Living Stones: the Holy Land in Perspective**. Travel April 30 – May 21, 2012 with leader Gordon Matties, Professor of Biblical & Theological Studies. Visit www.cmu.ca/studytour for more details.

***Youth Ministry as School of Love**” is a youth ministry conference planned for **June 1 - 2** at CMU. The conference will feature Mark Yaconelli and Michael Hryniuk. Participants can register for this conference separately or participate in it as part of a week long course. Contact abergen@cmu.ca.

***CMU: Come this summer to learn with other peacebuilders** – local and international, young and old, students, practitioners and those new to peacebuilding at the 4th annual Canadian School of Peacebuilding. Participate in your choice of 5-day courses for personal inspiration, professional development, or academic credit. More information at www.csop.cmu.ca or by e-mailing csop@cmu.ca.

***RJC invites Grade 8 – 10 students** to “**Spend-A-Day**” to get a taste of life as an RJC Student. Friday & Saturday, March 2 & 3, 2012, with registration beginning at noon. Departure will be Saturday after brunch. Email vas@rjc.sk.ca for more information or to register for the day. All meals will be provided on Friday and there will be a brunch served for participants & their families on Saturday morning. Register soon – Space is limited!

***Songfest** will be at First Mennonite Church, **March 23 & 24**. See the bulletin board for a poster and registration forms.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

*The **Youth Farm Bible Camp** is having their annual **Vereniki and Sausage Supper** at the Rosthern Mennonite Church on Tuesday, February 7th. The supper will be from 5:00-7:00 with admission by donation. As well, the 16 page, annual report for the Youth Farm Bible Camp can be found at <http://www.yfbc.ca/front/Assets/2011Report.pdf>

***Youth Farm Bible Camp, Shekinah** and Camp Elim invite applications for staff positions. See the camps websites: www.yfbc.ca, www.shekinahretreatcentre.org, and www.campelim.ca for applications and information. A poster and camper applications are also on the church bulletin board.

***Osler Family Resource Centre** is offering **Red Cross First Aid Training and recertification classes** as follows:

-**Full First Aid Course** – Feb 25-26, 8:30-5:00pm

With a cost of \$150/person (Snacks provided)

-**Recertification** - March 18, 9:00 – 5:00pm

Cost \$100 per student (Snacks provided)

Contact Jessica at 239-2155 or email: Jessica@townofosler.com








***Spring online courses from AMBS:**

Two online courses are offered by Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary for spring 2011:

- **Turnaround Strategies for Churches**, taught by Gerald Shenk, sessional instructor. This course examines dynamics of church renewal, with strategies for change that seek to be true to the Gospel and to the congregational context.

- **Biblical Foundations of Peace and Justice**, taught by Mary Schertz, professor of New Testament. Study pertinent biblical passages and historic peace church understandings while reflecting on peace and justice praxis today. **Tuition discount:** Tuition will be cut in half for first-time online students at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary who are not yet enrolled in any theological education program.

Register: www.ambbs.edu/academics/courses/online

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
FEBRUARY YOUTH CALENDAR			1	2	3	4 Youth Fund-raiser 11am at the church 
5 11 – noon Sunday School 	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 11 - noon Sunday School 	13	14  <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15	16	17	18 Swimming at the Shaw Centre  Meet at the church at 6pm
19 11 - noon Sunday School 	20 <i>Family Day</i>	21	22	23	24 MC Sask AGM @ Shek	25 MC Sask AGM @ Shekinah
26 11 - noon Sunday School  Lent 1	27	28	29			

☸ Pieces of Peace ☸

In 2 Kings 6:8-23, the king of Syria sends "horses and chariots and a great army" to surround the city where the prophet Elisha is staying. Elisha's servant is dismayed by the show of military might. Elisha tells him, "Do not be afraid, for there are more with us than there are with them." Elisha prays that God will open the servant's eyes, and he sees "the chariots of fire all around Elisha."

As Christians we must never allow ourselves to see displays of military might as the world's "real" power. We must remember that God is the one who saves us. Furthermore, God calls us to work for equitable and just relationships, which lay the groundwork for security and peace.

By Rachelle Lyndaker Schlabah (from Peace Signs: MC USA)

Maybe we should develop a Crayola bomb as our next secret weapon. A happiness weapon. A beauty bomb. And every time a crisis developed, we would launch one. It would explode high in the air - explode softly - and send thousands, millions, of little parachutes into the air. Floating down to earth - boxes of Crayolas. And we wouldn't go cheap, either - not little boxes of eight. Boxes of sixty-four, with the sharpener built right in. With silver and gold and copper, magenta and peach and lime, amber and umber and all the rest. And people would smile and get a little funny look on their faces and cover the world with imagination.

~Robert Fulghum

"Be the change you want to see in the world."

-Mahatma Gandhi

Walking the Path to Truth & Reconciliation

An Update from the Ministries Commission of Mennonite Church TRC Community (Regional) Hearings in Saskatchewan

“In preparation for the SK National Event to be held in Saskatoon, June 21-24, 2012, the TRC will hold 12 Community Hearings throughout the province. The Hearings provide an opportunity for Residential School Survivors and anyone impacted to share with the Commission and Canada the unique experiences of children who attended Residential School. This is also an opportunity for all Canadians, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to learn more about and bear witness to the legacy of the Residential School system.”
(from www.trc.ca)

January 16-18: Regina

January 20-22: Key First Nation

January 31-Feb 2: Prince Albert

February 13-14: Pelican Narrows

February 16-17: Stony Rapids

April 3-5: Onion Lake

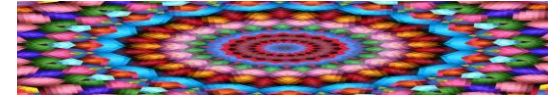
May 14-15: Fort Qu'Appelle

May 17-18: Buffalo Narrows

June 5-7: LaRonge

North Battleford, Beauval, Ile-a-la-Crosse – dates yet to be confirmed.

All invited to attend – choose a hearing near you. A number of MC Sask members attended the Hearing days in Regina – feedback is that the experience was very moving, worthwhile, a spiritual journey. Venues and daily program outlines are available near to the time of the scheduled hearing. Check the website and/or contact Rita MacDonald (ritamacdonald48@gmail.com) for further information.



Attention: Quilters!

An underlying theme which will thread its way through each session at the upcoming Annual Delegate Sessions, is the idea of the beauty within the diversity of the church.

To showcase that underlying theme, organizers are asking each congregation **to commission quilters among them to create a pieced and quilted 18” diameter table centre piece.** If each congregation could commission two we would have enough centre pieces for the round tables which we will use throughout the sessions. If a congregation, commission, board, or individual wants to contribute more, we would not turn them down and could use them in other ways throughout the weekend. They would continue to be used year after year in other meaningful ways.

I have the general instructions at the office for these centre pieces; but each will be as unique as the one who made it.

Please forward this request to the quilters among you and have them call me at the office for more information.

Time is of the essence, but quilters will drop everything else, when given an opportunity to start another quilting project.

Contact Charlotte Bueckert at MC Sask
Phone: 249-4844 mcsask@mcsask.ca