

**OMC Calendar
January 2014**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Each Sunday:</u> Worship:10am <u>SundaySchool</u> @ 11:15am starting Sept 8			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Council meeting 7:30pm	9 Deacons meeting 7:30pm	10 <i>Free Friday</i> 7:30pm	11
12	13	14 "Do Art" for Grades 5-9 7-8:30pm	15	16 Worship Comm Mtg 7pm Education CommMtg 7:30pm	17	18 Winter Study & Week of Prayer begins 8:00pm
19 Winter Study & Prayer Week during 10am Worship Service	20 Winter Study & Week of Prayer 8:00pm	21 Winter Study & Week of Prayer 8:00pm	22 Winter Study & Week of Prayer 8:00pm	23 Winter Study & Week of Prayer 8:00pm	24 Winter Study & Week of Prayer 8:00pm	25 Winter Study & Week of Prayer 8:00pm
26 Mennonite World Fellowship Sunday	27 Blanket Making Jan 20,21, 27, 28	28 Blanket Making	29	30 Missions & Service meeting 7:30pm	31 SMYO SrHigh Retreat Shekinah Jan 31- Feb 2	

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

**The Osler Mennonite Church
January 2014 Newsletter**

Osler Mennonite Church
olsermc@sasktel.net
<http://omchurch.org>
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A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE

Upcoming OMC Events and Opportunities



WINTER STUDY ~~ WEEK OF PRAYER

January 18-25

- * Saturday, January 18 at 8:00 pm
- * Sunday, January 19 during worship service at 10:00 am
- * Monday-Saturday, Jan. 20-25 at 8:00 pm

***"Do Art" – Tuesday, January 14th** from 7-8:30pm for grades 5 to 9 students. Come and bring a friend!

***Blanket Making for MCC** will take place at the church on January 20, 21 and January 27 & 28.

***Our Annual Church Business Meeting is Saturday, February 8,** 9:30am to noon.

***Re: Safe Church Policy and Criminal Record Checks:** For all those who work with children and youth in the church and have not yet done so, please turn your criminal record checks in as soon as possible. If you have questions, please speak to Gordon.

Pastor's Note:

This year, our Winter Study is reverting back to its roots. We will engage in the interdenominational theme and schedule for the Week of Prayer, as suggested by MC Canada. Our Winter Study format came about because of the reality of low attendance and participation in a weeklong series. Acknowledging that actuality, you will have the opportunity to gather at the church or join in at home using a study guide. The guides will be emailed, and hardcopies will be available, too. Please note the schedule on the front page.

2014 WEEK OF PRAYER theme: FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The roots of the "Week of Prayer" go back to the 1800s; it is one of the oldest, most widely observed ecumenical events in the world. We are all encouraged to let the entire year be permeated by the spirit of this Week. Hopefully, the guiding materials will help us find ways to express the degree of communion already given to the churches, and to pray together that we may be more fully united one with another, and all of us with Christ.

Traditionally, the "Week of Prayer" is held from January 18 to 25. This is the octave proposed by Paul Wattson in 1908, because it begins with the feast of St. Peter and ends with the feast of the conversion of St. Paul. Finding ways to pray together during this January week means that we are in harmony with people around the world, which brings its own graces; in this way, we join with all who are praying, reflecting, studying, and even eating and drinking together to celebrate and pray for Christian unity.

On Sunday, January 19, we will gather for worship during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We will respond to God's call to us, and we will seek to be renewed and to build up our mutual relationship in Christ through song, word and gesture. A focal passage will be: 1 Corinthians 1:1-17 where we recognize Paul's provocative question – "Has Christ been divided?" – as a joyful challenge to prayer and to self-examination as persons and as Christian communities. This biblical text and worship outline is an opportunity to consider that challenge anew in your context.

I hope the theme of Christian Unity will also sharpen our understanding of how God is leading us, individually and as a church, in 2014.

Gordon

Humour ~ The Isaac Section

A minister tells of his first Sunday in a new parish and of presenting the children's message. It seems the sanctuary in the new church had some magnificent stained glass windows, so his message centered on how each of us is called to help make up the whole picture of life (the life of the community of the faithful). Like the pictures in the windows, it takes many little panels of glass to make the whole picture.

And then he said, "You see each one of you is a little pane." And then pointing to each child, "You're a little pane. And you're a little pane. And...."

It took a few minutes before he realized why everyone was laughing so hard.

-from Coffee Perks

A young driver became lost in a snowstorm. She didn't panic however, because she remembered what her dad had once told her. "If you ever get stuck in a snowstorm, just wait for a snow plow to come by and follow it." Sure enough, pretty soon a snow plow came by, and she started to follow it. She followed the plow for about forty-five minutes. Finally the driver of the truck got out and asked her what she was doing. And she explained that her dad had told her if she ever got stuck in a snow storm, to follow a plow. The driver nodded and said, "Well, I'm done with the Costco parking lot, do you want to follow me over to Best Buy now?"

Winter getting a little long? Here's some jokes for the kids:

Q. What do you call ten Arctic hares hopping backwards through the snow together?

A: A receding hare line.

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast? A: Frosted Flakes.

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?

A: Frostbite.

-submitted by Adeline

**Rosthern Junior College/
Canadian Mennonite University Announcements**

***RJC Spend-A-Day, Jan. 17 & 18, 2014.** Come spend a day at RJC to learn more about the school by attending several classes, enjoy great food and stay overnight in the dorms. Interested students in grades 8-11 may contact Valerie White for more information. (306 232-4222 or val@rjc.sk.ca) All student guests will attend the Winter Theatre performance Friday evening free of charge. Spend-A-Day will conclude with a Saturday brunch for attendees and their families. Please register by January 10, 2014.

***RJC Winter Theatre - Friday & Saturday, January 17 & 18, 7:30 pm** in the Pit Theatre. The Theatre Arts Class will present four short plays and a Musical Theatre excerpt from “Matilda - The Musical.” This is the final project for the class, and looks to be a very entertaining evening. Tickets are \$10. Call or email RJC (306 232-4222 or office@rjc.sk.ca) to reserve your tickets.

***Canadian Mennonite University cmu.ca**
Graduating from high school and looking to travel and serve others? Investigate the **CMU Outatown** program. OT is an opportunity to learn about God, make lifelong friends and travel to one of three international locations: Guatemala, South Africa and Burkina Faso. Space is limited. www.outatown.com Check out the Burkina Faso wrap-up video at www.tinyurl.com/OTburkina2013

❁ **Pieces of Peace** ❁

“If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children.”

- Mahatma Gandhi

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Canadian Mennonite University cmu.ca

***RSB International Study Tour: Europe / April 27 - May 11, 2014**
Join the CMU Redekop School of Business for an exciting 2-week study tour looking at business, politics and culture in Europe. Visit cmu.ca/business.php?s=studytour for more details.

***Consider Canadian School of Peacebuilding / June 16 – 27, 2014**
Come learn with other peacebuilders – local and international, young and old, students, practitioners and those new to peacebuilding – and participate in your choice of five-day courses for personal inspiration, professional development, or academic credit. More information is available at csop.cmu.ca or csop@cmu.ca



Mennonite Church Canada

Prayer Requests: Pray with and for the church:

Thank you for your heartfelt, generous responses to Mennonite Church Canada’s Christmas giving projects. Your gifts are critical to building the church at home and abroad.

News and Announcements: (stay in tune with the wider church):

Mark your 2014 calendars! Mennonite Church Canada is hosting two assemblies this year on the campus of Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg. From July 3-6, the delegate assembly, Wild Hope 2014: Faith for an unknown season will bring people together from Area Churches across the country. From July 28-31, 2014, the first ever urban Native Assembly takes place, bringing together MC USA and Mennonite Church Canada participants.

Lectionary Passages for the next 4 weeks

January 5, 2014 – Second Sunday after Christmas

Arise, shine or
Jeremiah 31:7-14 Isaiah 60:1-6 (1)
Psalm 147:12-20 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 1:3-14 Ephesians 3:1-12
John 1:(1-9), 10-18 Matthew 2:1-12

January 12, 2014 – Baptism of the Lord

I'm declaring new things
Isaiah 42:1-9 (9)
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 19, 2014 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

Stewardship Sunday

Set my feet on solid rock
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11 (2)
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 26, 2014 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

Mennonite World Fellowship Sunday

Immediately they left the boat
Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23 (22)

Excerpts from “Make way for God in Loss” by Andrea Opel

Praying the Psalms: The Psalms are filled with words of fear as the writers faced their greatest horrors – violence, illness, depression, death. The lines of Psalm 55:4-5 are a common refrain: “My heart is in anguish within me, the terrors of death have fallen upon me. Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me.” This worship book of ancient Israel continues to speak volumes across the centuries. When we listen to these words, sing them, pray with them, and speak them together, we are companioned by the psalmist, and are drawn beyond our fear into hope.

Prayers of Confession: Fear is a normal human experience that is a healthy protective response to danger. However, our fight, flight, or freeze reactions also can lead us into responses that are sinful. When we fight against “the other,” discrimination and violence are born. We flee change, uncertainty, or conflict, fighting to maintain control of our lives. In turn, our ability to live authentically with ourselves and with others is broken. When we freeze in the face of fear, we become complacent to the call for faith and transformation. Incorporating practices of communal and personal confession into our worship names these fears and the ways our reactions break our relationships with God, with ourselves, our communities and the earth.

Silence: Often our truest, deepest, most entrenched fears are unrecognized, unvoiced. Yet they are still alive and present. These are the fears we would rather not acknowledge. Ironically, it is in silence that we are able to become aware of what we are truly afraid of. When we enter into silence, we come face-to-face with the deepest parts of ourselves. Using practices of silence in worship – gazing at a prayer visual, praying with guided imagery, reflecting on a question, or just resting in the silence allows us to be present to our fear and release our fear into the care of God.

Words of Assurance: Each of these practices also calls for an assurance of God's presence in the midst of our fear. When we are plunged into the depths of tragedy or wrestle with our inner fear, we need to hear words that speak the abundant love and grace of God. In a community of faith, we speak these words together as a way to hold the light for one another.

Worship Committee – “Our Story” - Melanie Boldt

- The OMC Worship Committee is comprised of myself, Gordon A, Michelle McKinnell, Lynette J, Kathryn J. As your committee, we are responsible for planning Sunday morning worship and supporting the pastor in that endeavor. We network with deacons and education committee and collaborate where we can on creative worship services throughout the church calendar year.
- As a committee we try to make worship meaningful for everyone from children to adults --- incorporating different styles of music, liturgy, drama, sermons, cultural expressions and more. It's never perfect (it's not a stage production), we strive to be authentic, to involve as many people as possible and ultimately, to help people find space for God in their hearts and minds.
- In a cluttered, noisy world where I work 6 days a week, driving kids to and fro, directing staff, and helping customers in the shop, it's very tempting to ignore the opportunity that Sunday morning church presents. The “church of brunch” or “sleeping in” beckons! A quiet morning at home in my bathrobe with a cup of tea and a magazine sounds delightful. An hour for just me! After all, it's my only day off!
- But I need the discipline of worship and Sabbath. It cuts through the noise and sets me straight. Reminds me whose child I am and of my place on the earth.
- We as individuals make up the church. We deliberately come together as a community to worship God --- through prayer, praise, song, confession, listening and responding.
- I think it's difficult to grow in one's faith without the corporate act of worship and coming together as community. Jesus didn't do it alone and nor should we. We become encourage, empowered and enabled after our encounter with God.

- What is essential to worship? That we invite God to be present and the center of our worship. And I invite you to be present --- every Sunday that you can! Come as you are. You, your family, your friends and even people you don't know very well.
- Everyone! Participate from the pews and at the front of the church in any way you are able! The church needs you! The time is now!
- Our prayer as a worship committee is that we hope you leave church after worship feeling better than when you came --- that you encountered God.

***Does anyone need a printer?** If you are interested in the old church office printer (a Dell Photo 964 AIO Printer/Fax/Scanner), please speak to Gordon. Note: This printer is fully functional, however, it is not compatible with Windows 8.

❁ Pieces of Peace ❁

What a cruel thing is war: to separate and destroy families
and friends, and mar the purest joys and happiness
God has granted us in this world;
to fill our hearts with hatred instead of love
for our neighbors,
and to devastate the fair face of this beautiful world.

Robert E. Lee
Confederate General -
In a letter to his wife