

**2011 Calendar
March 2011**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Transfiguration Sunday	7	8	9 Ash Wednesday Self-guided Meditation from 9am to 9pm at OMC	10 Deacons Meeting 7:30pm	11 Youth Ice Skating & Hot Choc. 7:30 – 10:00pm	12 Family Swim at Shaw Centre 2:30 – 4:00pm
13 First Sunday of Lent	14	15	16 Education Committee Meeting 7:30pm	17 Worship Committee Meeting 7:00pm	18 MCSask Annual Assembly NoBattleford	19 MCSask Annual Assembly NoBattleford
20 Loose Change Sunday	21	22	23	24 Mission & Service Committee Meeting 7:30pm	25 Youth Puppet Ministry Practice 7:30 – 9:00pm	26
27	28	29	30	31 Church Executive Meeting 7:30pm		

*This is our first electronic Newsletter. How do you like this format?
Feedback is welcome.*

**The Osler Mennonite Church
March 2011 Newsletter**

Osler Mennonite Church
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<http://olsermc.sasktelwebsite.net/>
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A WELCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR PEACE

Becoming human: called and shaped by Jesus

This is our theme for Lent this year.

During the Sundays of Lent, we'll explore: what does it mean for us to be the created and recreated images of God? How may we become authentically human? How do we respond to the pressures that contort us into less-than-human, even inhuman beings? How does God's Spirit reshape us? Who is Jesus? Who am I and who am I becoming?

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 17 -- Palm Sunday
 Tuesday, April 19 -- RJC/CMU dinner and concert
 Thursday, April 21 -- Maundy Thursday potluck and communion
 Friday, April 22 -- Good Friday service

What's Inside: Pastor's Notes, Announcements, Upcoming Activities and other Tidbits.

"We make the decision as to whether the events of our lives will serve as stepping stones or stumbling blocks."
 ~Maxie Dunnam.

Pastor's Notes

Dealing with chaos

Complete chaos is the total absence of control and predictability, but rarely does that happen. Even so, most people are uncomfortable with any sort of chaos; stability and certainty is much easier to manage. Therefore, power is given to that which seems to limit or promises to end chaos. Subsequently, all sorts of things have been tied to chaos, such as opposition, protests, political change or any sort of change, and thus they all are considered the enemy. Threats of "slippery slope", anarchy, economic collapse are associated with choices that bring change or accept uncertainty. Wars are fought in the guise of preventing chaos, including wars on poverty, drugs and so on. The ads for the Canadian Armed Forces state, "Fight Chaos." All because we truly want reality to be stable and predictable. Nevertheless, even though we can insert some semblance of control (ex. traffic laws), we really can't overcome chaos--accidents happen and tyrants are overthrown. And, that is the problem and failure with the myth of fighting chaos.

In truth, chaos is a part of life, and instead of pretending that we can end it, which often requires we surrender justice and freedom, we can learn to deal with / live with chaos. Submitting to the fear of chaos is what sustains slavery, racism and other abuses and prejudices, and it is also what keeps tyrants in power. Democracy, negotiations and relationships are messy with uncertainty and compromise--degrees of chaos. Yet, being in community / trusting and sharing with each other is what helps gets us through life which is laden with chaos. Our Anabaptist heritage is one of community--depending on each other through difficult and surprising situations. Peacemaking is the path through chaos. "Our God is not a God of disorder, but of peace." (I Corinth. 14:33). God does not create chaos / disorder; however, God brings us peace in and through the chaos. Jesus life and message presents how to do relationships--with justice, love, grace and peace. Yet, there is a degree of unpredictability with that process. Jesus was killed, yet lives, and the journey continues. The message is "to be continued." We are invited to join that journey filled with uncertainty because it is the best path in a world of chaos, and it is honest.

Why does all this matter? A vibrant church is being in and doing community with people who accept the reality of chaos and seek Christ's way through it. Much of our culture believes the lies about controlling / of ending chaos, and so fewer and fewer realize the need for engaging in church. Therefore we must model a life of faith (accepting and living with uncertainty), and we must be ready to help the victims of the deception that life can be controlled.

We don't do control, predictability or defend the status quo. We do peace.

Gordon

☺ Humour ~ The Isaac Section ☺

Six year old Johnny said to his grandpa.. "Grandpa, can you make a noise like a frog'?"

Grandpa said 'Sure I can, but now why would you want me to make a noise like a frog?'

The young boy replies ..' Well. my dad said that when you croak, we can go to Disneyworld'!

-submitted by Bruce

MOSES AND THE RED SEA

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School. 'Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt . When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.'

'Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?' his Mother asked..

'Well, no, Mom. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!'

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, 'Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark ? 'No,' replied Johnny. 'How could he, with just two worms.'

OMC at Work & Service

Our 2011 church council is Louise Buhler (chair), Carl Martens-Funk (vice-chair), Diana Buhler (church secretary), Rachel Buhler (treasurer), George Janzen, Bruce Boldt, Kathy Braun, Melanie Boldt, Anna Peters and John Reddekopp.

The Youth Ministry Team consists of Lacey Braun, Stephanie Siemens and Leslie Allaby. Leslie is the Youth Coordinator.

The success of our youth ministry depends greatly on the support and participation of the whole church.

Church office hours: Adeline is in the office Wednesday and Friday mornings. Gordon is usually in the office Tuesday through Friday mornings and by appointment.

✓ Thank – you!

Thanks to all who have helped clear snow on the church property, including on the roof.

Osler People Away – What's Happening?

***MDS: Art & Edna Zacharias** are currently serving with rebuilding efforts at Port Sulphur; still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. For pictures from that project and more information, see: <http://mds.mennonite.net/projects/diamond-la/>

***Mitchell Braun** and fellow “Liptonians” band members: Bucky Driedger, Matt Schellenberg and Michael Jordan left February 24 for a two month tour of Ontario, Texas and Western Canada. Prayers are requested for some health concerns and safe travels on the road.

✿ Pieces of Peace ✿

We are now a member of Mennonite Creation Care Network. This network consists of Mennonites who value caring for God's creation and being challenged to be better care-givers. Visit the web site to learn more and to see how we can do more. <http://www.mennocreationcare.org/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

***Ash Wednesday** is March 9th. Begin the season of Lent by stopping by the church, between 9:00 am and 9:00 pm, and use the self-guiding worship centre in the sanctuary.

***OMC Family Swim** – Saturday, March 12 at the Shaw Centre from 2:30 – 4:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to join the fun, and invite a friend. Our group rates are 50 cents less on single admissions. Adults -- \$7.80 (\$7.30); Youth (6-18) -- \$4.70 (\$4.20); Under 6 years – Free; Family -- \$15.60. We may meet for supper afterwards, so keep that option in mind. Meet at the Shaw Centre at 2:30 pm.

***Friday, March 11: Canadian Food Grains Bank Fundraiser Perogy Supper** at the Brian King Center in Warman. 4:30-8:00pm

***Sat, March 12: Canadian Mennonite fundraising banquet** at Wildwood Mennonite Church, Saskatoon, at 6 p.m. Included in the evening is Stephanie Siemens and Jenn Regier sharing the sights and sounds of Burkino Faso from the MC Canada learning tour. Tickets are \$12.50 and can be ordered from Margaret Ewen Peters at margary@yourlink.ca or 306-544-2633 or Les Klassen Hamm at les@bitlink.ca or 306-241-0757 by March 6.

***March 12:** Simply Superb will present 'Godspell' directed by Vicki Dyck, at the Prairieland Community Centre in Kerrobert. Show Times: Saturday @ 8 p.m. Tickets: \$20 on at the door. For more information, go to www.rosetheatre.biz.

***March 18: Women in Ministry** supper meeting. Contact MCSask for more information.

***March 26: Shekinah Fundraising Banquet** at Mount Royal Church Silent Auction begins at 5:30, Supper at 6:30 Come enjoy the music of the Saskatunes! For tickets contact the Shekinah Office or a Shekinah Board member. Tickets \$20

***April 16: SMYO Fundraiser** for Youth Assembly at Wildwood Mennonite Church, 6 pm Supper and Talent!

***April 16: A Buncha Guys Spring Concert** on Saturday, April 16th 7:30 at Mayfair United Church. Special guest – **Jerry Buhler**, *guitar*. More information to follow.

***You are invited to Shekinah this summer!**

1. Calling all CIT's!!!! If you are finished grade 10 or 11....come volunteer at Shekinah! It will be an incredible experience of learning, fun, challenges and growth. Experience the life of a staff; living in a shanty, role modeling, hanging out with some great campers, engaging with creation and the God that continues to amaze us daily! Call Shekinah or go on the website for an application...and more information.
2. Calling all COOKS/KITCHEN HELP and BIBLE LEADERS!!!! At camp we rely heavily on those people who give of their time to feed us...both physically and spiritually:) If you have some time to spare this summer or if you can free up some time to engage with campers and staff in these ways....please call the office and ask for Kristy. We look forward to hearing from you!

***Scholarships:** Please be advised that the application forms for the Mennonite Trust Ltd Scholarship and the Mennonite Church Sask Student Education Fund Scholarship, are now available at www.mcsask.ca.

Canadian Mennonite University www.cmu.ca

***Mar. 11 to 13** – CMU invites high school students to attend PIT 2011. Not just another peace conference! Connect, play, and engage in worship and workshops with youth from across Canada. Visit pit.cmu.ca

***March 26 (Winnipeg) & March 27 (Gretna)** CMU's 10th Anniversary celebrations, showcasing CMU choral talent, including the premier performance of a commissioned work by Canadian composer Jeff Enns. Westminster United Church, 7:30pm. Tickets: <https://www.cmu.ca/anniversary.html>) and Buhler Hall, Gretna, 3:00.

***May 9 to 13** – The School of Writing at CMU offers writers the opportunity to receive creative support and guidance. Writers gain confidence and experience while working with respected award-winning writing instructors. 2011 instructors include Marina Endicott (Fiction), Allan Rudy-Froese (Writing Sermons), Myrna Kostash (Creative Nonfiction) and Joanne Klassen (Life Writing – this course has a waiting list) <http://www.cmu.ca/schoolofwriting/index.html>

***April 1 – 3 Portable CMU** with Titus Guenther at Zion Mennonite Church in Swift Current has been changed to new dates of April 1-3.

***CMU/CMBC/MBBC/Concord Alumni & Friends Get-Together:** April 3, 2:30pm Eigenheim Mennonite Church. Special music and other guests to include: Darrell Bueckert, Lynne Driedger-Enns and Sonrisa, Richard Janzen and Alumni Singers, Vern Ratzlaff, Gerald Gerbrandt, CMU President and Terry Schellenbert, CMU VP. External Faspa at 4:00pm. Everyone is welcome! Connect with friends, enjoy great music, be updated and inspired by what's happening at our university.

***CMU's Outatown** discipleship program welcomes applications for site leaders for 2011/2012. Leaders have the opportunity to mentor young adults while travelling, serving, and learning throughout Canada, plus Guatemala, South Africa, and French Africa. More information available at www.outatown.com

The things that count most in life are the things that can't be counted.

-Source unknown