

***MCC Connects:** Tuesday, May 6, 2014 - 7:00 pm - Eigenheim Mennonite Church and RJC will be hosting the Recycled Orchestra (from Paraguay) - There is no entrance fee for the performance but a freewill offering will be received. Money raised from the offering will be tax receiptable and will be used for building a community education centre in the Cateura neighbourhood, the home of the Orchestra. If you are interested in getting reserved rush-seating, send your request along with name and phone number to recycled.rostern@gmail.com or phone the following number between 9 am and 9 pm: 306-232-9117

***Saskatchewan Women in Mission Enrichment Day,** Saturday, April 26, 2014: Women's Enrichment Day, *"Hearing the Voices of Young Women,"* at Nutana Park Mennonite Church, 10am-4pm. Please join us for the SWM annual meeting and a day of inspiration and fellowship. Bring a sack lunch for the noon meal; beverages provided. More information on posters or MCSask's Website.

***Today: A Buncha Guys Spring Concert,** 7:00pm at Knox United Church, Saskatoon. Tickets (\$5.00) are available at McNally Robinson, Russ Regier (249-3650), any of the guys or at the door.

Worship Leader: Wilf Buhler
Song Leader: Ben Buhler
Accompanist: Naomi Schellenberg
Scripture reader: Loren Gomez
This week's Nursery Care: Shelley Penner
Next week's Nursery Care: Leslie Allaby
Sound: Doug McKinnell
Ushers: Steve Rowan, Susan Braun

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Vol. LV April 6, 2014 No. 14
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OSLER MENNONITE CHURCH

Osler, Saskatchewan
A Welcoming Christian
Community for Peace

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
April 6, 2014

*Lent Five – Encountering God: What have we witnessed . . .
in our need for renewal?*

Prelude
Welcome & Announcements

ENCOUNTERING

Chiming to Worship and a silent reflection

Call to worship

One: Today we come before you God, dry and brittle.
Many: Lord, breathe new life into our aching bones.
One: We come into your presence, fatigued and numb.
Many: Lord, breathe new life into our tired living.
One: We come to the table, desperate and hurting.
All: Today Lord, breathe into us a new hope!

Invocation

***Hymn: Blue/HWB #151 “Marvelous grace of our loving Lord”**

Confessing our sin

One: Out of the depths, we cry to you, O Lord
Many: Lord, hear our voice.
One: If you were to count our transgressions and number our sins,
Lord, how could we stand before you?
Many: Lord, open your ears to our cries.
One: We are nothing but bone and sinew and skin; our souls are empty.
Many: Breath, come to us on the four winds.

One: We set our minds on the things of the body; we delight in the flesh.

Many: Spirit, dwell within us and make us whole.

One: Our soul waits for you, more than those who watch for the morning.

Many: More than those who watch for the morning, our soul waits for you.

All: Lord, hear our prayer. (Silence)

Words of assurance:

One: Our soul waits for you.

Many: In your Word, we hope for you.

One: For in the Lord, there is steadfast love.

Many: For in the Spirit, there is eternal life.

All: And it is the Lord who will redeem us from our wrongdoing.

Hymn: Blue/HWB #118 “Praise God from whom”

Sharing

Discipline of silence and Prayer of the Church

WITNESSING

Old Testament Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Drama

Children’s Time

Adeline Cox

Hymn: Blue/HWB #401 “This little light of mine”

Offering and Offertory music

Offertory Prayer

Gospel lesson: John 11:7-11,14-15, 25, 35, 40-45

Hymn: Green/SJ #2 “Hamba nathi - Come, walk with us”

Sermon: “Zombies among us” Gordon Allaby

RESPONDING

***Hymn: Green/SJ #78 “Sizohamba naye/We will walk with God”**

*Benediction: We have encountered God, the source of restoration and new life. Go as witnesses – living, breathing, and renewed. As you go, be aware of how God’s plan is unfolding and how God is showering you with immeasurable love.

**Please rise*

Focus Statement: We encounter God in our mortality and our need for renewal. God replenished the “dry bones” of Israel, and Jesus brought Lazarus back to life. As we breathe, we witness God’s breath, which restores creation. We wait with hopefulness for resurrection.

We welcome all who are worshiping with us today.

To all our visitors: WELCOME. We are delighted that you are worshiping with us.

Nursery care is provided during the worship service for those who desire it (children over 4 years should be accompanied by an adult.)

Children’s Worship Binder, an instrument to help children through the worship hour, is available in the foyer.

***TODAY**

- **Choir practice for Easter: 9am** in the sanctuary
- **Beverages and snacks** available after the worship service.
- **Sunday School for all ages** begins at 11:15am.

THIS WEEK

- **Monday, April 7, 7:30pm** - Book Club meeting
 - **Tuesday, April 8, 7:30pm** – Ladies “Heart to Heart”
 - **Wednesday, April 9, 7:45pm** – Worship Committee meeting
 - **Thursday, April 10, 7:30pm** – Deacons Meeting
 - **Sunday, April 13, 9am** – Choir practice for Easter
 - **Next Sunday is Palm Sunday.**
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*Connect with Mennonites of all ages and cultures from across Canada and engage the future of your national church at Assembly 2014! Join us in the middle of a lovely Winnipeg summer for Wild Hope: Faith for an unknown season, July 3-6. Information and registration is online at home.mennonitechurch.ca/events/Winnipeg2014

*Children are an important part of the church and are naturally full of *Wild Hope*. We are excited to have them join us at the Children's Assembly on July 3-5 on the CMU campus in Wpg. To make this happen, we are looking for passionate people who enjoy spending time with children. Men would also be a real asset to this team! Contact erempel@mennonitechurch.ca to find out more about this fun and exciting opportunity.

*Join with Indigenous and non-Indigenous Christians from across North America for Native Assembly July 28-31 (Wpg.). The theme is *Ears to Earth and Eyes to God*. Visit <http://home.mennonitechurch.ca/event/NativeAssembly2014> for info and registration. All are welcome!

Canadian Mennonite University cmu.ca

*CMU invites your prayers of celebration and blessing as the **Outatown Discipleship** program graduates **61** students April 13th. Need a change from work or school? **Outatown** is an opportunity to travel to one of three international locations: Guatemala, South Africa and Burkina Faso, learn about God, and make lifelong friends. Space available for Sept 2014. Learn more & apply at outatown.com

*Check out *Food, Farming and Faith: Living in God's Creation* at the **Canadian School of Peacebuilding**, June 16 – 20, 2014. See csop.cmu.ca or csop@cmu.ca. Space is limited.

Remember in your Prayers

Leslie, Gordon and Katherine Allaby after the death of Leslie's father, Mike Myers.

Also, remember those with health concerns, including Abe Braun, Sarah Hiebert, Michelle McKinnell and Haylee Wall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Our Lenten theme is: “Encountering God: What have we witnessed?”** Is encountering something *we* do? Or is the word an adjective describing an attribute of *God*? This season invites us to reflect on encounters with the encountering God who changes lives. The second part of our theme, “What have we witnessed?” also has a double focus: both what we have *seen* (been witness of) and what we have *told* others about (witnessed to).

***Lent Worship Banners** are prepared by the Junior Youth each week. Abstractly, through color and design, these banners explore the spiritual power of the encounters being explored in worship. **Yellow:** a primary color which represents God, Christ and the Holy Spirit. **Blue:** a primary color representing water, breath and wind. **Green:** the resulting encountered color from yellow and blue, it also represents new life, blessings and fertile land. **Lent Five's banner:** The blue represents the breath of God bringing about life in both dry bones and in the rising of Lazarus; each represented by the yellow. Where the blue and yellow meet we see the revived life represented by the green.

***Congratulations to Joel and Chalan Sawatzky** on the birth of a baby girl, Lydia Rae, on March 31. She weighed 7 lbs. 5 oz. and is a very special gift for Joel on his birthday. Also, congrats to happy grandparents, Lloyd and Loretta!

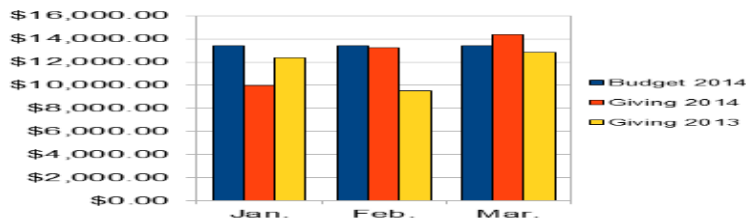
***Tuesday, April 8, 7:30pm – Ladies, please come join “Heart to Heart”** in "Experiencing the Tomb, Experiencing the Resurrection".

*Everyone is invited to join in choir practices for singing at Easter. Please Come for **Choir practice next Sunday, April 13th at 9am.**

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***Custodian** – The trustees are pleased to announce that Lacey Braun has assumed the duties of interim custodian until Sarah gets back.

***General fund receipts** for the five Sundays in March were \$14,394.30 bringing the total for 2014 to \$37,577.14. This is 23.3% of our approved budget for the year after 24.7% of the year has passed. Thank you for your continuing support of our church's ministry.



Looking ahead to Easter Week:

***Thursday, April 17, 7:00pm:** Maundy Thursday Service, which includes a potluck supper, and optional footwashing.

***Friday, April 18, 7:30pm** – Good Friday, Tennebrae - Service of Darkness

***Easter Sunday, April 20, Morning worship:10:00am** – You are invited to bring bells to ring during the worship service.

There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

Please bring eggs, fruit and paska/Easter bread, cottage cheese, etc. for an **Easter Potluck Brunch** following the worship service, and an **Easter Egg hunt** for the children will follow.

*There are a number of **dishes that have been left in the kitchen for many months**. If these are yours, please take them home today. On Monday, all dishes left behind will be removed and donated.

***Saturday, May 3, 5:00pm – Seniors Banquet** - Invitations have just been sent out to those born in 1944 or earlier. Seniors are asked to RSVP to deacons or the church office by April 13.

***The Saskatoon Men's Chorus** will present its spring concert on April 13, at 2:30 p.m., at Grace Westminster United Church. Tickets are \$15 for seniors and students, \$20 for adults, and free for children under 12; and are available at McNally Robinson Booksellers, from Chorus members, or by calling (306) 220-0812.

*The Youth Farm Bible Camp Alumni Banquet has been cancelled.

***VBS 2014** – MC Sask is once again putting together a Vacation Bible School troupe to provide churches with the opportunity to host this program in their communities. We are looking for 1 Troupe Leader, 3-4 Troupe Members, and 5-8 host congregations to help make this program happen. Check out the SMYO website (www.smyo.ca/vbs) for more information and applications, or contact Kirsten Hamm in the ACYM Office.

***Honouring the Earth, April 22-23/2014** – A new and exciting event to celebrate Earth Day, Mennonite style! In this two-day learning and service event, **youth** will spend time learning how we can honour the earth with our food, our worship, and our hands. Junior and senior youth are welcome, and encouraged to bring friends. To find out more head to the SMYO Facebook page or website; youth pastors, sponsors, and parents are encouraged to contact Kirsten directly if your youth are interested in attending (youthminister@mcsask.ca, 306-249-4844).

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Ezekiel 37:1-14 ¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' ⁴Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.

Ezekiel 37: continued: ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath* to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath* in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.’ ⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath:’ Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath,* and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’ ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹ Then he said to me, ‘Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.”’ ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.’

John 11:1-45 ¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus,* ‘Lord, he whom you love is ill.’ ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, ‘This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.’ ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus* was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judea again.’ ⁸The disciples said to him, ‘Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?’ ⁹Jesus answered, ‘Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.’ ¹¹After saying this, he told them, ‘Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.’ ¹²The disciples said to him, ‘Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.’ ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not

there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.’ ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin,* said to his fellow-disciples, ‘Let us also go, that we may die with him.’ ¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus* had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles* away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.’ ²³Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ ²⁴Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ ²⁵Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life.* Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ ²⁷She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,* the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’ ²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, ‘The Teacher is here and is calling for you.’ ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ ³⁷But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’ ³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, ‘Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.’ ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’ ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’ ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.