

***MCC Connects:** 50 years of Faith in Action at MCCS. Join us on April 5, 3-5pm at Ten Thousand Villages (Ave C & 45th St, Saskatoon). There's a short programme at 3:00 to hear how Ten Thousand Villages has grown with MCC over the years. For more information call 306.665.7525 or go to tenthousandvillages.ca/store/3003 or mccsk.ca.

***MCC Connects: A Buncha Guys Spring Concert** - Sunday, April 6th 7:00pm at Knox United Church, Saskatoon. Tickets (\$5.00) are available at McNally Robinson, MCC Saskatchewan, Russ Regier (249-3650), any of the guys or at the door, **An offering will be taken to support the Appleby Kids and Youth Club in Saskatoon.** (A Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan program in the Meadowgreen neighbourhood)

***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.

Worship Leader: Lyle Stucky
Song Leader: Loretta Sawatzky
Accompanist: Naomi Schellenberg
Scripture reader: Sandra Grismer, Steve Guenther
This week's Nursery Care: Sarah Guenther
Next week's Nursery Care: Shelley Penner
Sound: Chris Buhler
Ushers: Dick Braun, Karl Martens-Funk

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OSLER MENNONITE CHURCH

Osler, Saskatchewan
A Welcoming Christian
Community for Peace

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
March 30, 2014

*Lent Four – Encountering God: What have we witnessed . . .
through anointing?*

Prelude
Welcome & Announcements

ENCOUNTERING

Chiming to Worship and a silent reflection

Call to worship

One: God, our gentle shepherd, you have chosen us by name.
Many: Lead us, your children, by the still waters.
One: God, our gentle shepherd, your rod and staff bring comfort.
Many: Guide us, your people, through the darkest valleys.
One: God, our gentle shepherd, you have prepared a great table.
All: Restore us, your church, with goodness and mercy.

Invocation

***Hymn: Blue/HWB #112 “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic”**

Confessing our sin

We walk in the vale of death's shadow. Our deeds are unjust and bear no fruit. Our disobediences are secret, hidden from sight. Darkness lies over your land and your people stumble.

Our hearts are beating but only for ourselves. We have only pity for those who have less. We have only anger at those who have more. We cannot spare compassion for those with whom we disagree.

Our eyes are open, but we cannot see. We are blind to the neighbour beside us. Unwilling to look on those different from us. Refusing to lift our gaze beyond the ground at our feet.

We anoint the unworthy. We put our hope in the surface of things. We doubt and question those who speak truth. We blame others for what we cannot see.

Words of assurance:

The Lord is our shepherd. We shall not want. In grass meadows, the Lord makes us lie down, by quiet water guides us. Our life the Lord brings back. The Lord leads us on pathways of justice. Though we walk in the vale of death's shadow, we fear no harm, for you are with us. Your rod and your staff – it is they that console us. You set out a table before us in the face of our foes. You moisten our heads with oil, our cup overflows.

Hymn: Blue/HWB #369 “Lord, whose love in humble service”

Sharing

Discipline of silence and Prayer of the Church

WITNESSING

Gospel lesson: John 9:1-41

Drama

Children's Time

Kathryn Janzen

Hymn: Blue/HWB #517 “Open my eyes, that I may see”

Offering and Offertory music

Offertory Prayer

New Testament Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14

Hymn: Green/SJ #97 “The Lord is my light”

Sermon: “Encountering God at the Thrift Store” Erica Baerwald

RESPONDING

***Hymn: Green/SJ #67 “Let there be light, Lord God”**

***Benediction:** We have encountered God who sometimes surprises us. So go as witnesses to this God who is bigger than us. And as you go, be alert this coming week to signs of new life God is bringing forth.

**Please rise*

Focus Statement: We encounter God through anointing. God sent Samuel to anoint David, the unexpected youngest son, with oil, and Jesus anointed the blind man with mud. We witness the surprising ways God's work is revealed, and we respond to God's call for our lives.

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. Adults are invited to participate in an **information meeting about MCC** during the Sunday School hour.
- Everyone is invited to join the **Potluck at noon.**

THIS WEEK

- **Thursday, April 3, 7:30pm – Church Council meeting**
 - **Sunday, April 5, 9am – Choir practice** for Easter
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Children's Sunday School** will be studying about Jesus' disciples.

***Custodian - The church needs a custodian from now until Sarah is able to return.** The current monthly remuneration and list of duties is available at the office for those interested in applying for the position. We are also open to a group of people doing the work on a schedule. If you are interested in serving the church in this way, please contact one of the Trustee committee members (Dick, Glen, Lyle, Bill, or Doug), who hope to hear from you very, very soon.

Today, 2;30pm: "A celebration of music" - *Sonrisa Womens Choir with guests *A Buncha Guys* - at Knox United Church in Saskatoon. Tickets: adults \$10, students & seniors \$8, children free at the door or in advance through choir members.

***Shekinah Banquet and Fundraiser: April 5, 2014** at Mount Royal Mennonite Church. Doors open-6pm. Supper-6:30. Tickets \$25...call the office or chat with a board member. More details coming soon.

***Tuesday, April 8 - 6:00pm - Youth Farm Bible Camp Alumni Banquet** at Neuanlage Mennonite Church. Tickets: \$10. Purchase from the camp office 1-855-855-9322 or online: www.yfbc.ca All who worked or volunteered at the camp are welcome to come!!

***MDS FAMILY – Year in Review -** Want to hear stories of churches at work through Mennonite Disaster Service? Check out our YouTube channel, and our video summarizing 2013: *Bearing Fruit and Building Hope*. Watch it at this link or browse through other videos posted here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXttmOsPnU>



The April Mennonite Church Canada PrayerNet is now posted on the far bulletin board with many prayer concerns. **Please also pray with and for the church for:** Henry and Erna Funk, who are working in Israel through SERVE Nazareth as hospital chaplains from January 5 to April 1, 2014. Erna is also teaching English. Thank you for your support of the Funks in this Mennonite Church Canada assignment.

Remember in your Prayers

Leslie, Gordon and Katherine Allaby as they grieve the death of Leslie's father, Mike Myers on Wednesday, March 26.

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

***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 Four's banner:** God is encountered through anointing of mud and oil. The banner shows the water of life having soaked through the dried earth creating the mud from which life bursts in those moments of encounter through anointing and the new growth that happens when we respond to God's call.

***Today, 11:15am:** Please join us for an information and discussion session after coffee time today, in the sanctuary. Claire Ewert Fisher and Erica Baerwald will report on MCC Sask and the Thrift Shops. Ask questions and learn about the important activities of MCC.

*Everyone is invited to join in choir practices for singing at Easter. Please Come for **Choir practice next Sunday, April 5th at 9am.**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

John 9:1-41 ¹As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' ³Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' ⁹Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' ¹⁰But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' ¹¹He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' ¹²They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.' ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.' ¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' ²⁰His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his

parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.' ²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' ²⁵He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' ²⁶They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' ²⁷He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' ³⁰The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' ³⁴They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' ³⁶He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' ³⁷Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' ³⁸He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. ³⁹Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' ⁴¹Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.'

Ephesians 5:8-14 ⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'