
Rosthern Mennonite Church

Claire Ewert Fisher, Pastor
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Worship Service

March 10, 2019, Number 10 – First Sunday in Lent

Worship Leader Brenda Epp
Pianist Kathy Luitjens

Sojourners Gather to Worship God

Call to Worship

Leader: When Jesus was in the wilderness,
he was tempted to save himself.
People: **We often look for the good things for ourselves first,
before the well-being of others.**
Leader: Jesus was offered salvation if he turned stones to bread;
if he accepted wealth and power;
if he tested God's commitment to him.
People: **In all these things, Jesus remained strong
in his commitment to God.**
Leader: May our commitment be as strong.
People: **May our lives be placed in God's caring hands
throughout our journey.**

Prayer

We sing *Come, walk with us* (Theme song) **StJ #2**
God of grace and God of glory **HWB #366**

Tithes and Offerings

Story for all ages Denise Epp

We sing *Be still* **Back of bulletin**

Words of Confession and Assurance

Merciful God,

**What a gentle and healing balm it is to come to you with our
secret thoughts, our sad discouragements, and our noblest
dreams, and find you here to listen, to forgive, and to renew us.**

**We confess our reluctance to understand your will and our hesitancy
to act upon it. We are quick to blame others and slow to accept
responsibility for ourselves. We wish for signs of your power**

**even while we take for granted the beauty and love with which
you have surrounded us. We desire some guarantee of your
favour and at the same time fear to think about the suffering of
the cross and what it means for us and for our world.**

God forgive us.

**Free us by the power of your cross that we may serve you
without fear. Amen.**

Sojourners Listen for the Direction God Gives

Scripture Reading Luke 4:1-13 Pew Bible p. 727
Meditation **"God moves ... into the desert"**
Claire Ewert Fisher

Sojourners Respond to the Call of God

Faith Journey Kalene Bartsch
We sing *Come and fill our hearts* **StJ #59**
Spiritual Practice
Sharing of Joys and Concerns
Prayers of the People

Sojourners Depart to Serve God

Sending Hymn *We are often tossed and driv'n* **StS #72**
Sending Blessing

THIS WEEK:

Today, 9:15 a.m. – Prayer time

10:00 a.m. – Worship service

11:00 a.m. – Coffee and fellowship time. An adult Sunday School class,
"Sharing our Faith Stories," will begin today, at 11:15, in the youth room. All
are welcome. See more information under 'Announcements.'

7:00 p.m. – "Choirs and Cakes" Fund-raiser at RJC. Come for an
evening of music and desserts. Listen to the RJC ManChoir and a mass
choir while enjoying delicious pies. The evening will include a dessert auction
- bid individually, as a table, as a family, or form a consortium. Funds raised
will go toward RJC program projects. Coffee, tea, and pie will be served.
Everyone is welcome! See the poster.

*Calling alumni, A Buncha Guys alumni, fathers, brothers, uncles, cousins,
grandfathers, and friends of RJC: Come join the RJC ManChoir for one song
at Choirs and Cakes. Meet for short rehearsal at 6:30 pm in the RJC Chapel.*

Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Blanket-making

Thursday, 7:00 p.m. – Annual General Meeting of the Good Neighbours Food Centre, in their multi-purpose room. The guest speaker will be Gord Enns, from the Saskatoon Food Council. All are welcome for this time of learning, reflecting on the year that was and dreaming about the future of Good Neighbours Food Centre.

Next Sunday, 9:15 a.m. – Prayer time

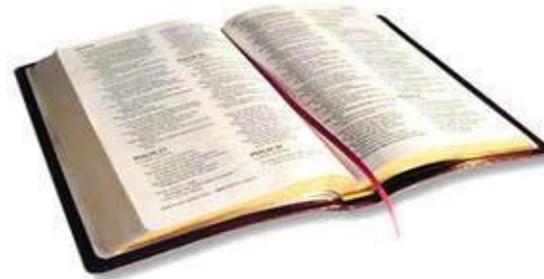
10:00 a.m. – Worship service – Second Sunday in Lent

11:00 a.m. – Nathan and Tianna will be hosting a fund-raiser lunch, in support of Nathan partnering with MCC and RJC on the ALSO trip to Guatemala in May, and Tianna joining the YFBC trip to Mexico at Easter. All are welcome to the lunch, admission by donation.

3:00 p.m. – Games and fasma, all are welcome to come and play games, or just visit and enjoy lunch together.

Welcome to:

Rosthern Mennonite Church



Followers of Jesus Christ

Called by God

Empowered by the Spirit

To Grow as a Community of Grace, Joy and Peace

So that God's Healing and Hope Flow through Us to the World

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School 11:15 a.m.

Office Hours Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m.- Noon

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Mar. 10, 2019, Number 10

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Beginning this Sunday and continuing for six weeks, we invite you to participate in an adult Sunday School class on "Sharing Faith Stories". This is another of the Upside-Down Living Series and will take place about 11:15. Grab a quick cup of coffee and then meet in the youth room. The dates and topics are as follows:

March 10 - The Power of Story

March 24 - Sharing Your Personal Story

March 31 - Sharing Faith Stories for Every Day

April 14 - Sharing Faith Stories in Words and Actions

April 28 - Sharing Faith Stories when it's Difficult

May 5 - Sharing Faith Stories as a Community

Just a reminder: On Sunday mornings, please do not stop or park in front of the church at the level entry (except very briefly to drop someone off or pick someone up.) Some in our congregation are not able to enter or exit the church easily unless that entry is clear.

MCC Connects: Did you know that YOU can help make a difference in the lives of refugees around the world? Contact Mark Bigland-Pritchard at markbiglandpritchard@mccsk.ca to learn more about MCC's refugee sponsorship program by or 306.665.2555.

Announcement from the Good Neighbours Food Centre: As many of you may have heard, our long time Director and Board Chair, Wilmer Froese, resigned from Good Neighbours Food Centre, effective February 2019. He will be missed in so many ways: For his incredible vision, sincere compassion for those in need in our communities, his dedicated commitment to the formation, growth, and transformation of Rosthern District Food Bank (now Good Neighbours Food Centre) over the past eight years--and more! We are so thankful for his many years of service!

RJC is pleased to announce Alex Tiessen as our incoming Director of Admissions and Communications. Alex currently lives in Winnipeg and will be joining the RJC staff on April 1. A new teacher, Hillary Fast, will also join our staff in March to fill a maternity leave. Hillary currently lives in Saskatoon is an RJC grad of 2011. We are excited to invite these wonderful people to our team!

Mennonite Trust Ltd. Scholarship - MTL is pleased to offer scholarships for Sask students who regularly attend an MC Sask congregation and are attending post-secondary Christian education. Interested applicants should submit a resume, confirmation of full-time enrollment in post-secondary Christian education, a letter of support from their church, and a 1 page paper on Christian's duty to care for widows and orphans. Applicants can send their applications to mtl@mtrust.net or drop them off at any MTL office. Scholarships application deadline is June 30, 2019. More details available at www.mtrust.net

Volunteers needed! Mennonite Church Canada's structural change means a transition to relational funding for International Witness ministries. You are invited to continue to demonstrate your support by becoming a member of a Witness Support Team for our Witness worker units. This team functions as a connecting link between international partners, Witness workers and Canadian supporters. If a Witness Support Team sounds like something you want be part of, please read the brief summary about WSTs on the MC Canada website, here: <http://home.mennonitechurch.ca/WSTsummary>, and then contact Kirsten Hamm-Epp at youthminister@mcsask.ca for more information.

The Good Neighbours Food Centre (Food Bank) has requested donations of canned vegetables and hearty soups and stews for the months of February and March. You may leave your donations in the cart in the foyer; we will see they are delivered.

Rosthern Mennonite Church Financial Report						
Worship service #9						
March 3, 2019	Actual	Weekly Budget	Weekly Surplus/Deficit	Actual	Year to Date Budget	Surplus/Deficit
Offering	\$ 5,090.00					
Coffee	\$ 116.00					
Direct deposit	\$ 300.00					
BUDGET	\$ 5,506.00	\$3,450.00	\$ 2,056.00	\$ 51,716.23	\$ 31,050.00	\$ 20,666.23
Blankets	\$ 100.00					
GST Rebate	\$ 959.09					
TOTAL	\$ 5,606.00					

Attendance last Sunday: 81

COMING EVENTS:

Mar. 22-23 – MC SK Women’s Retreat “Walking in Worship” at Shekinah, with speaker Eileen Klaassen. All women are welcome, and you may register for the Friday session, the Saturday session, or both. See posted information and registration forms.

Mar. 24 - Kate Hanson will serve coffee after church in order to raise money for the annual Rosthern Junior College fundraiser. The money will go to RJC’s ALSO service trips. These trips give RJC students the opportunity to serve less fortunate citizens of Saskatoon, Calgary, Toronto, Alabama, and Guatemala. For more information, talk to Kate.

Mar. 26 – Youth Farm Bible Camp fund-raiser supper, here at RMC.

March 28, 7:00 p.m. - Grace Mennonite Church, Prince Albert invites you to a Lenten evening with Harold R. Johnson, author of “Firewater,” “Two Families,” and “Clifford.” Harold has most recently embarked on a healing journey in his relationship to the man who was convicted of a drunk driving charge in which Harold’s brother died.

March 30, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. - A workshop on MAiD (Medical Assistance in Dying) will be held at Cornerstone Church, 315 Lenore Dr, Saskatoon. Dr. Sheila Harding, head of the Christian Medical and Dental Society of Canada, will address issues around MAiD, and Dr. Margaret Cottle will talk about Palliative Care.

Apr. 6, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. - Thirsting for God Lenten Silent Retreat, at Shekinah Retreat Centre. Join with others of MC Sask to spend a day in silence, stillness and simplicity, taking a break from the regular routines of everyday life to rest, renew and reconnect with the God who loves each of us. Cost \$50, no refunds. Registration may be transferred to another if you can’t make it. Registration forms are posted in the foyer.

Apr. 7 – RJC singing group will be here for our morning worship service

Apr. 12, 7:30 p.m. – Station Singers spring concert “From Billy to Brahms – Love songs for Spring,” at the Station Arts Centre. The concert will be repeated at Nutana Park Mennonite Church, Saskatoon on Apr. 14, 7:30 p.m.

June 28 – July 1 – Mennonite Church Canada Gathering, “Igniting the Imagination of the Church,” Abbotsford BC. The Mennonite Women national gathering will take place as part of this event, on June 30. For more information, go to www.ignitegathering2019.ca

July 28 - Aug. 1 – “Shake: Rattled by the Radical” Youth Retreat for MC Canada youth grade 6 – 12, at Shekinah. Planned activities will include: Biblical reflection and storytelling, shared meals, activities and play, special guests, and more! Visit www.prairieyouth.ca for full details and registration.

PRAISE AND CONCERNS:

Thank you to those who served as our delegates at the MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions this past weekend in Waldheim: Ted, Larry, Nancy, and Claire. Pray for MC Sask as a church family, that in the year to come we might continue to be inspired, challenged, and strengthened as we deepen our walk with each other.

A big thank you to everyone in the congregation for helping to making our Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper a success! We are grateful to those who donated groceries (eggs, flour and gluten-free flour, beef sausages, and fruit sauces), and silent auction items. Thank you for the hours of volunteer time setting tables, advertising, preparing pancake batter, making jello, baking sausage, frying pancakes, and being wonderful hosts to our community. Over 350 people attended and \$ 9,134.67 was raised after expenses.

Thank you to all who assisted with World Day of Prayer, held here in our church on March 1: ushers, lunch coordinators, and all who took part in the service.

In March, the Rosthern Ministerial Association asks us to pray for the Rivers Christian Ministry. Pray for all who seek sanctuary.

Prayer requests from Mennonite Church SK

Pray for continued inspiration and creativity for George and Tobia Veith as they teach English, train leaders and develop needed leadership resources that will build a solid theological foundation for their local congregation and others.

Lent 1 – March 10

God moves...into the Desert Luke 4:1-13

Spiritual Practices for Lent 2019

On Ash Wednesday we began the forty- day season (excluding the Sundays) Lent. Over the years, many faithful folk have “given up something” like eating unhealthy foods. This season of preparation has been used to shed a few bad habits or pounds.

But let’s remember why we are adopting new spiritual practices during this season. The intended purpose of spiritual disciplines is to connect us more closely with God. Lent is a time that redirects our sights, not to ourselves and the guilt we feel about our shortcomings, but instead to God, the one who creates us and calls us to bring our broken selves for healing and wholeness. The invitation is to intentionally create the space for the healing process to begin.

This year, let’s add something instead of shedding something as a way to be more aware of God’s Presence and participate with God in God’s activity. Let’s look for acts of Reconciliation this year. I will make some suggestions, please add your own creative ideas and share them with others who are seeking closer connection with God. These suggestions are an invitation to broaden, deepen and open our awareness to God’s presence in our everyday lives.

1. Practice radical hospitality, which includes the willingness to be a guest.
2. Ask the next person who asks you for change to join you for dinner.
3. Donate money to an agency that addresses poverty in your community.
4. Try to go a whole week without spending any money. Barter or beg if you need to.
5. Go to a home for the elderly and visit them each week – reading or telling stories, or playing board games.
6. Become a pen pal with someone who is in prison.
7. Leave a tip for someone cleaning a public washroom.
8. Look for everything you have two of, and give one away.

9. Confess something you have done wrong to someone you have wronged or offended and ask forgiveness.

10. Go through the Clothes Basket and drop loonies in the pockets of clothing in the store.

11. Track down old teachers and mentors. Let them know the influence they have had on your life.

12. Babysit for someone free of charge, especially someone who might really need a night off and not be able to afford a sitter.

13. Go without food for one day to remember the two billion people who live on less than a dollar a day.

14. Spend a day baking cookies and bread. Give them away to the person who delivers your mail or collects your garbage.

15. Spend a day hiking in the woods. Consider how God cares for the lilies and the sparrows - and you.

16. Hold a knowledge exchange, in which you gather friends and neighbours to share a skill or something they are learning.

17. Add your own ideas... and share them with others ... and hear their ideas...

Join God in this time of growth and renewal as move every more closely into the people God creates us to be.