

NORTH STAR MENNONITE CHURCH

204 Francis Street, Drake, SK S0K 1H0

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Pastor: Dan Graber Phone: (306) 363-0011

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Pastor's office hours: Tuesday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon

March 29, 2020

Lent 5 Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Show Us, God, your power over death itself

Gathering in the Spirit...

Call to worship

Leader: In ancient times, Yahweh asked the prophet, "Do you believe these dead bones can live again?"

People: The prophet answered, "O God, you know!"

Leader: In the time of Jesus, he asked Martha, "Do you believe I am the resurrection and the life?"

People: Martha answered, "Yes, Lord, I believe."

Leader: Today God asks, "Do you trust that mourning can turn into joy? That your weary bones will live again?"

People: We answer, "O God, show us!"

Prayer

Sharing the Good News...

Affirmation of faith

Into the silence of the void our Creator spoke, bringing life. The Cosmic Christ and the Holy Spirit hovered over the waters—matter from nothing, flesh from dust, life from lifelessness. We believe Jesus can bring life out of nothing, but three days is a long time to wait. Jesus, in our waiting for new life, give us hope. Show us your resurrection power that we may fully believe.

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, John 11:1-45

Meditation: "God's power lies outside our will" (watch for video link)

Responding with our Whole Hearts...

Ritual of Response

Invite people to come forward and get a seed/acorn, hold it in their hand, and pray for an area in their life that needs resurrection power. After praying, invite them to place it in a pot or box of soil as a symbol of trust and hope that Jesus will bring new life.

Offering

Going out to Serve...

Benediction

"Come out!" Jesus cries, calling us from our tombs into a world full of grace and possibility. "Go out!" Jesus commands, calling us into the world to live as God's resurrected people.

THIS SUNDAY

Meditation – Lisa Martens Bartel

NEXT SUNDAY

Meditation – Dan Graber

Please note that all events at North Star (worship, meetings, etc.) will be cancelled until further notice. We will continue to send weekly bulletins and information will also be posted on the church website. If you have any questions or comments please call or email the church.

COMING EVENTS AT NORTH STAR:

June 7

Outdoor worship service. Details to follow.

PRAISE AND PRAYER:

- Please pray for Isaac and Maria as Isaac is in the Lanigan Lodge until there is space available at Watrous.
- Remember Dustin as he adjusts to being cooped up.
- Remember Erica as her baby is due within 10 days.
- Thanks be to God that Heidi has returned safely home.
- Thanks to Stephen for putting Dan back to work on his computer.
- We thank God for this time of less noise pollution.
- For the sick and infected: God, heal and help. Sustain bodies and spirits. Contain the spread of infection.
- For our vulnerable populations: God, protect our elderly and those suffering from chronic disease. Provide for the poor, especially the uninsured.
- For the young and the strong: God, give them the necessary caution to keep them from unwittingly spreading this disease. Inspire them to help.
- For our local, state, and federal governments: God, help our elected officials as they allocate the necessary resources for combatting this pandemic. Help them to provide more tests.
- For our scientific community, leading the charge to understand the disease and communicate its gravity: God, give them knowledge, wisdom, and a persuasive voice.
- Pray for our leaders, medical and emergency people, and others around the world who continue to work to keep us safe as we go through this time of uncertainty and turmoil. May all feel Christ's peace and comfort knowing he is with us.

NORTH STAR NOTES:

- Please remember to purchase items for the Lanigan food bank. Items can be dropped off in the bins at church.
- A source for spiritual resources is the MC Sask or MC Canada website. There are many suggestions for home worship as well as updates as to what is happening in our extended church family.
- Another resource to check is the Lenten Guided Prayer packet that was shared at the beginning of Lent.
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 updates for MCC Sask by visiting mccsk.ca and clicking on COVID-19 information and updates.

MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

Praying for Each Other: Pray for our pastors as they meet challenges related to the pandemic and continue to serve our congregations in creative and new ways.

MC Sask Connects: A list of services that can be streamed or downloaded is available on the [MC Sask website](#). Many have new services weekly.

The MC Sask ADS business session is tentatively planned for April 25 as an online meeting of delegates. We will re-evaluate and confirm these plans 15-20 days prior the meeting.

Wood Cutters Needed May 2: Shekinah would like to invite folks out that feel confident with a chainsaw to help fill our firewood reserves. We will meet by the Chalet at 9 am and go until folks get tired. Please bring a chainsaw and safety wear. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Let us know if you're coming: office@shekinahretreatcentre.org OR (306)945-4929.

MC Canada Connects: As schools cancel classes across the country and congregations gauge whether or not to hold services, MC Canada has updated web resources created by the MC Canada Pandemic and Response Taskforce during the last flu pandemic in 2009-2010. Go to <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/outbreakresources> for information on how to adjust congregational practices before, during and after an outbreak. At this time, MC Canada urges every congregation to stay up to date with recommendations from their provincial health authorities on appropriate measures to take for limit the spread of COVID-19.

MCC Connects: We want to lift our voices together in prayer for everyone in the world and in our own communities, especially those most vulnerable and most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Help encourage others by sharing your prayers and the location you are praying from. #mccdaytopray

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

CMU Connects: Spring at CMU: Given the cancellation of in-person events during COVID-19, Spring at CMU has been reimagined in the form of a livestreamed, 45-minute, national event, featuring music from the CMU singers; sharing from CMU students, graduates, staff and faculty; a celebration of the CMU Communications & Media program; and an invitation for financial support during this challenging time. Please join us on Fri., Apr. 3, 7-7:45 p.m. CST. For information go to cmu.ca/springatcmu

The MHC Gallery's present exhibit, Breaking the Silence on Domestic Violence2, is running from Friday, March 20 – Saturday, May 2 and is now online! This is an important show. Domestic violence is a pervasive reality in Manitoba and 'home' can often be the most dangerous place for women and their children. This Gallery exhibit is powerful, disturbing, and honest and comes with the hope that more will be done to protect those of all ages dealing with domestic abuse. Go to cmu.ca/gallery to view the exhibit online.