

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

August 9, 2020

Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Gathering in the Spirit...

Welcome and Call to Worship

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

Prayer of Invocation & Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Sharing the Good News...

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering

Scripture: Hebrews 5:11- 6:12

Meditation: "A Church Needs to be a Classroom also"

Responding with our Whole Hearts...

Praise and Prayers

- Prayer requests: Let's begin our prayer time with a silent opportunity for each of us to lift up our praises and prayers for people we know.
 - We lift up those like Hope who are giving up work to move to help care for grandchildren.
 - I know of another set of grandparents who are moving for a while to take care of grandchildren. I suspect this is occurring all over in some forms to help relieve stress, to enable people to work, and to provide support of various kinds, especially as school is starting again. We pray for each one of these families that you, Jesus, provide what they need.

- Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession:

God of all people, your love and grace sustain the world and all who live in it. When we foolishly set up walls between people, you tear them down and draw us into one family, united in Christ and in compassion. The pandemic has filled so many nations and neighbours with turmoil and fear. So we come before you with prayers for the world you love.

Astonishing God, you surprise us. You come to us in unforeseen circumstances and in unexpected people. We give you thanks for all the healers, heroes, and helpers who have stepped forward during the pandemic to surprise us with kindness and courage. We pray for all who still face upheaval and uncertainty because of COVID-19. Call out leaders with wisdom and imagination to address the fear and change

we are facing. And fill our hearts with compassion and understanding for the most fearful.

God of peace, you reassure us. You remind us not to be afraid when troubles arise. We pray for all people who live in precarious situations not related to the pandemic. Assure them they are not forgotten. We pray for those who struggle with illness, grief or depression. May they know your peace and strength. Equip us to reach out in every way we can to embody your love in our words and actions.

God of hope, you challenge us. You come to us in the midst of trouble and invite us to stand for justice and work for truth. We pray for all those people crying out for fair treatment, working against racism and discrimination, telling painful stories of their lives. Open our hearts with understanding and motivate us to act for change. We pray for those who resist the stories of injustice and defend inequality. Open their minds to the truths they deny and show them new possibilities for relationships that bridge divides. Send your Holy Spirit to work in our communities to create mutual respect and new ways to live as neighbours.

We also remember that today is the International Day of the World's Indigenous People so we want to remember them in our prayers. We know that in almost every country these people are at the bottom of the economic scale, lack political power, are losing their own languages, have more health issues than many citizens of their country's, and have had to face discrimination for many, many years. And not just from colonial powers but from the people in their own nations. We ask that they find hope, find themselves able to accommodate to the major culture and habits around them, but not lose their own cultures and languages. Help them gain power in each of their country's systems, so they can be examples of exemplary citizens – contributing to their country's health and wholeness. Help them respect and be respected in each of their own country's as well as respect themselves.

Creator God, We look at your world and praise you for the diversity all around us. Thank you for the gift of relationships; our connection with people, animals and the land. Help us, Lord, to see differences and diversity as strengths. Help us to listen and understand; to meet one another with wonder and anticipation. Help us to love as you love, without expectation and work for justice together. Reveal to us your way of reconciliation and guide us into right relationships with all living things. Lead us to understand how Indigenous peoples have been and continue to be profoundly harmed by settler people and institutions, all over the world. Lead us to repent when we as settlers deny Indigenous peoples respect, dignity and fullness of life. Help us to listen compassionately, to speak humbly and to act justly. Help us to

seek the peace, justice and reconciliation you desire among all your children. Thank you Jesus, for your mercy and grace.

Faithful God, we place our trust in you and your purposes. Answer our prayers according to your wisdom and will, for we offer them humbly in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray together:

Please hear more of our silent prayers at this time, for others we have thought of and for different people and situations around the world.

And let us join together in the Lord's Prayer. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Going out to Serve...

Closing and Benediction

THIS SUNDAY

Meditation – Dan Graber Worship Leader – Peter Nicholson

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:

VBS will be coming to you. SonSurf Beach Bash Buckets will be available for each family that registers. Each bucket will contain a list of supplies you will need for the week, a SonSurf Beach Bash CD, a copy of the bible stories, suggestions for snacks, games and crafts, plus some extras for an awesome Beach Party at SonSurf Beach Bash. You can register on the Drake VBS Facebook page or by texting me at 306-365-7472. – Gayle

Tuesday, August 18

7:00-8:00 p.m. - Everyone is welcome to join in wishing Heidi Martens a lifetime of happiness as she prepares for her wedding to Marlin Weber on August 22. Come to the lawn on the west side of North Star with a lawn chair (and beverage if desired) and be prepared for social distancing as we visit and shower Heidi with good wishes. Taking into consideration COVID-19 precautions as well as the fact that they already have 2 households to amalgamate, we are suggesting gift cards as a way of honoring her. In case of inclement weather we will have a brief come-and-go at the Thrift Store on that evening at 7:00 p.m. where you will have the opportunity to deliver your good wishes!

NORTH STAR NOTES:

- On the move:
Stephen and Mercy Banda have moved to Lanigan. Their new address is 36A Baun Street. We wish them God's blessings as they make this their new home.
We say goodbye to Hope Aldred as she prepares to move to Calgary on August 15 to be closer to her family. We wish her God's blessings in her new home.
- To see the video of the sermon, please click on the sermon title on the North Star web site (northstarmc.ca)
- We are looking for pictures for our church website. These could include worship, church activities, Sunday School, clubs, etc. Please email any suitable photos to the church as soon as possible.

BEYOND NORTH STAR:

Sunday, August 9

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2020. It is celebrated around the world and marks the date of the inaugural session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations at the United Nations in 1982. As part of the commemoration, the Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch – Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues/DISD/DESA, will be organizing a virtual event bringing together indigenous peoples' organizations, UN agencies, Member States, civil society and relevant stakeholders. This year's theme is COVID-19 and indigenous peoples' resilience. The event will feature a panel discussion on the innovative ways indigenous peoples continue demonstrating resilience and strength in the face of the pandemic while confronting grave threats to their survival. The aim is to highlight how the preservation and promotion of indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge and practices can be leveraged more fully during this pandemic and build back stronger. Panelists will share good practices with the audience through an interactive webinar that focuses on building back stronger.

*What: 2020 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
When: Monday, Aug. 10 9:00-11:00 am Eastern Standard Time (EST)
Where: Information on how to join us and where to view the virtual event will be shared soon.*

Who: Indigenous Peoples, Member States, UN agencies, funds and programmes, civil society and the general public are invited to attend.

MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

Praying for each other: Zoar Mennonite Church is excited to announce the ordination service for our pastor Andrea Enns-Gooding on Sunday, August 23, 2020 at 3:30pm. You are invited to join us for the service and celebration. Seating will be limited to 120 persons. If you would like to join us, please contact Liz Baerwald at hansdiedtrich@gmail.com or 306-945-2041 to register. COVID guidelines will be followed. Masks are mandatory to attend.

MC Sask Connects: "Hello from The Shekinah Move-A-Thon Committee! We are holding our Move-A-Thon (formerly known as the Shekinah Bike-A-Thon) fundraiser on Sept. 19, 2020. It will be a virtual event and all instructions are on our website. Please visit our website <https://shekinah.ca/events/2020/move-a-thon> to register and take time to view the "inspirational" videos updated weekly which highlight examples of how you can MOVE! Thank you."

Shekinah Retreat Centre thanks you for your amazing support of our Mission:Possible summer fundraiser. To date, we have raised \$35,000 and are moving towards our summer goal of \$40,000. In related news, Ron Schellenberg has shaved his head. To support the work of Shekinah, and see Ron getting his head shaved, you can still be part of the event by going to <https://shekinah.ca/events/2020/mission-possible>. Thank you.

MCC Connects: Call for artists! CREATED: A Fine Art and MCC Quilt Show and Sale will take place Fri., Sept. 18-Sat., Sept. 19, 2020. If you are an artist, we want you to be a part of this new, exciting event! This will be a fundraiser for MCC as well as an opportunity to explore the many ways that we are created and we create in turn. Submit your work at the following link to participate in this exciting event. All mediums accepted. <https://form.jotform.com/202065052086245>. More details on event specifics to follow.