

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

December 5, 2021

Advent 2 Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Dare to imagine God's Embrace!

Gathering in the Spirit...

Longing for light

STJ #54

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

In the quietness of our winter season, God breathes.

God comes close, open-armed.

We are held: tightly, gently, tenderly.

God's embrace is wide.

A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord,"
and God pulls the cries close.

God is already here.

Scripture: Zachariah's Song - Luke 1:67-79

He came down

STJ #31

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Prayer of Confession/Assurance

Leader: God, we begin these moments of confession by imagining your
beauty and goodness. In silence, we ask you to hold us in peace.

(silence)

Leader: Held in your strength, we give to you the noise, the conflict, and the
irritations that occupy and zap us of energy we need for other thoughts and
tasks.

(silence)

Leader: Confident because your arms hold us close, we dare to imagine
freedom from sin. We are ready to step into the crooked and uneven world
in which we live, knowing your hand will guide us.

(silence)

Assurance

Sharing the Good News...

Hope is a Candle

VT #211

Announcements

Let the children come to Me (while children leave for Sunday School)

Offering Prayer

It came upon a midnight clear

HWB #195

Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6; Philippians 1:3-11

Message: "Embracing God's Child, Jesus, Leads to Peace"

Responding with our Whole Hearts...

Comfort, comfort, O my people

HWB #176

North Star Praise and Prayers (Response: "Bring us peace")

A Prayer for Reimagining

Jesus, your life tells perfectly the story of God's love--
planted, taking root, growing up, and bearing fruit
that satisfies the hunger of every heart
and heals every injury and wrong.

Please, O Beloved of God,

make our congregation reflect your image
evermore clearly.

Take our programs and structures,

habits, hurts, fears, and hopes,

and use them to tell again the story of your love. Amen.

Going out to Serve...

Go now in peace

HWB #429

Benediction

Meditation – Dan Graber

Worship Leader – Peter Nicholson

Song Leader – Tami-Lynn Lehr

Pianist – Chris Bergen

Sound – Ivan Bartel

Visuals – Steven Lehr

Ushers – Myrven Kline, Amy Wildeman

LAST SUNDAY

Offering – \$1625.00

Attendance – 48

NEXT SUNDAY (Third Advent Sunday)

Werner & Joanne will be meeting with the Adult Sunday School class
in the sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. Everyone welcome.

Meditation – Werner & Joanne De Jong Worship Leader – Donna Friesen

Offering will go for the De Jong support unless otherwise designated.

Please make cheques payable to North Star.

THIS WEEK AT NORTH STAR:

Saturday, December 11

7:00 p.m. – Conversation with Werner and Joanne De Jong – a chance to get to
know our new Canadian missionaries.

COMING EVENTS AT NORTH STAR:

Sunday, December 12

Piano recital for students of Amy Ewert. Attendance limited to invitees only due to
COVID regulations.

Sunday, December 26

We plan to have a joint carol sing with PLCF – at our normal worship time. Anyone
willing to help plan this with them? Please let Dan know so we can set a meeting time.

NORTH STAR NOTES:

- Please pray for Lusungu, Stephen and Ruby as they mourn Mercy's father's
sudden death. They were able to attend the funeral online, but still, grieving is
hard. They express thanks and appreciation for your prayers, conversations
and concern.

- We've reached the midpoint of the ReImagining Process in North Star MC. During two Sunday mornings together, we've shared and shaped a snapshot of your congregation's story past and present. We've also tried to trace the shape of your congregation's heart. The story written on your hearts tells the story of Jesus! The ReImagining Team now will begin dreaming and planning for the next chapter in God's story in your congregation. How might God take what is most distinctive about North Star MC to share healing and hope in your community? The team will be inviting some of your congregation's leadership into focused conversation and prayer about how you together might live more deeply in this story. We'll bring back what we discern together to share and pray over with the congregation early in the new year.
- Canadian Mennonite subscriptions: All who attend North Star may receive a subscription to Canadian Mennonite. The biweekly magazine is delivered by mail and email. Subscriptions are paid through MC Sask "every home plan rate" paid by North Star. If you wish to continue receiving the Canadian Mennonite please pay \$20.00 to North Star by **December 15** and mark it "for Canadian Mennonite". If you do not wish to receive it any longer please email the office so we can take your name off the list. To start a new subscription or to change your delivery preferences (to receive print, digital or both), please email the office by **December 15**.
- Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) Canada is calling for volunteers to help with cleaning out homes in Princeton, B.C. following the catastrophic flood. Around 20 volunteers are needed by **December 6** to help people in that community clean out their flooded homes. Contact Kelsey Friesen at 204-261-1274, 1-866-261-1274, or kfriesen@mds.org for more information. Volunteers should be 16 years of age and older, and must be fully vaccinated. Accommodation and food will be provided.
- Please consider volunteering your time to serve on sound, visuals, camera, as well as worship leader, song leader, pianist, etc. We need to have more volunteers trained for these positions. Contact Pastor Dan or the office if you want more information.

BEYOND NORTH STAR:

Monday, December 6-Friday, December 31

Bakeless Bake Sale Fundraiser sponsored by Lanigan Hospital Lodge Auxiliary. See posters for details.

Wednesday, December 15

7:00 p.m. – Join us as we celebrate the Christmas season! Music and performances by RJC students and staff. Livestream for those who wish to enjoy the program at home can be found at rjc.sk.ca. Saskatchewan public health orders will be followed at this event.

MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

MC Sask Connects: Advent tidings! As MC Sask, we have seen many new and remarkable things this year as our congregations, camps, and schools have gone above and beyond during this unusual season. New technologies have been learned, and heroic efforts have been made to keep us connected with one another, and with the Peace of Christ. As we continue to support and uphold this good work, we invite you to consider MC Sask in your year-end giving. Visit www.mcsask.ca/donations. **

CMU Connects: Christmas at CMU. Join us Sat., Dec.11 at 7:00 PM (CST) from the comfort of your home for this year's Christmas at CMU program. With Christmas favourites performed by a variety of CMU's music ensembles, this is our gift of glad tidings and joy to you! Watch the video premiere, or anytime later at cmu.ca/christmas.