

NORTH STAR MENNONITE CHURCH

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Pastor: Lisa Martens Bartel Phone:(306) 360-7867
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Pastoral office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 1:00-4:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, December 31, 2023

There will be NO morning worship at North Star. Joint service with PLCF beginning at 3:00 p.m. followed by potluck, games and sharing.

LAST SUNDAY December 24, 2023

Offering – Budget \$1080.00 Non-Budget \$1950.00 Attendance –
Christmas Eve – Offering \$2024.00 Attendance – 60

NEXT SUNDAY January 7, 2024

Meditation – Worship Leader – Peter Nicholson

THIS WEEK AT NORTH STAR:

Thursday, January 4

2:30 p.m. – North Star service at Lanigan Lodge. Everyone welcome.

COMING EVENTS AT NORTH STAR:

Monday, January 15

7:30 p.m. – Council of Boards meeting.

Monday, January 22

7:30 p.m. – NSMC Annual Meeting. **Please have reports handed in or emailed to the office by January 10.** There are a number of positions open so please consider volunteering your time to serve on these positions as well as for sound, visuals, camera, worship leader, song leader, accompanist, etc. We need to have more volunteers trained for these positions. Contact the office if you want more information.

Friday, March 8 & Saturday, March 9

MC Sask Annual Delegate Session to be held at North Star.

NORTH STAR NOTES:

- If you are interested in being on a planning committee for the MC Sask Annual Delegate Session March 8 & 9, 2024, please contact the office **ASAP.**

BEYOND NORTH STAR:

Friday, January 19-Sunday, January 21

Mega Menno Winter Retreat at Shekinah, partnering with RJC High School and Mennonite Church Alberta. See poster.

MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

MC Sask Connects: This Season of Giving, we thank you for your generous donations to the work of MC Sask locally, nationwide and internationally. December 31 is your last day to donate for the 2023 tax season. Donate at <https://mcsask.ca/giving>

Prayer Requests from the Shekinah Board of Directors:

- We give thanks that \$18 000 has already been donated to meet our \$40 000 CEBA loan payment. Meeting this loan commitment by mid-January greatly reduces our future financing costs. We have been promised another donation of \$10 000 if we are able to raise the remaining \$12 000.
- We ask for your continued prayers as we continue to search for a permanent Executive Director. We are thankful that Amy Peters will continue as interim director until the end of January. Audrey Kampen will take on the interim role at that time.

The Youth Farm Bible Camp is inviting you to a Drive Through event this Christmas season. Lights, hand painted billboards, Bethlehem town, and much more. Check online for hours. Purchase tickets at the gate or online at www.youthfarmcornmaze.com. (\$22 online or \$25 at the gate)

MC Canada Connects: Praise God for volunteers like Byung Yoo Choi in Chuncheon, South Korea, that not only uses his own time to help with restorative circle processes in schools and communities but has opened his church building for training new facilitators. Pray that Witness worker, Bock Ki Kim, will find strength and joy as he works at training much needed facilitators this week.

All of the Protestant churches in Burkina Faso were asked to contribute "war effort money" to their government. As a Peace church, the Mennonite churches could not accept this, so they sent two church leaders to explore other options which didn't support military efforts. The Mennonite churches were given permission to contribute their portion of funds to work with the displaced and traumatized people in the country. Thank you for your prayers for the Mennonite Church in Burkina Faso, as they continue to be a courageous witness of Christ's way of peace.

MCC Connects: MCC is currently accepting applications for the 2024-2025 SALT program. See poster on bulletin board for more information.

CMU Connects: The 2024 John and Margaret Friesen Lecture Series begins Thursday, January 18. Titled "Revisiting the Mennonite Experience in Ukraine," the two presentations will feature Dr. Nataliya Venger, Professor of History and Chair of the World History Department at the Dnipropetrovsk University of Ukraine. Visit cmu.ca/friesenlectures for more information.