

## **NORTH STAR MENNONITE CHURCH**

204 Francis Street, Drake, SK S0K 1H0

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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 24, 2023

Offering – Budget \$1080.00 Non-Budget \$1950.00 Attendance – 30

Christmas Eve – Offering \$2024.00 Attendance – 60

LAST SUNDAY, December 31, 2023

There was NO morning worship at North Star.

NEXT SUNDAY January 14, 2024

Meditation – Lisa Martens Bartel

Worship Leader – Irene Bartel

**TODAY:** 3:00 p.m. – Forest church at Shekinah. Enjoy the beauty of the winter season and the warmth of good conversation around the fire. All are welcome.

### **THIS WEEK AT NORTH STAR:**

Lisa's office hours *this week* will be Tuesday and Thursday 1:00-4:00 p.m.

### **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, January 27 & Saturday, January 28

CMU Portable with David Balzer at North Star.

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.

- Loaded and ready to go! The relief kits, like the one your church helped fill as part of MCC's Buckets of Thanks project, are now tucked away in their cozy container and will soon arrive at the shipping port in Montreal. I hope you and your congregation are as excited as I am that the kits are on the move. With each step, they get closer and closer to changing lives in Ukraine. More updates to come! With thanks, Mackenzie Schwarz, Stewardship Coordinator, MCC Canada

### **BEYOND NORTH STAR:**

Friday, January 19-Sunday, January 21

2024 MC Sask Youth Retreat at Shekinah Retreat Centre. Join us for a weekend of worship, community- building, and fun! This year we are really looking forward to hearing from speaker Mackenzie Hildebrand, Shekinah Program Director. Our retreat band (Zac Schellenberg and Clay Buhler) will once again be present, and this year we are also partnering with Mennonite Church Alberta and RJC High School to make this year's retreat even more memorable! Details at <https://mcsask.ca/event/11598>. See poster.

### **MINUTE FOR MISSIONS**

**MC Sask Connects:** The MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions will be on March 8 & 9 at North Star Menn. Church in Drake, SK. We will be exploring the theme of Rekindling Relationship. Details available soon!

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.

**MC Canada Connects:** Praise God for volunteers like Byung Yoo Choi in Chuncheon, S. Korea, that not only uses his own time to help with restorative circle processes in schools and communities but has opened his church for training new facilitators.

All of the Protestant churches in Burkina Faso were asked to contribute "war effort money" to their government. As a Peace church, the Menn. churches could not accept this, so they sent two church leaders to explore other options which didn't support military efforts. The Menn. 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, "Revisiting the Mennonite Experience in Ukraine," featuring Dr. Nataliya Venger, Professor of History and Chair of the World History Department at the Dnipropetrovsk University of Ukraine, takes place on Thursday, January 18 at 11 AM and 7 PM CST. Visit [cmu.ca/friesenlectures](http://cmu.ca/friesenlectures) for more information and lecture locations.

CommonWord virtual book launch of Rudy Wiebe: *Essays on His Works* – Join us via livestream on Thursday, January 25 at 7:30 PM CST for a panel discussion with editor Bianca Lakoseljac and contributors Margaret Atwood, Paul Doerksen, and others about the literary influence of Rudy Wiebe. Visit [commonword.ca/go/3730](http://commonword.ca/go/3730) for livestream link.

CommonWord virtual book launch of *Unburdened: A Lenton Journey Towards Forgiveness* – Join us on Zoom on Thursday, February 1 at 7:30 PM CST for a conversation with author Carol Penner as she prepares us for Lent and a journey of forgiveness and healing. Visit [commonword.ca/go/3610](http://commonword.ca/go/3610) to register for the Zoom link.

#### FOR PASTORS AND CHURCH LEADERS

renew 2024 – Registration is now open for CMU's annual pastor and church leader conference addressing the topic "Leading with Hope in Anxious Times." Four keynote speakers with diverse ministry leadership experience will offer biblically grounded theological perspectives on hope. In person at CMU and online February 5–6. Visit [cmu.ca/renew](http://cmu.ca/renew) for more information.

## **NORTH STAR MENNONITE CHURCH**

Sunday, January 7, 2024

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

***How will we know ... what we know?***

Welcome and Announcements

*He came down* STJ #31

Call to worship

**Leader:** Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

**People:** Lift up your eyes and look around; they gather and come to you.

**Women:** You shall see and be radiant;

**Men:** your heart shall thrill and rejoice and proclaim the praise of the Lord.

**Leader:** The mystery of Christ has been revealed by the Spirit. We have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise of Christ through the gospel.

**People:** We know this through faith in Christ. May our lights shine!

**All: Together we carry the light.**

Opening Prayer

*Helpless and hungry* STS #26

Offering

*As with gladness men of old* HWB #218

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

*Away in a Manger* (verse 1) (Sunday School for ages 3-12)

Meditation: "Following the Star"

*Beautiful star of Bethlehem*

Congregational prayer

*This little light of mine* HWB #401

Benediction

Meditation – Lisa Martens Bartel

Song Leader – Leona Ewert

Sound – Kyle Toporchak

Ushers – Myrven Kline, Amy Wildeman

Worship Leader – Peter Nicholson

Pianist – Heather Kroeker

Visuals – Friesen Family