

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 winter hours: Tuesday afternoons (1-5) and Thursdays (10-5)

LAST SUNDAY (Second Advent) December 8, 2024

Church cancelled due to weather. Finances good for yearend - Treasurer

NEXT SUNDAY (Fourth Advent) December 22, 2024

Meditation – Lisa Martens Bartel/Donna Friesen

Worship Leader – Floyd Bartel

THIS WEEK AT NORTH STAR:

Tuesday, December 17

1:30 p.m. – Koinonia meets in the church basement.

All Seniors are invited to a Christmas Tea in the church basement on Tuesday, December 17 at 3:00 p.m. Come for socializing, tea and treats.

COMING EVENTS AT NORTH STAR

Sunday, December 22

10:00 a.m. – Christmas Communion service as part of our Sunday worship.

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve service at North Star.

Sunday, December 29

10:00 a.m. – Brunch Potluck. Please check sign-up sheet in the Educ. Wing.

NORTH STAR NOTES:

- Our sympathy is extended to Nancy Quennell and family and also to the many friends of Ron Quennell who passed away last Thursday, December 5. A Celebration of Life Service will be held in Simpson Cemetery at a later date.
- Christmas Cards - outside the offices you will find Christmas cards laid out for seniors 85+ years. Please take a card or two and drop it off with a smile and a visit. Thank you for caring and supporting each other in our church community.

- The Community Gift & Thrift is hiring a Volunteer Coordinator. We are looking for the right person who wants to connect with and support our volunteers at the thrift shop. This position acts as a support to the shop by recruiting, training and supporting volunteers, as well as other tasks around the shop. The position is permanent part time (3 days/week). For more information or to apply please visit <https://mccglobal.my.site.com/MCCJobs/s/vacancy-details?vacancyId=a2SIV000000DCUn2AO>
Link: VC Lanigan post

BEYOND NORTH STAR:

Monday, November 18-Wednesday, December 18

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

Monday, December 16

7:00 p.m. – Knox United Church Blue Christmas Service. Everyone welcome.

Thursday, December 19

7:00 p.m. – RJC Christmas Concert in the RJC Auditorium. Admission by donation. Everyone is welcome to attend!

MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

MC Sask Connects: MC Sask announced today that Josh Wallace has officially resigned from his position as Church Engagement Minister, effective December 31, 2024. In Josh's nearly five years serving MC Sask, the regional church has walked through periods of change and challenge. "I've been honoured to walk alongside so many of our congregations. Thank you for welcoming me into your lives and worship. I feel blessed to get to see God's Spirit at work in you and through you, and I look forward to continuing to serve the regional church in a volunteer capacity." MC Sask is grateful for the wisdom and thoughtful leadership Josh brought to his work, and the ways he was present with congregations and also engaged in the broader church. We wish him well in this next season of life.

We come into Advent anticipating the celebration of Jesus' birth, the time when God broke into our world. This happens in many ways in our day too. Throughout Mennonite Church Saskatchewan we see evidence of this in the lives of our congregations, camps, schools, and so many other places. Thank you for continuing to support our work together as we seek to live out God's calling for us as a church. Please consider MC Sask in your year-end giving. Visit <https://mcsask.ca/giving> (new)

RJC announces the addition of Grade 9 for the 2025/2026 school year! For more information see notice on Educ. Wing bulletin board or visit our website at rjc.sk.ca, or contact the school to speak with our President, Ryan Wood, our Principal, David Epp, or our Admissions Director, Alex Tiessen. To learn more about the Grade 9 GROW program visit rjc.sk.ca/grow. To experience firsthand what RJC has to offer, join us at our Open House on **January 17, 2025**.

Save the date! The MC Sask Gathering 2025 (annual delegate sessions) will be held at RJC High School on **March 7 & 8, 2025**. The theme is "Differences for the Common Good". All welcome to attend. More details available soon!

As Katharine Hayhoe reminds us in her book *Saving Us*, the single most effective strategy in addressing climate change is to talk about it. Val Regier of Mount Royal Mennonite Church in Saskatoon tells about a group that meets regularly to have that intentional conversation. You can read her story at <https://mcsask.ca/Climate-action-group-at-MRMC>

MC Canada Connects: "Bethlehem Then and Now" available for Advent. This series of six short meditations connects the biblical Christmas stories with the contemporary situation in Palestine, including Israel's war on Gaza--a timely reminder that God comes to us in the struggles of human history and personal experience. The seven-page resource can be used for personal reflection and church worship times, or as a seasonal handout in your congregation. It is available as a free download from The Mennonite Church Canada Palestine-Israel Network at www.mennonitechurch.ca/article/45062

MCC Connects: Mail delivery this Christmas has been impacted by the postal strike, and we are concerned what that might mean for families caught in conflict around the world. These delays can affect the critical support MCC provides – like portable heaters for families displaced by war and facing freezing temperatures. Please consider alternative ways to give: donate online at mcc.org; call us at 306-665-2555; drop off a cheque at your nearest MCC Thrift Shop prior to holiday hours or visit us at 600 45th Street West in Saskatoon. Thank you for everything you've already done to help people in crisis. Your support is needed and deeply appreciated.

Warm up for the winter and help support MCC's relief, development and peace work by participating in our quilt sale- now at 50% off! Each of these beautiful quilts have been sewn by generous donors and you can explore the collection of quilts at this link: <http://www.mccskquiltsale.com>

Consider giving the gifts of comfort and joy this Christmas season. You can help meet the basic needs of people around the world by choosing from unique gifts such as goats, gardens, wells, and more. Visit MCC's Christmas Giving page to learn more: <https://mcc.org/christmas>

NORTH STAR MENNONITE CHURCH
Sunday, December 15, 2024
Advent 3 Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Together on the Journey

Welcome and Announcements

Summoned by the God Who Made Us VT #1

Call to Worship (based on Isaiah 61:1)

Leader: Merciful One: you anoint us for justice, you call us to you.

People: Your Spirit is poured out upon us.

Leader: Yours is the way of release and restoration.

People: May your love flow through us to heal the brokenhearted.

May we declare your good news to bring hope to the poor.

Leader: You anoint us; we are yours.

People: We delight and rejoice in you.

Prayer

Advent 2 Candle lighting

Response: **All: Give us eyes to notice those on the fringes and arms to extend our boundaries, inviting all to become woven into our communities.**

Bless'd be the God of Israel

HWB #174

Offertory Prayer/Offering

Hark! the glad sound

HWB #184

Away in a manger (Sunday School for ages 3-12)

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1–11; Luke 4:16–21

Meditation: "Anointing for Justice: Who Belongs?"

Here I am, Lord

HWB #395

Congregational Prayer

Arise, your light is come!

STS #30

Benediction

Meditation – Dan Graber

Worship Leader – Donna Friesen

Song Leader – John Bartel

Pianist – Heather Kroeker

Sound – Ben Martens Bartel

Visuals – Jacob Martens Bartel

Ushers – Carolyn Bartel, Ben Martens Bartel