

Salina Mennonite Church

Salina Mennonite Church is a Christian community seeking to share God's love through celebration, nurture, service, and peacemaking.

Greeter: Vera Zerger

Worship Leader: Tom Claassen

Storyteller: Sherry Krehbiel

Speaker: Christina Litwiller

Music: Lori Schmidt

April 1, 2018

Easter

Nothing Between Us

*God's promise and God's love have broken the barriers;
there is nothing between us!*

Gathering

Gathering Song

Lift your glad voices

Hymnal 275

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Candle

We light this candle to remind us of God's presence with us.

Prelude

Christ the Lord is risen today

arr. Cindy Berry

Call to worship

Leader: To all who weep, and to all who smile, whether with joy or sorrow, welcome. Welcome home to this house of God. Welcome in the embrace of Christ. Hear and believe the good news, for he is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Leader: Praise the Lord, our Jesus lives!

People: Yes, praise the Lord! We will worship God together.

Hymn

Christ the Lord is risen today

Hymnal 280

Passing the Peace/Greeting Each Other

Hearing God's Word

Storytelling

Song

For Me, For You

Scripture

John 20:1-18

Pew Bible 882

Hymn

Thine is the glory

Hymnal 269

Sermon

Nothing between Us

Song

Between Me and You

Confessing/Reconciling

Prayer of confession

L: God of life, in you, death has no power.

Because of you, this life is not our final end.

Thank you.

It feels good to celebrate new life, yours and ours.

It's spring.

We long to throw off the heavy blankets of winter and bask in the sun.

We confess that, just as some folks would like to skip winter,

there are times when we want to skip the whole crucifixion story and jump straight to the resurrection.

And yet there are other times when death feels more real than life.

When we see an empty tomb,

it is easy to despair, and it seems futile to hope.

We hear stories of people who claim to have seen you alive;

we want to believe, but struggle.

**P: Forgive us for not recognizing you,
for doubting our fellow believers,
and for trying to hold you back.**

(Silence)

Words of assurance

L: The Lord is my strength and my might;

he has become my salvation.

Responding

Sharing the Table

Anyone who desires to follow God's ways is invited to participate in communion. On Communion Sunday we have the opportunity to contribute to the Special Needs Fund. Include your donation in your offering check or place it in the basket.

Words of Invitation and Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Hymn

Low in the grave he lay

Hymnal 273

Sharing Our Lives/Congregational Prayer

My Coins Count Collection

Offering

Up from the Grave He Arose

arr. Wallace Hornibrook

Offering Response

Praise God from whom

Hymnal 119A

Sending

Hymn

Christ is alive

Sing the Story 89

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Churchwide Prayer Requests

Pray that congregations across WDC may embody the living presence of Christ in their communities, on this Easter Sunday and throughout the year.

On this Easter Sunday, meditate on the words of Clarence Jordan, co-founder of Koinonia Farm in Georgia (a Mennonite Mission Network SOOP placement): “The good news of the resurrection is not [only] that we shall die and go home to be with [Jesus], but that he has risen and comes home with us, bringing all his hungry, naked, thirsty, sick prisoner brothers [and sisters] with him.”

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia: Pray for the Zehr Institute as they embark on a series of webinars this month and seek to transform a culture of sexual harm through restorative justice.

The Gathering Live, the annual gathering of youth ministry leaders in Mennonite Church USA, will take place on May 4-6, 2018, in Kansas City with the theme "Encountering God." Sessions will be based on Kenda Creasy Dean's *Almost Christian*, emphasizing the importance of experiencing God for growth in genuine faith. Pray for this event's planners and participants.

Journey International: Pray for Quinn Kathrineberg, Karina Brandt, and Shannon Schrock as they live and work in Ecuador. Read Quinn's blog at <https://quinnkberg.wixsite.com/quinninquito>.

NEXT SUNDAY, April 8, 2018

9:00 a.m. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Basement – Study the Bible together – everyone welcome

- All Glory and Honor
- *The Risen Lord Appears* – John 21:1-14

10:00 a.m. WORSHIP

Greeter: Lynn Newcomer

Piano: Lori Schmidt

Our April 18 worship service will be similar to our Christmas Eve Service using your suggestions. We'd like to organize the order of worship so it would be helpful to have your contributions ahead of time. This is your chance to suggest a song you always wish we'd sing, tell a story, or share a poem or some other reading. Give your suggestions to Pastor Christina today.

Upcoming Events

April 3	Worship Committee	7:15 p.m.
April 4	Midweek Prayers @ Christina's	7:15 p.m.
April 13-14	50 th Annual Kansas Relief Sale	
April 15	Third Sunday Potluck	11:30 a.m.
April 21	Salina Spring Spruce Up Day	
April 26	Church Board	5:45 p.m.

Announcements

Midweek Prayers: A weekly Wednesday evening service is at 7:15 at Pastor Christina's home. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Sexualized violence and the church: Mennonite Central Committee is offering three free webinars this spring for churches who want to learn more about how to address sexualized violence within their congregation and how to encourage healthy sexuality and healthy masculinity among members. The webinars will be led by church leaders and others with expertise in the topics. All three webinars will start at 2 pm and end at 3 pm CST. The first webinar, *Healthy sexuality in our congregations* will be on April 11. Kathrine Goerzen and Benjamin Reynolds will lead the discussion focusing on what role the church can play in fostering and supporting healthy views of sexuality. May 9's webinar will focus on *Sexualized violence – how should churches respond?* *Healthy masculinity* is the focus on June 13. Learn more and register for the webinars at mcc.org/wwso.

Contact karinkaufmanwall@mcc.org with questions.

Relief Sale: The 50th annual Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale is April 13-14 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds, Hutchinson. For details go to: <http://kansas.mccsale.org/>.

Spring Spruce Up Day in Salina is April 21, 7:30-noon. Meet at the Friends of the River located on the corner of Walnut & 4th. This is an opportunity to work alongside others who care about our community. Projects include sculpture cleaning, trail clean-up, trash pick-up, rain barrel construction, and cleaning of the Salina Innovation Center.

Salina Mennonite Church

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