

# Salina Mennonite Church

November 4, 2018

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

**Greeter:** Lori Schmidt

**Storyteller:** Butch Stucky

**Speaker:** Christina Litwiller

**Piano:** Donna Burnett

## 9:00 a.m. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Upstairs fellowship room – all ages welcome

- Discuss *The Journey Forward: Pathways*
  - *Theme 4: Experience Transformation*
  - *Session 4.1: Living and Worshiping Together*

## 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP

### Journey Forward: Identity and Context

**Gathering Song**

*God is with us*

**Words of Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting the Peace Lamp**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship** (Psalm 24, NRSV)

**Leader:** The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,  
the world, and those who live in it;

**People:** **for he has founded it on the seas,  
and established it on the rivers.**

**Leader:** Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?

**People:** **Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,  
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,  
and do not swear deceitfully.**

**Leader:** They will receive blessing from the LORD,  
and vindication from the God of their salvation.

**People:** **Such is the company of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

**Hymn**

*Unto thy temple, Lord we come*

Hymnal 4

**Passing the Peace/Greeting Each Other**

**Storytelling**

**Hymn**

*The love of God*

Sing the Journey 44

**Prayer of Confession**

*In the light of your love for us all, we confess, Gracious God,  
that we have failed to fully express and extend your love to all.  
For we have all fallen short of the glory of God. In your grace  
and mercy in Jesus Christ you have created us and redeemed us  
for eternal life. We humbly ask for your forgiveness that frees us  
to be who you created us to be.*

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

God saw everything that God had made, and indeed,  
it was very good.

**Hymn**

*Jesus, the very thought of thee*

Hymnal 588

**Scripture**

*Ephesians 3:14-21*

Pew Bible 950

**Sermon**

*Who Do We Think We Are?*

**Sermon Response**

**Sharing Our Lives/Congregational Prayer**

**Offering & Prayer**

**Hymn**

*The Lord lift you up*

Sing the Journey 44

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Benediction**

## Churchwide Prayer Requests

**Give thanks for congregations** who have used WDC Mustard Seed grants to reach out to their neighbors to promote health initiatives, share food and hospitality, and welcome children!

**Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer** for Petrus and Yuliana Handoyo and their two sons who minister through educational ministries in Cambodia. May they share the good news of Jesus' love among Buddhist students through words and through modeling healthy family relationships.

**Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** We pray for high school students visiting EMU for a special overnight admissions open house. May they feel nurtured and supported in their discernment of future educational opportunities.

**Pray for those gathered for the Women Doing Theology conference** at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, Nov. 8-10, 2018.

## Renewed Commitments for MC USA

A Living Document for the Journey Forward Process<sup>1</sup>

God invites us to experience and bear witness to the belovedness of all creation. We yearn to know and share in the mystery of God's unending love.

We confess that sin fragments our wholeness and strains our relationships with God, each other and the world. Confronted with the misuses of power in our lives, communities and institutions, we seek to tell the truth and repent.

The Holy Spirit beckons us toward the restoration of all things in Christ. God continually calls us beloved. On this journey together, we commit to:

**Follow Jesus:** As an Anabaptist community of the living Word, we listen for God's call as we read Scripture together, guided by the Spirit. Through baptism we commit ourselves to live faithfully as Jesus' disciples, no matter the cost.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/JF\\_-\\_DRAFT-Document-V3.pdf](http://mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/JF_-_DRAFT-Document-V3.pdf)

**Witness to God's peace:** We are called to extend God's holistic peace, proclaiming Christ's redemption for the world with our lives. Through Christ, God frees the world from sin and offers reconciliation. We bear witness to this gift of peace by rejecting violence and resisting injustice in all forms, and in all places.

**Experience transformation:** The Holy Spirit dwells in and among us, transforming us to reflect God's love. Through worship the Spirit gathers the body of Christ, where our diversity reveals God's beauty. The Spirit empowers our communities to embody the grace, joy and peace of the gospel.

## Pathways

A study structured around the four "Renewed Commitments" themes<sup>2</sup>

### Theme 1: Identity and Context

#### Belovedness and Confession

1. How has our congregation experienced God's love?
2. How have we demonstrated God's love?
3. How have we hindered the expression of God's love?
4. How can we show God's love for us? For our community? For all of creation?

#### Sin, Truth-telling, Repentance

5. How has sin (personal or systemic) strained our congregation's relationship with God, other people, your inner self, or the created world?
6. How are we hindering people seeking Jesus?
7. How do we respond to personal sin?
8. How do we respond to systemic sin?

#### Restoration and Commitment

9. What commitments do we make as a congregation?
10. How do we follow Jesus?
11. How do we witness to God's peace?
12. How do we experience transformation?

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<sup>2</sup> <http://mennoniteusa.org/resource/pathways-study-guide/>

**NEXT SUNDAY, November 11, 2018**  
**9:00 a.m. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Upstairs fellowship room – all ages welcome

- Discuss *The Journey Forward: Pathways*
  - *Theme 4: Experience Transformation*
  - *Session 4.2: The Power of the Holy Spirit*

**10:00 a.m. WORSHIP**

**Greeter:** Lori Schmidt

**Worship Leader:** Gary Weathers      **Storyteller:** Lois Newcomer

**Speaker:** Christina Litwiller      **Piano:** Lori Schmidt

**Pastor Christina's Weekly Schedule**

**Usual Office Hours:** 9:00-12:00 Tuesday – Friday

This schedule may vary. Check first before stopping by.

Available most of the time by text, phone, or email

**Upcoming Events**

Nov. 6	Worship Committee	7:15 p.m.
Nov. 8	Circles of the Heartland Meal	5:30 p.m.
Nov. 18	Third Sunday Potluck	11:30 a.m.
Nov. 28	Church Board @ Christina's Home	5:45 p.m.
Dec. 9	Congregational Meeting	11:30 a.m.

**Announcements**

**Join the Conversation:** November worship will center on the topics we've been discussing during Christian Education this fall. Make every effort to be here as we consider our local and denominational identity and discern the mission to which God is calling us.

**Safwat Marzouk, PhD**, Associate Professor of Old Testament/ Hebrew Bible at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, will present Bible Lectures at Bethel College, North Newton, KS, Nov 4-5. On Sun., Nov 4, at 7:30 pm he will speak on "Migration in the Joseph Narrative: integration, separation and transnationality." On Monday, Nov 5, at 11 am he will present a Convocation lecture on "Ethnic Boundary Crossing as a way of Resisting Tyranny and Oppression in Exodus 1-2." Both lectures are in Krehbiel Auditorium in the Luyken Fine Arts Center.

**Circles of the Heartland Meal:** We are providing a meal at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church *this Thursday*, November 8, at 5:30 p.m. Sign up to provide food and/or serve the meal.

**The 19th Annual Dr. Temple Food Drive** to benefit the Salina Rescue Mission is at all three Dillons Stores: Friday, November 16, 2pm – 7 pm and Saturday, November 17, 10am – 3 pm.

**César García, General Secretary of Mennonite World Conference**, will visit in Kansas in November. All are welcome to meet him at a reception on Tuesday, Nov 20, at the Mennonite Church USA offices at [718 North Main Street, Newton, KS](http://718NorthMainStreetNewtonKS.com). Refreshments will be served from 9:30 - 11:30 am, and at 10:00 am. César will speak about Mennonite World Conference. Over 100 Anabaptist/Mennonite-related national churches, including Mennonite Church USA, are members or associate members of Mennonite World Conference.

**May God grant you peace that you may know no further sorrow."** Read the Open letter to Rabbi Myers, Tree of Life Congregation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from Glen Guyton, executive director of MC USA at [mennoniteusa.org/letter-rabbi](http://mennoniteusa.org/letter-rabbi).

**Looking ahead to 2019:**

- MennoCon19 (Mennonite Church USA convention) is coming up July 2-6, 2019 in Kansas City.
- The 2019 WDC Annual Assembly will be held on July 26-27 at Bethel College in North Newton, KS.

**Salina Mennonite Church**  
**Christina Litwiller, Pastor**

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