

# Salina Mennonite Church

November 25, 2018

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

**Greeter:** Leadell Ediger

**Worship Leader:** Luke Van Tassel    **Storyteller:** Annelle Claassen

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

## 9:00 a.m. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Upstairs fellowship room – all ages welcome

➤ Discuss *The Journey Forward: Pathways*

## 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP

### Journey Forward: Experience Transformation

**Gathering Song**      *We plow the fields and scatter*                      Hymnal 96

**Words of Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting the Peace Lamp**

**Prelude**      *Come Ye Thankful People, Come*    arr. Eugenie Rocherolle

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Holy Spirit, dwell among us.

**People: Holy Spirit, dwell within us.**

Leader: Holy Spirit, come as fire.

**People: Holy Spirit, come as wind.**

Leader: Holy Spirit, ignite us with passion.

**People: Holy Spirit, blow upon the embers of our hearts.**

Leader: Holy Spirit, gather us as one.

**People: Holy Spirit, send us forth into the world.**

**Hymn**      *Holy Spirit, come with power*                      Hymnal 26

**Passing the Peace/Greeting Each Other**

**Storytelling**

**Hymn**      *New earth, heavens new*                      Hymnal 299

**Prayer of Confession** (Leader)

Spirit of the Living God, we confess that we live in a world of cold rationality, computers, paper reports, order and business as usual that encroaches upon worship.

Too often worship has become so rote and routine that we can walk through it with eyes blindfolded.

We cling for dear life to our order of worship lest the Spirit of “holy disorder” enter and disrupt what we have planned for ourselves.

Come, Holy Disruptor, and break in upon us with divine surprise, rip open the veil that covers our eyes, and unsettle us with sacred joy!

**Assurance of Forgiveness** (People) (John 3:8)

**The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.**

**Hymn**      *Spirit of the living God*                      Hymnal 349

**Sermon**      *How Do We Experience Transformation?*

**Sermon Response**

**Hymn**      *Lord, you give the great commission*    Sing the Journey 63

**Sharing Our Lives/Congregational Prayer**

**Offering & Prayer**    *Give Thanks*                      arr. Fred Bock

**Hymn**      *Rain down*                      Sing the Journey 49

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Benediction**

## Churchwide Prayer Requests

**Give thanks for all the congregations of WDC**, and the unique gifts and perspectives that each one brings to our conference.

**Participants with Journey International**, a Mennonite Mission Network program, are serving in Benin and Ecuador. Pray for God's love to flow through Requiya Johnson, working with children at *La Casa Grande*, and for Maura Longenecker and Samantha Miller, working with refugees and children in Quito.

**Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Give thanks for AMBS President Sara Wenger Shenk, who plans to retire at the end of June, and for how God has used and is using her leadership gifts, strengths, experience and expertise in carrying out AMBS's mission. Pray for the Spirit's guidance in this upcoming transition.

**Pray for regional church and conference ministers** in the U.S. and Canada as they gather in Los Angeles, California for their annual meeting on Nov. 28 - Dec. 1.

## 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.

<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.

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Strengths

Weaknesses

Opportunities

Threats (Obstacles)

## Pathways

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

### Theme 3: Experience Transformation

#### Living and Worshipping Together

1. What difference does the Spirit's presence make in your life?
2. How does the spirit work in the life of our congregation?
3. How can we embody the grace, joy and peace of the gospel and share it with others in relevant ways?

#### The Power of the Holy Spirit

4. How can we participate with the Spirit to experience transformation in our journey forward?

#### Revealing God's Beauty

5. How has our congregation welcomed unity and diversity?
6. How have we hindered unity and diversity?
7. How does our congregation reveal God's beauty?

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

**NEXT SUNDAY, December 2, 2018**  
**9:00 a.m. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Bible Study – everyone welcome

- God Commands Our Love, Respect, and Obedience
- *Love and Devotion* – Deuteronomy 6:1-9

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

**Greeter:** Richard Burnett

**Worship Leader:** Mark Krehbiel      **Storyteller:** Annelle Claassen

**Speaker:** Christina Litwiller      **Piano:** Donna Burnett

**Pastor Christina's 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. 28	Church Board @ Christina's Home	5:45 p.m.
Dec. 4	Worship Committee @ Tucson's	7:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	Congregational Meeting	11:30 a.m.
Dec. 16	Third Sunday Potluck	11:30 a.m.
Dec. 23	Christmas Eve Service	7:00 p.m.

**Announcements**

**Giving Tuesday is November 27** - Western District Conference invites you to join this global giving initiative by sharing a gift with WDC. Contribute at <http://mennowdc.org> or send a check to Western District Conference, PO Box 306, North Newton, KS 67117.

**First Mennonite Church**, 1161 E. Ave A, McPherson, KS, invites you to a German Dinner & Bake Sale on Saturday Dec 1 from 5-7 pm. The dinner is by donation.

**What should we do about the asylum-seekers and their caravan?**

Join a prayer vigil and informational meeting about the Central American Caravan Sunday evening, December 2, 8-9:00 PM at Hesston College, Bontrager Worship Center in the basement of Keim Center. Join Hesston College students as they tell real stories from Mennonites working with asylum seekers, explain the “why” of the caravan, and outline ways to help our sisters and brothers. We will pray in a variety of ways.

**Agenda for December 9 Congregational Meeting:**

- Committee reports
- Approve 2019 budget
- Review committees & other assignments for 2019

**Night in the Barn:** Experience Night in the Barn, presented by Tabor Mennonite Church from 5 – 8 pm, Dec. 1 & 2 and Dec. 8 & 9. Please note the new location of Papa's Pumpkin Patch (372 E 70th, Newton - just off of K-15 between Newton and Goessel). Come and interact with the characters, animals, sights and sounds of this timeless tale. Enjoy this walking tour of the Nativity with family and friends. The suggested donation of \$5 per person includes a hot drink and snack. If you have any questions, call (620) 367-2721.

**All are invited to Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church**, Goessel, KS to hear Brass Christmas with the McPherson Community Brass Choir and the Goessel High School Elbiata Singers on December 9 at 7 pm.

**Annual MCC Christmas Soiree, Thursday, December 13. 5-7 pm**

Join us for this holiday open house to enjoy festive food and fellowship! We'll pause at 6 p.m. to hear from International Volunteer Exchange Participants share about their current work and Christmas traditions from their home countries. MCC is located at 121 E. 30<sup>th</sup> in North Newton. Call us with questions, 316.283.2720.

**Looking for a unique Christmas gift this year?** Consider buying one of the resources on our wish list in honor of your loved one! The Resource Library is excited to partner with Faith & Life Bookstore for this project. Purchase online or in the store. All items purchased will be delivered to the library and added to the collection in January.

<http://faithandlifebookstore.net/wdc-resource-library-wish-list/>

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