

Salina Mennonite Church

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

Greeter: Carolyn Funk
Worship Leader: Ted Zerger
Speaker: Christina Litwiller

Story: Leadell Ediger
Piano: Donna Burnett

March 31, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Lent

God Reaches Out with Open Arms

*When we are lost and far from God, God reaches out with open arms.
We get up and enter the feast of reconciliation.*

Gathering

Gathering Song *Gentle Shepherd, Come and Lead Us* Hymnal 352

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Candle

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

Prelude

Call to worship (based on Psalms 63 & 32)

Leader: O God, you are our God. We seek you.

People: **Our souls thirst for you
as in a dry and weary land
where there is no water.**

Leader: We confess our sin to you,
and you forgive us.

People: **We offer our prayers to you,
and you embrace us.**

All: *O God, you satisfy our souls as with a rich feast.
In the shadow of your wings, we sing for joy,
and you uphold us.*

Setting the Table

Hymn *Lord, With Devotion We Pray* Hymnal 79

Passing the Peace/Greeting Each Other

Hearing God's Word

Storytelling

Reader's Theater *based on Luke 15:11-32*

Scripture 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Pew Bible 940
Sermon *Extreme Makeover: A New Creation*

Confessing/Reconciling

Hymn *From the Depths of Sin* Hymnal 136

Preparation (Psalm 32:10-11)

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Who will trust the Lord today?

(Response and Reflection)

Prayer of Confession

Leader: We are all invited to trust the Lord today.
Let us bring ourselves to God in prayer.

All: *God of steadfast love,
we put our trust in your care for us,
When we need to find our way home,
we put our trust in you..*

Leader: When we need forgiveness,
we put our trust in you.
When our souls hunger for a new way,
we put our trust in you.

All: *In the morning and in the evening,
we will put our trust in you.*

Words of Assurance

Leader: Our generous God provides for us.

Responding

Hymn *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* Hymnal 491

Sharing Our Lives/Congregational Prayer

You are invited to share joys and concerns, reflections on today's service, as well as stories of your faith journey.

Offering/ My Coins Count Collection

Offering Response *Lord of All Good* Sing the Journey 60

Sending

Hymn *We Will Walk with God* Sing the Journey 78

The Lord's Prayer

Pray using the words "sins" and "those who sin against us."

Benediction

Churchwide Prayer Requests

From WDC: Pray for WDC members attending adaptive leadership training at Kansas Leadership Center (Wichita, KS) in 2019, as they apply this learning to a variety of different ministry contexts and leadership challenges. Pastor Christina is one of the participants.

From MMN: Today, Mennonite Mission Network's Service Adventure units from Albuquerque, New Mexico; Anchorage, Alaska; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Jackson, Mississippi; and Johnstown, Pennsylvania; are beginning a week of team-building and service with Mennonite Disaster Service in Bloomington, Texas. Pray for God's love to flow through them.

Goshen (Indiana) College: The annual Goshen College Conference on Religion and Science is taking place this weekend, with guest speaker Katharine Hayhoe. Be with all participants as they discuss faith, science and Climate Change.

From MCUSA: Pray for New York Mennonite Conference as they meet for their Spring Delegate Assembly on April 7 in Rochester, New York.

NEXT SUNDAY, April 7, 2019

9:00 a.m. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Upstairs – Book Study

- *Seek Peace & Pursue It: Women, Faith, and Family Care*

Downstairs – Bible Study

- Call to Ministry: *Summoned for Service* – Matthew 10:1-15

10:00 a.m. WORSHIP

Greeter: Richard Burnett

Worship Leader: Vera Zerger

Story: Annelle Claassen

Speaker: Christina Litwiller

Music: Donna Burnett

Upcoming Events

April 2	Worship Committee @ Zergers	7:15 p.m
April 12 & 13	Kansas Relief Sale @ Hutchinson www.kansas.mccsale.org	
April 13	Salina Spring Spruce Up	7:30 a.m.
April 18	Maundy Thursday Service	6:30 p.m.
April 21	Sunrise Service & Breakfast @ Stuckys'	7:00 a.m.
April 22	Easter Worship & Communion	10:00 a.m.

Announcements

Spring Spruce-Up: Saturday, April 13, 7:30 am to noon. Meet at the Friends of the River and have a free continental breakfast before separating to different projects. Information posted in the entryway.

From the church board: Thoughtfully and prayerfully consider how you might be involved in these upcoming activities.

- **Thursday, May 9, 5:30 pm:** Circles of the Heartland Meal
 - We make & serve supper to 50 people at 1st Presbyterian Church
- **Sunday, May 19, 7:30-9:30 am:** MCC Ride for Relief
 - We are serving breakfast pastries and coffee to 60 motorcycle riders before they travel on to South Hutchinson.
- **Saturday, June 7, 2:00-4:00 pm:** Backyard Festival
 - We are inviting community children to our backyard for fun activities and treats. We need people to plan and run activities.
- **Thursday, Aug. 8, 5:30 pm:** Circles of the Heartland Meal
- **Sunday, September 15, 5:00 pm:** Backyard Cookout
 - During our annual cookout we grill hamburgers and hot dogs. Invite the community, friends, and neighbors and help to supply the side dishes.
- **Sometime in late summer, dates and format to be determined:** Meetings to discuss our congregation's vision and mission. Preliminary work will occur earlier.
- **Saturday, October 5:** National Day of Action against Domestic Violence
 - Join a short-term committee to explore the possibility of joining with community organizations to plan and facilitate a local event in conjunction with the nationwide event. Contact Amanda Ediger by April 28 if you are interested in this.

Salina Mennonite Church

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