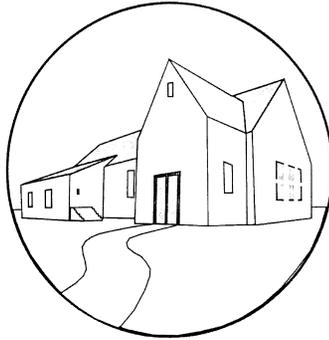


Salina Mennonite Church

A Congregation of Mennonite Church USA

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

January 10, 2021



At Home Worship

Prelude *Amazing Grace* Hymnal 143
Instrumental <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3QBHNOxzcY>

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 146)

Leader: Come let us praise our God.

**All: We will praise the Lord as long as we live.
We will sing praises to our God our whole life long.**

Leader: Do not put your trust in worldly monarchs,
in whom there is no help.

**All: Happy are those whose help is in the God of Jacob
and the God of Jesus.**

Leader: who made heaven and earth;
who keeps faith forever;

**All: who brings justice for the oppressed;
who sets the prisoners free.**

Leader: The Lord will reign forever.

All: Let us gather together to praise our God!

From *Words for Worship 2*, edited by Diane Zaerr Brenneman,
©2009 by Herald Press, Scottsdale, Pa.

Hymn *Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing* Hymnal 12
A Cappella <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcJKEk3XbB8>

Storytelling *Jesus Is Baptized* Mark 1:1-10
Saddleback Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMNO2MAMwA>
Dramatized https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVVP_ONDY1Q

Scripture *The Joyful Return of the Exiles* Jeremiah 31:1-14
NKJV <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1HTOTvGU8KQ>

Scripture *Spiritual Blessings in Christ* Ephesians 1:3-14
NKJV <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2klncaAhGnk>

Hymn *Wonderful Grace of Jesus* Hymnal 150
Virtual Choir <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BR1SzejEUEdE>

Scripture *The Word Became Flesh* John 1:1-18
NIV https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_obtcq_p0QM

Sermon *And the Logos Became Jesus of Nazareth* Dr. Eugene Bales

Hymn *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Hymnal 104
Choir <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOF9JLJkPis>
Scenic <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kK4JLP9i7U>

Name your Joys and Concerns

The Lord's Prayer

Offering *Support our budget by mailing contributions to the church.*

Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High* Hymnal 197
Contemporary <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8V7sLV2uqIs>
Virtual Choir <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1JKvM1VgXA>

Benediction

*Just as God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the power
of the Holy Spirit, so you are now anointed to do good.
God is with you; go, therefore, and be the good news of peace,
through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.*

From *Words for Worship 2*, edited by Diane Zaerr Brenneman,
©2009 by Herald Press, Scottsdale, Pa.

Postlude *Appalachian Christmas Carol* arr. John Ness Beck
Piano Solo <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQJzZKY0Fjk>

Salina Mennonite Church

Christina Litwiller, Pastor

600 State Street, Salina, KS 67401

785-825-2663

Email: salinamennonite@hotmail.com

Website: www.salinamennonite.org

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.

“Sunday School” Options

For Children – *Jesus Brings Good News*

- Stories during Sunday morning worship
- Story Bibles to read and activities to do at home

For Adults

- Fellowship – On hiatus until further notice
- Bible Study – *In God's Image*
 - 7:00 pm Wednesdays at Zergers'
 - Contact Tom Claassen for information
- Book Study – On hiatus until further notice

Upcoming Events

Jan 17	Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship	10:00 am
Jan 19	Church Board	7:00 pm
Feb 3	Worship Committee via Zoom	5:45 pm

Worship Totals

2021	Attendance	Unified Budget	Other	Total
1/3	Zoom 12 Church 23 Total 35	\$25.00		\$25.00

Local Announcements

The Salina Souperbowl of Hope: We are collecting donations for the annual Souperbowl of Hope from now until February 7. This year's goal is 55,000 cans of soup to be distributed between the Salina Food Bank, Salvation Army, Rescue Mission, Ashby House, and DVACK. \$25 will buy 60 cans of soup.

COVID Restrictions: We are following Saline County's Public Health Order issued November 20. The number of people inside the church building is limited to 15 people. Join worship by Zoom if it works well for you to do so. Masks are required unless you are in the building by yourself. People gathered outside will maintain social distancing and wear masks.

Conferencewide Announcements

Western District Conference: Pray that WDC will receive generous contributions to help meet goals for the fiscal year ending in January, and give thanks for the many ways congregations and donors support the ministry of the conference.

Everence to hold Medicare webinar: Tuesday, Jan. 19: Everence will host its popular workshop, *Make Medicare an easy step*, as a webinar on Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 6:30 p.m. Attendees will learn about the various Medicare plans and what they cover; plans that supplement Medicare; and enrollment details and deadlines. This webinar is free. Please register by contacting our office at 877-467-7294, 316-283-3800 or central.kansas@everence.com.

Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale: The date for the 2021 KMRS has been postponed from April to July 2&3. The Relief Sale Board is hoping and praying that COVID-19 will be under control by July so we can hold the MCC Sale this year.

Churchwide Announcements

MCC Webinars on Service Opportunities: Are you ready to step out and into service? To spend a year serving abroad or the summer serving your church or a local community organization? Check out the webinars happening this winter that will introduce these MCC service opportunities to you! Learn more at mcc.org/mcc-me-webinar-series-service-opportunities.

Mennonite Mission Network: Mary Raber of MMN has not been able to return to Odessa Theological Seminary in Ukraine because of COVID-19 restrictions. Pray for her as she continues her translation and editing work from the United States.

MC USA: Join Mennonites across Mennonite Church USA in a “Common Read,” a shared reading experience focused on specific books written to nurture Christian faith in this cultural moment. The featured book for January is "I Am Not Your Enemy: Stories to Transform a Divided World" by Michael T. McRay. Learn more here: <https://heraldpress.com/books/i-am-not-your-enemy>

MennoCon21: Save the date for MennoCon21, the biennial gathering of Mennonite Church USA, July 6-10, in Cincinnati, Ohio. To learn more, including what a hybrid convention might look like, visit <https://convention.mennoniteusa.org/>

To congregations in Western District Conference (Sent 1/7/2021)

Heidi Regier Kreider, Conference Minister, WDC

Yesterday our nation was shocked and horrified as a mob incited by President Trump breached the Capitol building to disrupt election certification by the U.S. congress. The ensuing chaos and violence exposed once again the destructive narratives, white supremacy and bitter divisions that grip the nation.

In the face of these events I call on our congregations, as communities of faith and followers of Jesus, to proclaim an alternative vision.

Let us lament the fears and falsehoods that lead to violence.

Let us pray for victims of systemic oppression and racism, for perpetrators of violence and hatred, and for national and community leaders during this difficult time.

Let us confess our own anger and anxiety, and our own complicity in the sins which we deplore.

Let us draw on God's mercy and strength, to discern what new things God is doing in the world, and to participate in God's work of shalom in the world.

As we join together in this calling, I encourage congregations to participate in the #BringThePeace initiative, Mennonite Church USA's call to action for individuals and congregations to extend peace in our communities. We are called to extend God's holistic peace, proclaiming Christ's redemption for the world with our lives. For more information, see

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/bring-the-peace/>.

See also the response from Glen Guyton, Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA at <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/glens-blog/attack-on-capitol/>

May God grant us wisdom, courage and hope in these days,

Response to the Attack on U.S. Capitol, (Posted 1/7/21)

Glen Guyton, executive director of Mennonite Church USA

Ephesians 2:14-16 The Inclusive Bible

For Christ is our peace; who made both groups into one and has broken the barrier of hostility that kept us apart. In his own flesh, Christ has abolished the law, with its commands and ordinances, in order to make the two into one new person, thus establishing peace, and reconciling us all to God in one body through the cross, which put to death enmity between us.

Philippians 3:20 The Inclusive Bible

But we have our citizenship in heaven; it's from there that we eagerly await the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ

In 2016, as our church prepared for the national convention in Orlando, 49 people from the LGBTQ community were killed, and 53 were wounded in the Pulse nightclub shooting. MC USA staff responded with a letter of sympathy. We received mixed reactions to the shootings. There were divided cries from the members of MC USA, some for compassion and some cries that the deaths were deserved.

In 2020, our nation erupted in violence because of continued murders of Black people by those in power. When MC USA proclaimed that the lives of Black people mattered, some cheered and some jeered. The church, like much of society, was divided – so much so that an expression of love and compassion was debatable. It is only through God's love for all of humanity that peace is possible. The divisions within our own church have demonstrated how we have failed to love one another and be a peace witness to the God that loves us all.

At the start of 2021, we saw violence erupt at our nation's capital as protestors stormed the Capitol Building. We are not used to this as Americans. We take pride in our democracy, especially as demonstrated through the peaceful transfer of power. We tend to think violence like this happens in other nations, not here. But today,

the privilege and moral authority of the United States has been diminished.

I admire the early Anabaptists who resisted wrapping themselves in the cloak of nationalism, but who wrapped themselves in the living Word of God. We are reminded today that true peace cannot be found at men's feet, but it can only be found at the foot of the cross.

I want to caution us. There is a danger in thinking that what we saw on Capitol Hill today is a problem that others have. The broader Evangelical community wrapped themselves in the flag of God and country, blindly worshipping political icons. This worldly movement has even spilled over to our Anabaptist communities. The reality is the polarization and division around political ideologies cuts through MC USA congregations and conferences as well. We have, indeed, done violence to one another by using partisan political positions as a litmus test for Christian faithfulness. We must repent if we want to live fully into our calling as peacemakers.

Today, like many other days, is a time for MC USA to live into its witness as a peace church.

Today is a time for us to remember that our citizenship and identity in Christ supersedes our political and national identity. Today is a time for us not only to pray for peace but to be agents of peace. We must disengage from destructive rhetoric and political ideologies and preach the new humanity that is obtained via our union to the risen savior. God is in control, and God is bigger than our fears, our biases and self-righteousness. Please take the time to stop and pray with your friends and family members today. Let us overtly love our neighbor and move beyond differences that divide us as a nation and a church.

**Dear God, Grant us your peace this day.
Help us to be effective instruments of your peace as we live out
our call.**

**Help us to love our neighbor and trust in your transforming
power.**

**Grant us wisdom in conversations. Let us appreciate each and
every one of your creations.**

**Watch over us and protect us in this time of uncertainty.
In Jesus' name, Amen**