



## 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.*

**August 15, 2021**  
**Seeking Justice Together**

### Esther Saves Her People

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#### Welcome

#### Prelude

*Be at Rest*

Voices Together 532  
based on Psalm 35

#### Call to Worship

Leader: Let them constantly say, "The Lord is great and wants God's servant to be at peace."

***ALL: The Lord is great!***

Leader: Let all who celebrate misfortune be disgraced and put to shame!

Let those who exalt themselves over others be dressed up in shame and dishonor!

***ALL: The Lord is great!***

Leader: But let those who want things to be set right shout for joy and celebrate!

***ALL: The Lord is great!***

Leader: Then our tongues will talk all about your righteousness;

they will talk about your praise all day long.

***ALL: The Lord is great! Let us worship our God.***

#### Hymn

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

Voices Together 98

A Cappella

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NacT-XxQcp0>

#### Prayer

God of Justice, sometimes we need to be rescued  
when we are faced with things that are too hard to handle.

Sometimes you call us to be the rescuers,  
and speak up on behalf of those facing unfair situations.

Either way, our help is in you.

As we worship you today, may the words from our mouths and the meditations of our hearts  
be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

#### Readers Theater

*Esther 2-8*

Pew Bible 386

Crossroads Kids

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXp41Npw\\_Uw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXp41Npw_Uw)

The Bible Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JydNSlufRIs>

#### Storytelling

*Good News*

#### Hymn

*Longing for Light*

Voices Together 715

Congregation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kt3Qc04ulOM>

#### Sermon

*For Such a Time as This*

#### Hymn

*O God in Heaven*

Voices Together 720

Congregation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8vCMCRukVY>

#### Show and Tell/Joys and Concerns

#### Congregational Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

#### Announcements

#### Hymn

*Lead Me, Guide Me*

Voices Together 601

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTJJsI0K1T0>

#### Benediction

Go from here, transformed by the love of God,  
standing firm for what is right and using your power for good.

#### Postlude

*Jesus, Hold My Hand*

Albert E. Brumley

Bluegrass

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cou4XSYHBoQ>

## Pastor Christina's Office Hours

Out of the office this week, August 16-21. Available most of the time by text, phone, or email

### Christian Education

For Children – *Seeking Justice Together*

- Stories during Sunday morning worship; Activities to do at home

For Adults

- Bible Study – *Facing Life's Challenges* – 7:00 pm Wednesday at Zergers'
- Informal Discussion – *Seeking Justice Together* – 9:00 am Sunday in the fellowship room

### Upcoming Events

Thursday	Aug. 19	Church Board @ Zergers'	7:00 pm
Sunday	Aug. 22	Worship	10:00 am
Sunday	Aug. 29	Congregational Meeting	11:15 am
Wednesday	Sept. 1	Worship Committee @ Newcomers'	7:00 pm

### Worship Totals

2021	Attendance	Unified Budget	Other	Total
8/8	Zoom 12 In-Person 22 Total 34	Rent \$200.00 \$2,405.00		\$2,605.00

### Local Announcements

**Congregation Meeting follows worship on Sunday, August 29.** The agenda includes activity reports, affirmation of the welcome statement, and an update on building renovation projects.

#### School Supplies Needed:

- **Blessing Box:** paper, spiral notebooks, erasers, Ticonderoga pencils
- **Cottonwood School:** Expo markers, children's masks, snacks
- **MCC School Kits: (Please bring your items to church by the end of August. You may choose to donate money and let someone else do the shopping for you.)**
  - 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
  - 8 new unsharpened pencils
  - 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
  - 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
  - 1 large eraser
  - 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
  - 1 small **all metal** pencil sharpener, one or two holes. (We have 48 of these already.)

**Backyard Festival Is Postponed:** We received word this week that our new sanctuary seating will arrive sometime during September 13-24. We expect to be busy with sanctuary renovations during the month of September. The backyard festival is postponed until later in the fall or sometime next spring.

### Conferencewide Announcements & Prayer Requests

**Western District Conference:** As a new school year begins, pray for health and strength for all students, teachers and mentors in WDC congregations.

**[MCC Treats & Beats, August 26 from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. at MCC in North Newton!](#)** Join us for this relaxed come-and-go event featuring ice cream treats from Salted Creamery and beats from the talented Kevin Gaeddert! Drop in, grab some ice cream and enjoy a little music as our thank you for your support of the work of MCC!

**Women's Retreat:** All women 13 years and older are invited to the annual Women's Retreat being held Saturday, September 11 through Sunday, September 12 at Camp Mennoscah near Murdock, KS. Kathy Neufeld Dunn will be our main speaker on Re/Connecting with God and Each Other. Whether we need time to reconnect with God, with our sisters in Christ or both, Women's Retreat is a chance to do that. Join us for a special time of focus on spiritual and emotional connection with each other and the One who loves us and cares for us beyond imagining. Click here for more information and registration forms: [Women's Retreat 2021 | Western District Conference \(mennowdc.org\)](https://www.mennoniteusa.org/women-retreat-2021) Covid rules and restrictions will be followed, and a few things will look different so please read the information carefully.

**New curriculum now available from MCC!** Conflict is a normal part of life. It arises in our workplaces, in our churches and with our families. To help people to learn to work through divisive issues, MCC has produced a new adult Sunday school curriculum, [Peaceful Practices: A guide to healthy communication in conflict](https://www.mennoniteusa.org/peaceful-practices). It invites churchgoers to follow Jesus' call to peacemaking through dialogue with each other in nine sessions. The curriculum is available to download for free, or in print for a suggested \$5 donation.

## Churchwide Announcements & Prayer Requests

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Laura Schlabach, of MMN, has had a steep learning curve during the past year in the JCS International office, as she learned new administrative skills for responding to the crises caused by COVID-19 in Mongolia. She requests prayer to improve her communication skills, especially in the Mongolian language.

**Mennonite Church USA:** A new video from Mennonite Church USA shows how the Justice Fund is supporting peace and justice work across the denomination through mutual aid. See how Justice Fund grants are helping congregations dismantle racism, uplift the oppressed and promote peace: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/justice-fund-video>.

**#BringThePeace:** Mennonite Church USA awarded its first ever #BringThePeace award to Dona Park and Michelle Armster. This award honors peacebuilders and is sponsored by the Church Peace Tax Fund. Read more about the recipients and watch a short video about the award here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/bringthepeace-honorees>

**#BeTransformed:** Iris de León-Hartshorn, associate executive director of Mennonite Church USA, shares her reflection on this biennium's theme — Be Transformed — in her blog "Transforming as becoming." Read how she views transformation as a continual movement here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/transforming-as-becoming>.

**Menno Snapshots:** Regina Shands Stoltzfus was one of the women responsible for putting Mennonite Church USA's "Laboring Toward Wholeness" anti-patriarchy curriculum together. In her blog, she describes what it was like to be part of this team and why she thinks the curriculum is important. Read more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/working-on-ltw>.

**Menno Snapshots:** In his blog, "The Bible and Christian nationalism," Drew Strait discusses how to identify Christian nationalism and some of its root causes. He also provides four ways to begin moving past it. Read more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/bible-christian-nationalism>.

**Mennonite World Conference:** The death toll has risen to the highest level in Burma's Kalemmyo, which is suffering from the third wave of covid. Pray for Myanmar which is suffering a severe third wave of COVID-19 amid continuing political unrest after a government coup several months ago. A pastor reports 63 Christian pastors have died in Kalemmyo including two from the small national Mennonite church. There is a severe oxygen shortage. "People are suffering because of the civil war and dying of COVID," writes the pastor, whose name is withheld for safety reasons.