



*From Exceptionalism  
to Inclusion*

# 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.*

*We hold that every person is created in God's image. We embrace differences in race, gender, sexual orientation, ability or status.*

## March 27, 2022

Christina Litwiller, Pastor  
600 State Street  
Salina, KS 67401  
785-825-2663

[salinamennonite@hotmail.com](mailto:salinamennonite@hotmail.com)  
[www.salinamennonite.org](http://www.salinamennonite.org)

### Welcome/Lighting the Peace Lamp

*We light this lamp as a reminder of our calling to be peacemakers—in our homes, in our church, in our community, in our world.*

**Prelude**                      *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*                      arr. Melody Bober

### Call to Worship

Leader: Together we seek the way of God,

**People: rejoicing that we are new creations in Christ.**

Leader: From a human point of view, we demand what is ours,

**People: but through Jesus we learn that all share in God's inheritance.**

Leader: Let us join God's feast, where all celebrate together.

**All:     *Let us live out God's way of inclusion.***

**Hymn**                      *Let's Walk Together*                      Voices Together 6

**Storytelling**              *Lucia and Penny*

**Hymn**                      *There's Enough for All*                      Voices Together 757

**Scripture**                *Psalms 32*

**Hymn**                      *Far, Far Away/I Will Arise*                      Voices Together 300

**Scripture**                *2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

**Hymn**                      *New Earth, Heavens New*                      Voices Together 377

**Sermon**                    *From Exceptionalism to Inclusion*

### Lenten Prayer of Confession

Leader: Holy One, we seek you while you may be found.

**People: We call upon you while you are near.**

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God,  
for our thoughts are not your thoughts and our ways are not your ways.

**People: Forgive us for thinking we deserve special treatment. Lead us to radical inclusion.**

Leader: As we walk with Christ on this Lenten journey, let us see your way more clearly.

**All:     *and follow your way more faithfully.***

**Hymn**                      *We Are People of God's Peace*                      Voices Together 797

### Show and Tell/Joys and Concerns

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

#### Announcements

**Hymn**                      *The Love of God*                      Voices Together 162

**Sending**                *From this time and place into whatever awaits, may you follow God's way of inclusion. May you recognize your assumptions of entitlement so that you can live into God's fully inclusive love.*

*As you go, know that our God of the wilderness remains with you on the way.*

**Postlude**                *The Love of God*                      arr. Fred Bock

## Christian Education

For Children – *Becoming Disciples – Lent & Easter Stories*

- Puppet show during Sunday morning worship; Activities to do at home

For Adults

- Bible Study – *Disciples and Stewards* – 7:00 pm Wednesday at Zergers’
- Informal Discussion – *Lectionary Scriptures* – 9:00 am Sunday in the Fellowship Room

## Pastor Christina’s Office Hours

9:00-12:00 Tuesday – Friday

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

## Upcoming Events

Sunday	Apr. 3	Worship	10:00 am
Wednesday	Apr. 6	Worship Committee @ Lois Newcomer’s Home	7:00 pm
Fri-Sat	Apr. 8-9	Kansas Relief Sale in Hutchinson	
Thursday	Apr. 14	Maundy Thursday Service	7:00 pm
Friday	Apr. 15	Good Friday Virtual Service	7:00 pm
Sunday	Apr. 17	Easter Sunrise/Breakfast @Stuckys’	7:00 am
Thursday	Apr. 24	Church Board @ Vera Zerger’s Home	7:00 pm

## Worship Totals

2022	Attendance	Unified Budget	Other	Total
3/20	Zoom 5			
	In-Person 26			
	Total 31	\$300.00	Special Needs Fund \$10.00	\$310.00

## Local Announcements

**Holy Week Schedule:** Make note of the events during Holy Week. The Maundy Thursday service in our building beginning at 7:00 pm on April 14 includes eating a snack and sharing communion together. The Good Friday service at 7:00 pm on April 15 will be on Zoom and will include participants from Mennonite churches in Manhattan, Topeka, Lawrence, and Kansas City. The outdoor Easter Sunrise service at Butch and Marla Stucky’s home at 7:00 am on April 17 will be followed by breakfast prepared by several members of SMC. Our 10:00 Easter Service will include communion.

**My Coins Count:** We are collecting money to be given to MCC for service projects around the world. Place your loose change and paper money in the container on the back table.

**Community-Wide Clean-Up Day:** Volunteers are needed at twelve worksites around Salina from 8:00 am until noon on Saturday, April 30. Make plans now to help out ... and wear your SMC t-shirt.

## Conferencewide Announcements & Prayer Requests

**Western District Conference:** Please pray for Summit Street Church, our church replant in Beatrice, NE, as we continue to navigate what it means for us to follow Jesus’ call to become something new. In particular, please pray for our new members/baptism class that will be starting soon. –Pastor Tim Amor

**“After We’re Gone: Disabilities and Estate Planning” webinar:** Caring for someone who is dependent due to a significant disability is a major responsibility. Making provisions for that person’s physical, emotional and financial well-being after the death of a parent or caregiver can be complex and confusing. Anabaptist Disabilities Network is partnering with Everence to host a webinar about estate planning for families with a dependent disabled family member. “After We’re Gone: Disabilities and Estate Planning” will take place Thursday, March 31 at 1 and 7 p.m. For more information and to register, go to:

<https://www.anabaptistdisabilitiesnetwork.org/Resources/Webinars/Pages/After-We're-Gone.aspx>.

**Church Planting Commission:** To support implementation of its new strategic plan, the WDC Church Planting Commission is engaging Nita Nikkel to provide auxiliary church planting support in the coming year. She will assist WDC staff in promoting church planting partnerships, projects and special events to equip church planters. Nita has previously supported church planting in WDC as a member of the Church Planting Commission, through an internship in church planting and urban ministry in Texas, and as chair for Iglesia Menonita Aposento Alto church plant. Nita is a member of Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church. She recently worked for an agency in Wichita, KS, guiding homeless families and victims of domestic violence to a more self-sustaining life. She now splits her time between Kansas and Colorado with her husband, Steve. They enjoy riding bikes, hiking, and traveling to learn about different cultures, people, and places. Nita looks forward to supporting the WDC Church Planting Commission by empowering churches to explore and promote the mission and vision of Jesus' Kingdom of God.

**Cottonwood Complex Fire:** The Kansas Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) is currently responding to the Cottonwood Complex Fire in Reno County Kansas. Each day we need 1-2 skid steer loaders, a track machine is helpful or a tractor with loader and a grapple fork is very helpful. We can use 4-6 volunteers each day to help with a cutting torch, sifting through and picking up debris. Please contact Cleo Koop at [cleohkoop@gmail.com](mailto:cleohkoop@gmail.com) or 316-282-0797 if you are able to help.

**Join the MCC Thrifty 50 Challenge!** 50 years ago the first MCC thrift shop opened and now there are 85 shops that provide millions of dollars each year for MCC's work at home and around the world. To celebrate, we're inviting you to sign up for the [Thriftly 50 Challenge](#) to get one practical challenge sent to your inbox and have a chance to win a \$25 MCC Thrift gift card every week. Visit [thrift.mcc.org](http://thrift.mcc.org) to find a shop near you and learn more about MCC Thrift!

**Service Opportunities:** The Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale invites you to tithe a bit of your time and impact your world by furthering the work of MCC. There are variety of committees along with 1000 volunteers needed the weekend of the sale. Visit the sale website: [Kansas.mccsale.org](http://Kansas.mccsale.org).

**Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale:** Stay up-to-date on all things relating to Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale on Facebook at Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale or our website at [www.kansas.mccsale.org](http://www.kansas.mccsale.org).

### **Churchwide Announcements & Prayer Requests**

**MCC response in Ukraine:** MCC continues to be in communication with our program partners, many of whom have reduced capacity because of the conflict. Currently, partners are responding in some regions as they are able with supplies they can secure. This includes distributing food, blankets, medications and fuel as well as other emergency supplies. The changing situations in the various cities and regions in Ukraine where there is conflict makes this work difficult and at times dangerous. MCC will continue to determine how it can support short-term needs. However, MCC's strength continues to be mid and long-term disaster response and we are working to formulate these plans for Ukraine. MCC has been working in Ukraine for 100 years and we will continue to serve in Ukraine long after the crisis disappears from the news cycle. Donate today to support these efforts at [mcc.org/ukraine](http://mcc.org/ukraine)

**Make your voice heard!** Join MCC in urging President Biden to pursue peaceful solutions in Ukraine. MCC asks the United States government to continue considering approaches that do not rely on military intervention or military support. Engage with your elected officials on this topic and many others through MCC today! [Washington Office | Mennonite Central Committee U.S. \(mcc.org\)](#)

**Mennonite Mission Network:** MMN requests prayer for Monika Neufeld, a nurse who is serving as an intern with CASAS (a program of *Seminario Anabautista Latinoamericano*, SEMILLA) in Guatemala. Pray for her as she works with other medical staff at a rural clinic to respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Mennonite Education Agency:** Join MEA in praying for the 30 schools affiliated with Mennonite Church USA. MEA's monthly prayer newsletter can be found at [Prayers for Mennonite Education](#).

**Mennonite Church USA:** The Women in Leadership ministry of MC USA hosts "Holding It(,) Together," a popular podcast that is created by women for women. Listen on your favorite podcast platform or here: [mennoniteusa.org/holding-it-together](https://mennoniteusa.org/holding-it-together)

**Mennonite Church USA:** Are you looking for a way to provide a faithful testimony to the world regarding Jesus' way of nonviolence and peace? This tax season, learn more about Mennonite Church USA's Church Peace Tax Fund here: [mennoniteusa.org/news/peace-tax-fund/](https://mennoniteusa.org/news/peace-tax-fund/)

**Menno Snapshots:** Eleanor Kreider, keynote speaker at this year's Pastors & Leaders | Deep Faith 2022 conference, shares about the rapid growth of the early church and the importance and benefits of engaging with first century Christians through their written documents, in her blog, "Patient Ferment." Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/patient-ferment](https://mennoniteusa.org/patient-ferment)

**Menno Snapshots:** Michael Crosby, one of the authors of the proposed Repentance and Transformation Resolution, notes that the body of Christ is hurting due the church's harmful actions toward LGBTQIA people. In his blog, "Prophetic challenge is pastoral care," he encourages us not to look away too quickly. Read more: [mennoniteusa.org/prophetic-challenge-pastoral-care](https://mennoniteusa.org/prophetic-challenge-pastoral-care)

**Menno Snapshots:** In her blog, "Well-being blessings from the routine and the familiar," Ingrid Friesen Moser, wellness coordinator for The Corinthian Plan, asks, "In this continued time of collective struggle, what are the routines that you find yourself doing that sustain you?" The Corinthian Plan is the health plan for Mennonite Church USA pastors and church workers. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/routine-and-familiar](https://mennoniteusa.org/routine-and-familiar)

**Mennonite World Conference:** As Jesus said, "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few". We continue to call out to the Lord for a harvest, that God sends workers to gather the harvest since this is one of our Conference's needs, and we ask this global community for prayer support in this regard.

—Submitted by Samuel Martínez Leal, El Salvador