



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.

September 17, 2023

Christina Litwiller, Pastor
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Lighting the Peace Lamp

Prelude *Here I Am, Lord* arr. by Mark Hayes

Call to Worship Voices Together 863

Hymn *God of Our Strength* Voices Together 47

Storytelling *Exodus 3:1 to 4:17*

Hymn *Here I Am, Lord* Voices Together 545

Sermon *Hearing the Call*

Hymn *Will You Come and Follow Me* Voices Together 540

Community Life – Sharing & Prayer

Interlude *Be Thou My Vision* arr. Melody Bober

Community Life – Announcements

Hymn *Be Thou My Vision* Voices Together 549

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction Voices Together 1037

A Congregational Meeting follows worship: Agenda includes activity and financial reports, volunteers for 2024 assignments, and updates on the administrative assistant position and pastoral transition process.

Backyard Cookout tonight: Gather in the backyard at 5:30 pm for our annual cookout. Meat and buns are provided. Bring side dishes. Invite your neighbors and friends to come with you.

Christian Education

For Children – *Becoming a People of God*

- Activities to do at home

For Adults – 9:00 a.m. Sunday

- Bible Study – *God’s Sustaining Presence and Provision* – In the basement
- Bible Study – *Becoming a People of God* – In the fellowship room

Upcoming Events

Wednesday	September 20	Service Hour at the Church	7:00 pm
Sunday	September 24	Sunday Worship	10:00 am
Thursday	September 21	Church Board	7:00 pm
Saturday	September 23	Workday at Litwiller & Munoz Residences	8:00 am
Wednesday	October 4	Worship Committee	7:00 pm

Pastor Christina’s Office Hours

9:00-12:00 Tuesday – Friday (hours vary) Available most of the time by text, phone, or email

Worship Totals

2023	Attendance		Unified Budget	Other	Total
9/10	Zoom	3	\$50.00		\$50.00
	In-Person	20			
	Total	23			

Local Announcements

Workday: We have a workday planned for Saturday, September 23, at 8:00 am. We will be scraping and painting trim on Christina’s house and the Muñoz house next door. Most of this work would be on ladders, scaffolding, or porch roofs. Contact Tom Claassen with questions.

Salina Fall Fix-Up 2023: Saturday, October 14th 8am to Noon. More information on flyer on back table or <https://salina311.com/volunteers-needed-for-fall-fix-up-2023/>

Conferencewide Announcements & Prayer Requests

Western District Conference: Pray for the WDC Listening Process, as congregations host listening teams from WDC to reflect on congregational ministry and hopes for the future, and ways that WDC resources can support their mission.

Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty invites you to join them on Thursday September 21st at 6 p.m. for the webinar “Reexamining Justice: How Restorative Principles Can End the Death Penalty in Kansas.” Panelists Todd Lehman and Celeste Dixon will explore the question of justice in regards to homicide and what insights can be learned from reexamining justice in light of restorative principles. This is an excellent opportunity to explore other more life-giving responses to homicide than our current "eye for an eye" approach. To register, send your name and address to info@ksabolition.org. For further information, email your question to info@ksabolition.org or call 785-235-2237.

Everence® September Workshop: Social Security and retirement income: Everence® will hold an informative Social Security and retirement income workshop on Thursday, Sept. 28, starting at 6:30 p.m. Topics will include, Social Security strategies, including when to begin taking benefits, risks that can impact your retirement savings plus strategies to help your income last throughout retirement. There will also be plenty of time for questions. The in-person workshop will be at the Everence office: 3179 N. Main St. Suite 1B, North Newton, KS. Information will be presented by staff from the Everence offices in Central Kansas. To register contact Everence at 316-283-3800, 877-467-7294 or central.kansas@everence.com.

Wheat planting means fall is here: The second happening of the 150th celebration of the Swiss Volhynian Mennonites coming to the U.S. in 1874 is a Planting Turkey Red Wheat with Horses event just west of the Moundridge Museum on Saturday, September 30, 2023. Three teams of horses will show up to work the planting project starting at 8:30 a.m. and an old tractor will deliver the wheat to the drills. Drinks will be available. The Moundridge Museum will be open to visitors, and the Farmers Market will have plenty of produce to sell.

Open to new participants: Healing & Hope, a confidential group of women supporting each other after experiencing betrayal trauma (a spouse or partner's use of pornography, affair, or sexual addiction). Bimonthly meetings are held via Zoom and will begin again in mid-October. This group is hosted by First Mennonite Church of Newton and facilitated by Audrey Ratzlaff, M.Div. Contact Audrey at aaratzlaff@yahoo.com or 316-619-4580 for more information.

Churchwide Announcements & Prayer Requests

Mennonite Mission Network: Praise God for Kate Widmer, who is serving with MMN and La Prairie Mennonite Congregation in France, as they build relationships with immigrants in their neighborhood. Kate's sewing classes have become popular. Pray that Kate will be able to share God's love as she helps women make clothes for their families.

Mennonite Education Agency: Join MEA in praying for the 30 schools affiliated with MC USA. MEA's monthly prayer newsletter, with requests from the schools, is found at [Prayers for Mennonite Education](#).

Mennonite Church USA: In a time of transition, ordained and board-certified chaplain, Ruth Johnston, found herself seeking God's guidance for a new calling. Through the recommendations of her spiritual director, Ruth learned to lean on her passions to discover where God was leading her next. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/gods-guidance-spiritual-direction

Mennonite Church USA: Kevin Chupp, pastor at Mennonite Church of Normal (Illinois) in Central District Conference and a graduate of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, uses his experience with clerical garb to explain why the church's openness in theology and dress drew him to the Mennonite tradition. Read his experience here: mennoniteusa.org/openness-pulpit

Mennonite World Conference: My prayers continue for God's peaceful reign across the globe, especially in my homeland of the USA where gun violence continues to escalate and where the love of guns seems to be greater than our love for God and fellow human beings. —submitted by Warren Tyson

Mennonite World Conference: Pray for the plan to plant a Mennonite church in Bounouma in N'zérékoré forest region of Guinea and other locations (Yalenzou, Demou, Bossou, Laapah et Nzoo) in 2023. Pray that God would open doors for evangelizatic materials and smooth out the great mountains that stand in front of the vision for church growth. —submitted by Timothy Koiba, Mennonite Church West Africa