

We are glad you could worship with us today!

GATHERING

SONG OF PRAISE Come, Ye Disconsolate

WELCOME

Katrina Baugh

Pam Eiten, Song Leader

Voices Together (VT) #643

CALL TO WORSHIP

- Leader: Holy Creator and Sustainer, we are here to meet with you.
- People: Let us be aware of your Spirit in this place.
- Leader: Help us to be fully present in this service, free from the distractions and worries which we brought here with us today and we cast at your feet now.

Silent pause to intentionally surrender our concerns to Jesus.

Leader: God, the cares of this world are many, and you are the only one who can handle and redeem it all.

People: We want to grow in this faith and trust you more.

- Leader: Help us to focus on you in this time and come to know you better.
- People: Help us to be open to what you have for us today.

OPENING PRAYER

PRAISING

Let Us Build a House Life-Giver, Maker, God of All

CONFESSING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- Leader: Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives—that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful.
- All: We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to You as the source of our healing. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

—Beth Merrill Neel, "Hold Fast to What Is Good" Used with permission.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION Fix You (Coldplay)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S STORY

SCRIPTURE READING Leader: Hear the word of God.

People: Our ears and hearts are open.

Luke 7: 1-17 (p. 1260)

Leader: Give thanks to the One whose word is life. **People: Blessed be God forever!**

SERMON

Richard Gehring

LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT (silent time of reflection)

Jill Yordy Stasch

Richard Gehring

Amanda Olsen

HYMN OF RESPONSE Healer of Our Every Ill

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION Jill Yordy Stasch, Wallace Johnson IV How Great Thou Art (Hine) Dave Kuhlmann Taylor, Jeremy Botts

SHARING IN COMMUNITY

RECOGNITION AND WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS VT #961

OFFERING PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING AND PRAYER Leader: Lord, in your mercy/goodness, **People: hear our prayer.**

WORK OF THE CHURCH

SENDING

SENDING HYMN Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

VT #427

WORDS OF BLESSING

Please join us for coffee, tea, and conversation down in the Fellowship Hall. Children ages 2 – 5th grade go directly to Gathering Time before Sunday school (located downstairs in the back library).

TODAY at LMC

Adult Sunday School | 11:30 AM Anabaptism as a Lifestyle (Sanctuary) Bible In a Year (Conference Room)

A/V Technicians: CJ Yoder, Elias Rose Fellowship Host: James & Katrina Baugh Greeter: Danny & Adriana Alvarez Church Lockup: Lyle Bohnert Nursery: Valerie Kropf, Caroline Steelberg; Paul Reimer, TBD

THIS WEEK at LMC

Tue Contemplative Prayer via Zoom, 7 PM

Wed Women of the Word Bible Study, 9:30 AM Ministry Team, 7 PM

Thu Menno Men, 9:30 AM Pastoral Care, 7 PM In **today's Anabaptist/Mennonite class**, we will explore the theme of being salt and light in the public education arena. Christy J. and Jason R. will share from their experiences and insights.

LMC is desperately **in need of more nursery volunteers**, especially during the Education Hour. If we do not get more volunteers, we may be unable to staff the nursery and provide nursery service during Sunday school moving forward. Please contact Ruth Q. or Elise E. if you are able to help!

Next Sunday, **LMC's bulletin** will feature an updated look. In an effort to provide a hospitable document, the new bulletin will provide clearer information about who the staff are, what the Sunday school classes are, what our mission statement and welcome statement say, plus other helpful information that will guide visitors and newer attenders through the service.

Part of this update will include a **change in how prayer requests are shared**. Instead of including them in the bulletin, each adult in our directory will receive a weekly email early in the week with the prayers offered on Sunday instead of having them printed a week later in the bulletin. If you are not listed in the directory but would like to opt in to receive this weekly email, or if you would like to opt out, please contact the church office.

AMBS and Mennonite Action invite us to **Peace Theology in Movement: A Lunchtime Colloquium** every Wednesday through April 30 at 11 AM. This weekly lunchtime colloquium will focus on the Mennonite Action movement as an expression of Mennonite peace theology.

Illinois Mennonite Conference will hold its annual assembly on Saturday, March 1, from 10 AM-3 PM at Camp Menno Haven. AMBS professor Drew Strait will address the morning session on the church's experience with Christian nationalism. All three pastors will attend, and anyone is welcome to come and hear the wonderful speaker on this incredibly timely topic. Please register at <u>illinoismennonite.com</u>. If you'd like to represent the congregation as an additional delegate at the business session, please contact the church office or one of the pastors.