

# WELCOME TO Lombard Mennonite Church

December 14, 2025

**BE AMAZED: JOY IN THE DESERT**

*Advent 3; Isaiah 55: 1-13*

A worshipping community rooted in God’s love: Following Jesus • Seeking peace and justice • Serving others

## PRELUDE

PRELUDE ..... Eben Ariyaprakai-Liu, Neil Ewert, Claire Ewert  
*Feliz Navidad, What Child is This?, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Ukrainian Bell Carol*  
*The First Noel, Jingle Bells*

## GATHERING

SONG OF PRAISE ..... Pam Eiten, Song Leader  
*\*Come to the Water* ..... *Voices Together* 35

WELCOME..... Deborah Wetherill

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all who hunger and thirst for more—God calls us to the feast!  
**People: We are weary exiles, longing for home,  
caught in a world that drains our hope.**  
Leader: “Listen, so that you may live! My covenant is everlasting, my promise sure.”  
**People: Can joy reach us here, in this place of waiting?**  
Leader: God’s vision is higher than the heavens, stretching beyond what we can see.  
**People: The invitation is for all people, from the farthest reaches of the earth.**  
Leader: The word of the Lord does not return empty—it brings forth life!  
**People: The mountains and the hills will burst into song,  
the trees of the field will clap their hands!**  
**All: You are the source of true joy, O God.  
You expand our vision, lifting our eyes beyond the moment,  
beyond despair, into amazement.  
We stand before you, ready to enter your story and be amazed.**

## OPENING PRAYER

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*  
Hearing assistive devices and a larger print hymnal and Bible are available outside the doors to the sanctuary.  
Childcare (birth-age 2) is provided in the nursery at the back of the hall on this level.

PRAISING

As a Deer in Want of Water .....Voices Together 552  
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee .....Voices Together 103

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION .....Jeremy Kropf, Karin Redekopp Edwards  
In the Bleak Midwinter (H. Darke)

OFFERING PRAYER

CONFESSING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION  
WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HEARING GOD’S WORD

CHILDREN'S STORY .....Maggie Bergevin, Marty Lewandowski

CANDLE LIGHTING .....Elliot, Christy, Micah, Emma, Greta Johnson

Leader: We have been wandering in the dark, cold, desert of grief and despair,  
and we feel heavy, dry and lifeless.

People: Come, Joy of the world. Come amaze us.

All: May your joy water our thirsty souls,  
that we may become your fountains of joy,  
freely sharing your joy with the world.

SCRIPTURE READING .....Rebecca Kuhlmann Taylor

Leader: Hear the word of God.  
People: Our ears and hearts are open.

Isaiah 55: 1–13 (p. 879)

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

SERMON .....Barbara Krehbiel Gehring  
"Come, Listen, Look, Seek"

LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT (silent time of reflection)

SONG OF RESPONSE  
Fill Us with Your Feast .....Voices Together 309

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION .....Karin Redekopp Edwards  
Masters in this Hall (arr. Holst)

# SHARING IN COMMUNITY

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS & CONGREGATIONAL SHARING AND PRAYER

Leader: Lord, in your mercy/goodness,  
People: **hear our prayer.**

*We mute the livestream during this sharing time; prayers are written for distribution for the congregation.*

## WORK OF THE CHURCH

*Please come to the front row and use the microphone to make your announcement.*

# SENDING

## SENDING SONG

*\*You Shall Go Out with Joy .....Voices Together 847*

## \*SENDING BLESSING

# ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Join us today for a special **adult Christian Formation class** as Aaron L. discusses Scriptural passages commonly used to support the state of Israel.

Plan to join us on December 24 at 6:30pm for our wonderful **Christmas Eve service**—including LMC children and youth sharing the Christmas story—followed by a time of warm fellowship. Please bring cookies and/or hors d’oeuvres to share with your LMC family.

Thank you for your generous giving to support our ongoing expenses as well as our Phase IV renovation project. We need to receive around \$73,660 by year end to **cover all our 2025 expenses and savings goals** and end the year without dipping into our cash reserves. Please keep the church's financial situation in your prayers.

## TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

**Directly after the service, join us for coffee, tea, and conversation down in the Fellowship Hall.**

**Children ages 3 – 5th grade** go directly to Gathering Time before Sunday school (*located downstairs in the back library*).

**Sunday School Classes for all ages from 11:30–12:15** (or beginning 15 min. after the service ends).

1 BELL: 5 min before Sunday school starts

2 BELLS: Start of Sunday school

1 BELL: 5 min before Sunday school ends

2 BELLS: End of Sunday school

## ADULT CLASSES (DEC)

Scriptural Issues Around Israel-Palestine from a Jewish Perspective: Sanctuary  
Bible In a Year: Conference Room  
Coffee & Conversation: Fellowship Hall

## CHILDREN + YOUTH CLASSES

Ages 3-5 years: Room 301, upstairs  
Grades K-2: Room 102, downstairs  
Grades 3-5: Room 103, downstairs  
Grades 6-8: Room 101, downstairs  
Grades 9-12: Fireplace room, downstairs

As a worshipping community rooted in God's love, Lombard Mennonite Church recognizes each person as a unique creation in the image of God. Firmly centering ourselves on following Jesus and seeking to be transformed through Christ, we welcome all, regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, economic or social circumstances, marital status, and physical or mental ability. We support and invite everyone to participate fully in the life of the church, where we respect diverse perspectives, live out Anabaptist values and celebrate radical peace and hospitality.



**FOR PASTORAL CARE NEEDS**, please contact one of the pastors or any member of our Pastoral Care Team: Vina Ariyaprakai, Susan Botts, Kristen Burk, Rebecca Huff, Elliot Johnson, Doug Kimball, and Kelly Wilson. To contact the entire group: [pct@lombardmennonite.org](mailto:pct@lombardmennonite.org).

## LMC STAFF



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**630.627.5310 • [lombardmennonite.org](http://lombardmennonite.org)**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT'D

Our **2025 Advent Giving Project** is supporting our immigrant siblings and those working on their behalf. You can donate with the QR code, Zelle, or by check.



## TODAY AT LMC

**A/V Technicians:** Kristin Crawford, Dave Kuhlmann  
Taylor

**Fellowship Host:** Carlen Sellers

**Greeter:** Lyle Bohnert

### NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

**Worship:** Arlee Blackburn, Ken G Kabira

**Sunday School:** Valerie Kropf, TBA

**Church Lockup:** Lyle Bohnert

## THIS WEEK AT LMC

**Tuesday, 7pm:** Contemplative Prayer, via Zoom

**Wednesday,**

**9:30am:** Women of the Word (WOW) Bible Study

**7pm:** Ministry Team

**Thursday,**

**9:30am:** Menno Men

**7pm:** Worship Commission

**Saturday,**

**10am:** Visitation for Arkee C.

**11am:** Memorial Service

## NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

**Theme:** Be Amazed: Love Comes Down

**Scripture:** John 1: 1-18

**A/V Technicians:** Jeremy Kropf, Elias Rose

**Fellowship Host:** Katharine Richert

**Greeters:** Jeff & Laura Yoder

### NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

**Worship:** Valerie Kropf, Caroline Steelberg