

# WELCOME TO Lombard Mennonite Church



January 4, 2026

## LESSONS AND CAROLS

Epiphany Sunday

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

### PRELUDE .....

Esther Wetherill, Aaron Wetherill

Selection of carols. *What Child is This?* (Greensleeves; traditional, arr. Schaum)

*Bells Caroling (Ukrainian Bell Carol)* (Leontovich, arr. Schaum)

### GATHERING

#### SONG OF PRAISE

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* .....

Jeremy Kropf, Song Leader

*Voices Together 241*

WELCOME .....

Jamie Huff

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us worship the Holy One, whose abundant love fills  
and surrounds us.

**People: We come, wanting to tear down the veil that separates us from Love.**

Leader: Come and worship, for the heavens reveal the glory of the Holy One.

**People: Our hearts and bodies sing for joy to the living God.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the Holy One in Jesus, the revelation of unlimited love.

**People: We worship Jesus, the Christ, in whom God's love is made visible.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the Holy One in Spirit and truth.

**All: We come to worship, for the Spirit opens our eyes to see  
and our hearts to share God's love.**

—SeekersChurch.org

### OPENING PRAYER

### PRAISING

*Arise, Your Light is Come!* .....

*Voices Together 273*

### MUSIC FOR MEDITATION .....

Cora, Simon, and Jesse Botts

*Minuet No 1, K. 164* (Mozart, arr. Botts)

### OFFERING PRAYER

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.

# CONFESSING

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us make our confession before God and one another, first in silent prayer.  
*Silent Confession*

## COMMUNAL CONFESSION

**All:** **Gracious God, our Wonderful Counselor, the Almighty God,**  
**we come to you to confess. We know that sometimes we are happily distracted**  
**by parties and twinkling lights, and sometimes we are happily curled up**  
**in the solitude and warmth of our homes.**  
**In our distraction, we do not heed the cries of the world.**  
**We turn a blind eye to suffering and need and grief. Forgive us for that.**  
**Forgive us, and more than that, turn us around to see all your children,**  
**with the truth of their lives, that we would set aside our distractions**  
**and answer your call to go out, to heal, to help, to proclaim good news and joy.**  
**Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

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

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

# HEARING GOD'S WORD

LESSONS AND CAROLS ..... Richard and Barbara Krehbiel Gehring, Nathan Perrin

## HOPE CANDLE

A POEM FROM NAYYIRAH WAHEED ON HOPE

### CANDLE LIGHTING

*There will be a brief moment of silence after each candle lighting.*

SCRIPTURE READING—ISAIAH 60: 1-6 (p. 885)

Leader: Hear the word of God.

**People: Our ears and hearts are open.**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* ..... Voices Together 218

## PEACE WITH JUSTICE CANDLE

AN EXCERPT FROM A POEM BY JOY HARJO

### CANDLE LIGHTING

ISAIAH 11: 6-9 (p. 821)

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* ..... Voices Together 216

## JOY CANDLE

A POEM BY MARY OLIVER

### CANDLE LIGHTING

LUKE 1: 39-45 (p. 1250)

*Joy to the World* ..... Voices Together 240

## **LOVE CANDLE**

A POEM BY RUPI KAUR

CANDLE LIGHTING

LUKE 1: 46-55 (p. 1250)

*Love Came Down at Christmas* ..... Voices Together 255

## **DIVINITY ENFLESHED - CHRIST CANDLE**

A POEM BY PADRAIG O' TUAMA

CANDLE LIGHTING

MATTHEW 1: 18-25 (p. 1176)

Leader: Give thanks to the One whose word is life.

People: **Blessed be God forever!**

*What Child Is This with Helpless and Hungry* ..... Voices Together 267, 268

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION ..... Cora, Simon, Jesse, and Jeremy Botts

*The Young Shepherd* (Berlioz, arr. Botts)

## **CELEBRATING COMMUNION**

INSTRUCTIONS AND INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Jeremy Botts, Musician

*Please come to the front to receive the gifts of God. All are welcome. We offer a blessing for anyone not prepared to receive communion. Our bread is gluten-free.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER ..... Voices Together 989A

## **SHARING IN COMMUNITY**

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS & CONGREGATIONAL SHARING AND PRAYER

Leader: Lord, in your mercy/goodness,

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

People: **hear our prayer.**

WORK OF THE CHURCH

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

## **SENDING**

SENDING SONG

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* ..... Voices Together 247

BENEDICTION

As a worshiping 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



**Barbara Krehbiel Gehring** (she/her)

Co-Lead Pastor

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Office hours: Tue 9-12; Wed & Fri 9-5



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**Nathan Perrin** (he/him)

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Want to reach the entire office staff at once?

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

## 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*).

1 BELL: 5 min before Sunday school starts/ends  
2 BELLS: Start/end of Sunday school

### Adult Classes

How to Build our Courage for Public Witness:  
Sanctuary\*

Bible In a Year: Conference Room

\*This will be the first session in a two-week training course developed by Menno Action. Kelly W. and Dave M. will lead the class.

## TODAY AT LMC

**A/V Technicians:** CJ Yoder, Spencer Yoder

**Fellowship Host:** Carlen Sellers

**Greeter:** Aaron Levitt

**Communion Bread Baker:** Valerie Kropf

**Nursery Volunteers:** Paul Reimer, Micah Johnson

## THIS WEEK AT LMC

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

**Wednesday, 9:30am:** Women of the Word Bible Study

**Thursday, 9:30am:** Menno Men

**Saturday,**

**9-11:30am:** Phase 4 Renovation Teams

**12pm:** Meet Your Allies: Christianity in Mesopotamia

## NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

**Scripture:** John 1: 19–34

**A/V Technicians:** Gray Taylor, Dave Kuhlmann Taylor

**Fellowship Hosts:** James & Katrina Baugh

**Greeter:** Aaron Levitt

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS**

**Worship:** Vina Ariyaprakai, TBA