

WELCOME TO Lombard Mennonite Church

September 27, 2026

NOT A THRONE, BUT A TOWEL

John 13: 1-7, 34-35

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

GATHERING

SONG OF PRAISE
We Are One in the Spirit Pam Eiten, Song Leader
Voices Together 387

WELCOME Eric Larson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Left side: Come, you who are weary from the darkness of the night.
Right side: Come, you who are hopeful, who listened for the breath of God
on the morning dawn.
Both sides: Come and worship the Lord.
Left side: Come with your gratitude for the blessings of the day.
Right side: Come with your pleadings for mercy and release.
Both sides: Come and worship the Lord.
Left side: For the Lord our God is gathering us in, and Jesus the Christ is our Host.
Right side: Let us welcome the Spirit that welcomes us here.
Both sides: Come and worship the Lord. —Diane Zaerr Brenneman

OPENING PRAYER

PRAISING

Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing Voices Together 7
Kyrie eleison, Have Mercy Voices Together 796

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION Jeremy Botts

OFFERING 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 downstairs in the Fireplace Room (the nursery is under construction).

CONFESSING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Lord you have called us the body of Christ. We confess our yearning to be one, our hopes of peace—but we regret our failings, our lack of unity.

People: Help us remember the One who came in human flesh and lived among us.

Leader: We are the body of Christ? How can we make that claim when we are so broken?

People: Help us remember the broken body of Jesus.

Leader: We are the body of Christ? How can we say that when we are so sinful?

People: Help us remember the One who brought forgiveness through the cross.

Leader: We are the body of Christ? How can we be that when we are so weak?

People: Help us remember the One whose Spirit fills us, turning weakness to strength.

Leader: We are the body of Christ? How can we make that claim when we are so small?

People: Help us remember the One whose kingdom comes as a grain of wheat, feeding the world.

Leader: Lord, take us as we are: human, broken, sinful, weak and small.

People: Our hands are your hands. Our feet are your feet. Our body is your body. Equip and send us forth, the body of Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HEARING GOD’S WORD

CHILDREN'S STORY Nathan Perrin

SCRIPTURE READING Rebecca Kuhlmann Taylor

Leader: Hear the word of God.

People: Our ears and hearts are open.

John 13: 1-7, 34-35 (p. 1314)

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

People: Blessed be God forever!

SERMON Eric Potter

“Not a Throne, but a Towel”

LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT *(silent time of reflection)*

SONG OF RESPONSE

Christ, on the Night He Was Betrayed *Voices Together* 491

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION Jeremy Botts

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

**Heart with Loving Heart United Voices Together 813*

*WORDS OF BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

We welcome back **Eric Potter** as our guest preacher today. Eric serves as the Conference Minister for the Illinois Mennonite Conference, where he works alongside pastors and congregations to strengthen relationships, provide pastoral support, encourage congregational health, and help imagine new ways for the church to live into its Anabaptist calling. Beyond his ministry work, Eric works as a leadership coach, organizational consultant, Enneagram coach, and spiritual director.

We return to more regular **youth Sunday school programming** today. See below for class locations.

Today we begin a new adult Christian Formation class. **Salt & Light Bible Study** will meet in Room 303 (the pre-construction nursery room). Matt Prechter will teach this class utilizing resources from MennoMedia.

Our sanctuary class today will be **Living the Questions: Interfaith Chaplaincy in Nazareth**. We welcome guest presenters Howard G., executive director of the Nazareth Project, and Christine F., spiritual care practitioner and counselor at the Nazareth Hospital.

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 (SEPTEMBER)

Living the Questions: Interfaith Chaplaincy in Nazareth: Sanctuary

Salt & Light Bible Study: Room 303

Coffee & Conversation: Fellowship Hall

CHILDREN + YOUTH CLASSES

Ages 3-5 years: Room 101, downstairs

Grades K-2: Room 102, downstairs

Grades 3-5: Room 103, downstairs

Grades 6-8 (Venture Club): Office classroom

Grades 9-12 (MYF): Conference room