WELCOME TO
Lombard Mennonite Church

November 22, 2026

REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY
Matthew 25: 31-46

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

GATHERING

SONG OF PRAISE — Jeremy Kropf, Song Leader
**In Thy Holy Place We Bow* ..... *Voices Together* 40

WELCOME ..... Jamie Huff

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come, for God gathers us here, with that community called faith:
People: where the hungry are served first,
where the thirsty drink life's water.
Leader: We come, for God welcomes us here
into that home called grace:
People: where the naked are clothed in robes of hope;
where the stranger is embraced with generous welcome.
Leader: We come, for God reunites us here,
sisters and brothers in that family called love:
People: where the imprisoned are liberated and embody justice,
where the sick are cradled in God's peace.
All: All are welcome here, a place where we see,
hear and feel Christ's just and peaceful reign.
Come let us worship God together.

—Adapted from Lectionary Liturgies by Thom Shuman (November 2008). Used with permission.

OPENING PRAYER

PRAISING

**For the Fruit of All Creation* ..... *Voices Together* 124
**Schönster Herr Jesu (Beautiful Savior)* ..... *Voices Together* 130

**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).

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION ..... Choir
Praise the Lord (Natalie Sleeth)

OFFERING PRAYER

CONFESSING

CALL TO CONFESSION
Silent Confession

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: **O Holy God, we know we have fallen short.**
We turn our backs when we could embrace.
We remain silent when we could speak.
We speak when we could listen.
We close the door when we could fling it wide open.
We judge when we could seek understanding.
We cling when we could give.

Leader: Forgive us, O God, for being so very human at times,
and help us to continue to grow into the people you created us to be,
through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HEARING GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S STORY ..... Richard Gehring

SCRIPTURE READING ..... Marty Lewandowski

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

Matthew 25: 31-46 (p. 1212)

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

SERMON ..... Barbara Krehbiel Gehring
"Wait, what?"

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

SONG OF RESPONSE
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence ..... *Voices Together* 65

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION ..... Choir
Christians, Join to Sing (Lynn Bailey and Becki Mayo)

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
**Longing for Light* ..... *Voices Together* 715

*WORDS OF BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

For today's **The ABCs of LGBTQ+ class**, Pastor Nathan will give an overview of Queer and LGBTQ+ history— from apologetics to liberation theology to everything in between.

Pastor Barb is one of the speakers at an **interfaith service of Thanksgiving** today at 4pm at York Center Church of the Brethren. All are welcome!

Take a break from black Friday craziness by attending our **Taizé service on Friday** at 7pm. This simple form of worship invites participants to sit in the presence of God through quiet repeated music with simple lyrics, silence, and prayer.

The **LMC membership covenant** is in the narthex if you didn't get a chance to sign it last week.

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
1 BELL: 5 min before Sunday school ends
2 BELLS: Start of Sunday school
2 BELLS: End of Sunday school

ADULT CLASSES (NOVEMBER)

The ABCs of LGBTQ+: 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: Office classroom
Grades 9-12: Conference room