

Mennonite Church of Normal

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 8, 2021

Gathering in God's Presence

Greeting/Congregational Life

Prelude

Call to Worship

Psalm 34:1,3,8,14,17-18

I will bless the LORD at all times;
the Lord's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

O magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt the name of the Lord together.

**O taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are those who take refuge in the Lord.**

Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

**When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles.**

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.

Gathering Prayer

Praising God Together

Songs of Praise: *Praise to the Lord the Almighty* VT 88

Jesus Christ is Waiting VT 287

Hearing God's Word

Children's Time *Let the children come* VT 512

Scripture *Listen to the Word* VT 405

1 Kings 19:1-16; John 6:60-71

Sermon *The Church on Offense*

Receiving God's Grace

Confession/Assurance of Forgiveness

Jesus taught us, "I have not come to bring peace, but a sword."

Lord Jesus, this teaching is difficult. Who can accept it?

Jesus said, "The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life."

**Lord Jesus, we want to follow you, but confess that it is so hard to
stand up against evil.**

Jesus assures us: "You are forgiven. I am with you always."

Lord Jesus, we believe. Help our unbelief.

Sharing Joys and Concerns/Prayer

Sent in the Spirit's Power

Sending Song: *The Lord Is My Light*

VT 437

Benediction

Postlude

Assisting in Worship

Song Leader: Barry Weaver

Prelude/Postlude: Denise Hedberg

Accompanist: Jenell Ulrich

Children's Time: Shelly King

Scripture: Marcia Rossi

Sharing/Prayer: Lynette Miller

Worship Plan/Lead/Sermon: Gary Martin

Today: 10:30a.m. Barry Weaver, Vision Team chair, provides an update on Vision Team work, including Pastoral Team Search Com.

New commission candidates announced:

Administration: **Cindy Ropp** (Mary Dyck & Rick Harnish have been affirmed by the congregation.)

Outreach: **Andy Hedberg, Elsa Raab, Emmanuel Kasongo.**

Please respond to Lynn Reha or Nancy Fisher, with feedback on these new Commission candidates, by Aug. 11. All are willing to serve.

Our Mission:

Mennonite Church of Normal is a nurturing, Christ-centered Anabaptist congregation that welcomes all people. As followers of Jesus, we aspire to transform our communities and world into places of peace, healing, and hope.

All people of any race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, education, or ability who confess faith in Jesus Christ, are welcome to participate in the full life and ministry of the Mennonite Church of Normal. Furthermore, all people of any gender or sexual orientation who confess faith in Jesus Christ, may become members, be married, and are eligible for all volunteer, staff, and pastoral positions at MCN.

Building Open Hours: Monday-Friday, 2-5pm

Church Office: 309-452-6622 church@normalmennonite.org

Administrative Assistant: Charlotte Hedberg Custodian: Bryan Oyer

Youth Ministry Leader: Lauren Satchwell satchwell.lauren@gmail.com

Pastor of Visitation: Ron Ropp 309-452-8534

Transitional Pastor: Gary Martin 574-238-5475 gmartin5@comcast.net