



# First Mennonite Church of Halstead

March 22, 2026

*Welcome to worship. As God fed Elijah in the wilderness so he could journey on (1 Kings 19:1-8), may God feed and strengthen you here today.*

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**Gathering Music** – Cindy Siemens

**Welcome and Announcements** - Chuck Haspels

**Centering Music** – Cindy Siemens

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Praise God, the Giver of life.

**All: Praise God, who blesses our world.**

Leader: Praise God, who heals our wounds.

**All: Praise God, who cares for our needs.**

**Praise God, the Giver of life and Maker of all.**

**\*Worship Through Singing – O come, loud anthems let us sing**

– HWB #68

1 O come, loud an - thems let us sing, loud thanks to  
2 In - to his pres - ence let us haste, to thank him  
3 The depths of earth are in his hand, her se - cret  
4 Oh, let us to his courts re - pair, and bow with

our al - might - y King, for we our voic - es high should  
for his fa - vors past, to him ad - dress, in joy - ful  
wealth at his com - mand, the strength of hills that reach the  
ad - o - ra - tion there, down on our knees, de - vout - ly

Refrain

raise, when our sal - va - tion's rock we praise.  
songs, the praise that to his name be - longs. Great is the  
skies, sub - ject - ed to his em - pire lies.  
all, be - fore the Lord, our ma - ker, fall.

Lord! What tongue can frame an eq - ual hon - or to his name?

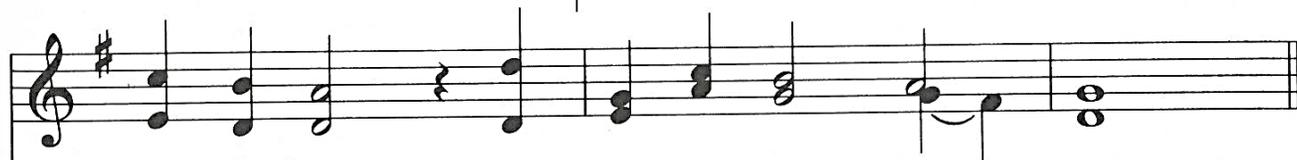
**\*Worship Through Singing – Lamp of our feet – HWB #312**



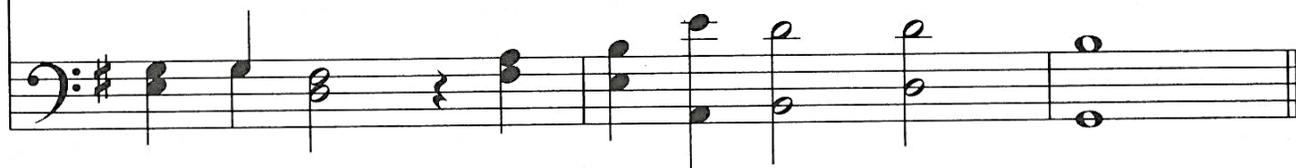
1 Lamp of our feet, where - by we trace our  
2 bread of our souls, where - on we feed, true  
3 pil - lar of fire, through wat - ches dark, or  
4 word of the ev - er - liv - ing God, will  
5 Lord, grant us all a - right to learn the



1 path when wont to stray; stream from the fount of  
2 man - na from a - bove, our guide and chart, where -  
3 ra - diant cloud by day; when waves would 'whelm our  
4 of the glo - rious Son; with - out thee how could  
5 wis - dom it im - parts, and to its heav - 'nly



1 heav'n - ly grace, brook by the trav - 'ler's way;  
2 in we read of God's un - end - ing love;  
3 toss - ing bark, our an - chor and our stay;  
4 earth be trod, or heav'n it - self be won?  
5 teach - ing turn, with sim - ple, child - like hearts.



**Offering & Offertory** – Camp Mennoscah

**Scripture** – Deuteronomy 8:2-18 (p. 287)

**Children's Time** – Casey Jacob

**Worship Through Singing** – *Blessed Be Your Name* – Lyrics  
Projected

**Worship Through Singing** – *God Will Make a Way* – Lyrics  
Projected

**Congregational Prayer** – Pastor Steve

**Message** – Eric Litwiller  
*God Finds Us in the Wilderness*

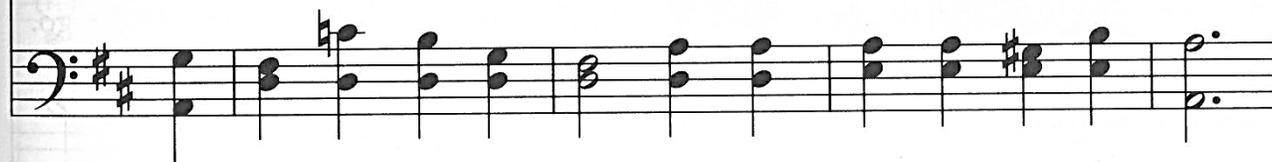
# Response Song – *Lead on, O cloud of Presence* – HWB #419



1 Lead on, O cloud of Pres - ence, the ex - o - dus is come.  
2 Lead on, O fier - y Pil - lar, we fol - low yet with fears,  
3 Lead on, O God of free - dom, and guide us on our way,



In wil - der - ness and des - ert our tribe shall make its home.  
but we shall come re - joic - ing though joy be born of tears.  
and help us trust the prom - ise through strug - gle and de - lay.



Our slav - 'ry left be - hind us, new hopes with - in us grow.  
We are not lost, though wan - d'ring, for by your light we come,  
We pray our sons and daugh - ters may jour - ney to that land



We seek the land of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow.  
and we are still God's peo - ple. The jour - ney is our home.  
where jus - tice dwells with mer - cy, and love is law's de - mand.



**\*Closing Prayer**

**\*Sending Song** – *Goodness of God* – Lyrics Projected

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude** – Cindy Siemens

\*Please stand if you are able

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### **CHURCH CALENDAR**

Mar. 22	6:00 p.m.	Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups Women's Bible Study
Mar. 23	6:00 p.m.	Nurture meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council meeting
Mar. 24	7:30 p.m.	Vision Team meeting
Mar. 25	8:00 p.m.	Easter Cantata practice
Mar. 26	9:00 a.m.	Prayer Team meeting
	1:00 p.m.	Care Team meeting
Mar. 29	10:30 p.m.	Communion
	12:00 p.m.	Last Sunday Potluck

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**From the Secretary:** The deadline for the April newsletter is tomorrow, March 23. A case with hearing aids was left in the sanctuary earlier this year. If you know of someone who has misplaced theirs, please contact the office. The latest letter from Phanu Doppooha has been posted on the bulletin board.

**The Care Team will meet on Thursday, Mar. 26, at 1:00 p.m.**  
**Communion will be celebrated** during the worship service next Sunday, March 29. There will also be a Last Sunday Potluck after the service next Sunday.

**The Easter Cantata will be performed on Saturday, April 4,** at 7:00 p.m. Invite a friend and join us for an evening of music celebrating the gift of Jesus! There will be refreshments following

the cantata in Stauffer Hall. A sign-up sheet to help provide cookies is on the bulletin board. Thank you for your help!

**Baby Regier will arrive anytime in late March.** Please help us "sprinkle" the family with love and gifts on April 12th. There will be a designated table under the coat rack for gifts. Some items they may need include Pampers diapers, Huggies wipes, freezer meals and gift cards. A sign-up for meals will also be sent out after the baby arrives.

**The Neighbors Store Mexican Meal will be** on Saturday, April 11, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Garden View Mennonite Church. Our church is responsible for providing 4 pies and 5 workers for various shifts. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you're able to help.

**There will be a Dutch Blitz game afternoon** on April 19 at 2:00 p.m. Come enjoy an afternoon of the fast-paced card game at the church. We'll play in rotating pairs or as a larger group. You may bring a light snack to share and a friend if you'd like. See Raquel with any questions.

**Remember to pick up some snacks or gift cards during March** for care packages for our college students. Ideas for snacks include tortilla chips, salsa queso, skittles, other candy, etc. There's a bin under the coat racks to place the items in. Thank you!

**If you are a frequent online shopper** and receive brown packing paper in your boxes, please save it for VBS! We also need greenery and fake plants for decorations if you see any at garage sales and thrift stores.

**Register now to be a part of the MCC Sale Run for Relief** - a 5K run/walk along a paved path by a creek. Walkers and runners of all ages and abilities are welcome. Entrants receive a t-shirt and a New Year's cookie. Deadline for a t-shirt is March 27. Scan the QR code on the poster hanging on the bulletin board or visit <https://kansas.mccsale.org/> for more information.

**WDC office schedule and Resource Library updates:** Beginning this week, WDC office hours will be Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm (instead of opening at 8:00 a.m.) and beginning in April the office will be closed on Fridays due to staff schedules. Also, to enhance use of WDC Resource Library materials

a secure locker will soon be located just next to the book drop-off outside the WDC office entrance, for after hours / weekend pick up of materials that have been checked out from the WDC Resource Library! To arrange for check-out and pick up of materials, contact the WDC office at 316-283-6300 or [wdc@mennowdc.org](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org), or contact the Resource Library Director at [crlib@mennowdc.org](mailto:crlib@mennowdc.org).

**My Coins Count booth looking for youth leadership:** The My Coins Count booth at the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale (KMRS) is looking for some youth leadership (along with one adult) to staff the booth on April 10 in the evening and April 11 in the morning. Responsibilities include collecting coins from churches and individuals and running them through the automated coin-counting machine. Additionally, one person is needed to attend 3-4 evening meetings (one per month starting in January) as a representative for the My Coins Count booth at the KMRS. If you are able to help, text "Coins" to 620.755.2583 or email [eric.litwiller@campmennoscah.org](mailto:eric.litwiller@campmennoscah.org)

**Hesston College Updates: March 24** - Hesston College Bel Canto Singers will perform their home concert titled "Songs of Hope for a World in Need" at Hesston Mennonite Church on Tuesday, March 24 at 7 p.m. Bel Canto is directed by Interim Music Director Greg Bontrager. The concert is free and open to all. **March 25 & 26** - Hesston College will host the annual Melva Kauffman Lecture Series welcoming Dr. Angela Lederach for a three-part series titled "Slow Peace: Lessons from Grassroots Peacebuilders in Colombia." Dr. Lederach will present three sessions exploring the peace process in Colombia: Wednesday, March 25 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. and Thursday, March 26 at 7 p.m. All events are free and open to the public and will be held at Hesston Mennonite Church with a cookie reception to follow both evening lectures. For more information visit [hesston.edu/melva](http://hesston.edu/melva).

**Bethel College Updates: Life Enrichment programs on March 25:** 9:30 a.m., "Hippie Inc.: The Misunderstood Subculture that Changed the Way We Live," Dr. Michael Klassen, University of Northern Iowa; 10:50 a.m., "Mennonite Disaster Service Cabinet Shop Operation," Cleo Koop, MDS. Fri., **March 27** – The annual

Student Art Exhibit opens in the Regier Art Gallery in Luyken Fine Arts Center, featuring the work of students in Bethel College art classes, in various media, through April 17 (reception TBA). Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 2-4 p.m. Sun., **March 29** – Bethel College Concert Choir and Wind Ensemble spring concert, 4 p.m., Memorial Hall

**Camp Mennoscah Updates:** The Men and Boys retreat is scheduled at Camp Mennoscah for April 17-19, and registration for the retreat is open at <https://campmennoscah.campbrainregistration.com> or in-person at the shed by the basketball court at camp. Lodging is available in the bunkhouses, cabins or your own tent. Meals are available for Saturday evening, Sunday breakfast and Sunday lunch. Contact Kevin at (316) 322-5515 with any questions.

### **PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES**

- Western District Conference: Pray for the WDC Gifts Discernment Committee as they listen for the leading of God’s Spirit in selecting nominees for elected leadership positions in our conference, and give thanks for those who say “yes” when invited to serve.
- Mennonite Mission Network: Colleen and Pablo Fast have been serving in Brazil for more than 30 years. Praise God that the Brazilian churches they serve with are experiencing a time of growth, with multiple families being sent out to plant more churches and the already-established churches increasing the number of services they offer.

### **SUNDAY INFORMATION**

<b>NURSERY TODAY</b>	Shaun Ortman, Shirley Rodenberg, Eli Wilcox
<b>PIANIST/ORGANIST</b>	Cindy Siemens
<b>OFFERING LAST SUNDAY</b>	
Bethel College	\$811.00
Church Budget	220.00
<b>ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY</b>	70
<b>OFFERING NEXT SUNDAY</b>	Western District Conference
<b>NURSERY NEXT SUNDAY</b>	Lauren Mueller, Diana Torres, Megan Ortman