



LISTOWEL MENNONITE CHURCH

September 1, 2024

Worship Bulletin

Vol. 61 No. 35

Spiritual and Mindset Paralysis



Healing at the Pool of Bethesda

September 1, 2024

LMC will meet at 10am for Sunday Worship, followed by coffee and fellowship.

The entire worship service will also be live streamed from the LMC sanctuary on YouTube from 10:00-11:15am. Click on www.lmchurch.ca a few minutes before 10am, and click on the "Livestream" button.

You can view the livestream afterwards by going to our website under the "Past Sermons" page.

<http://www.lmchurch.ca/past-sermons.html>

Greeters - Don & Joanne Matthews
Usher - Ernie Reesor

Coffee - Ruth Ann Carter, Dorothy Edgar & John Carter
AV - Robert & Sid

GATHERING

VT 584 Jesus, Be the Center

Welcome & Announcements (Bruce Yoder)

Today we welcome John Fumana, as our guest speaker. He is Co-Executive Coordinator (with Bruce Yoder) for Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission. John will bring us a message, as well as give updates on Mennonite Church Canada Witness and Evangelical Mennonite Conference ministries with African churches in Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Africa.

Lighting a Candle for Peace (Don Matthews)

Call to Worship (from Psalms 66)

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth,
**sing the glory of this name, give to him
glorious praise.**
Come and see what God has done,

**God is awesome in his deeds among
mortals.**
God turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river on foot.

Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,
who has kept us among the living and has not let our feet slip.
For you, O God, have tested us,
we went through fire and water, yet you have brought us to a good place.

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
We cry aloud to God praise God with our tongues.
And truly God listens,
God accepts our prayers; God does not remove his love from us.

Opening Prayer

SINGING, PRAISING, THANKING
Recordings by Tian
VT 7 - Come Let Us All Unite to Sing
VT 111 - Bless the Lord

Confession & Assurance

Offertory Prayer

Moments for Children (Ernie Reesor)

Scripture: John 5:1-9

5 Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda[a] and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. 3 Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the wholly or in part, paralyzed—and they waited for the moving of the waters. 4 From time to time an angel of the Lord would come down and stir up the waters. The first one into the pool after each such disturbance would be cured of whatever disease they had. 5 One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

7 “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”

8 Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” 9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

The day on which this took place was a Sabbath.

Sermon: “Spiritual and Mindset Paralysis” by John Fumana

Song of Response: VT 621 - My Hope is Built

WITNESSING & PRAYING

Sharing Time

We will have “Open Mic Sharing” time. This will not be part of the livestream.

From MCEC

1. Please pray for the MCEC community of congregations. This week we pray for **Listowel Mennonite Church**. **Nancy Frey** provides pastoral leadership to the congregation. Pray for them as they strive to be a church that praises God, loves one another, makes more and better disciples, serves in Christ's name, grows in faith and gives generously.
2. Please pray for **Amy Kuepfer** (retired MCEC pastor) and her family, as they grieve the loss of **Clayton Kuepfer** (retired MCEC pastor) who died on August 26, 2024. Clayton was an ordained MCEC pastor. He pastored at Blake and Zurich Mennonite churches for 19 years. Alongside Amy, he ministered at Jane Finch Faith Community for 12 years. Visitation will be held on Friday August 30, 2024 from 4-7pm at the W. G. Young Funeral Home, 430 Huron Street, Stratford. A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, August 31, 2024 at 11am at Elgin Missionary Church, 4192 Perth County Line 36, Stratford, followed by a reception. [More information and to Read Clayton's Obituary](#)
3. Pray for the **family of Viola Dorsch** who died on August 16, 2024. Viola was married to the late Victor Dorsch, who was an MCEC pastor. Visitation will be at the Mark Jutzi Funeral Home in New Hamburg on August 23, 2024 from 2-4pm and 6-8pm. A service will be held at Steinmann Mennonite Church, Baden, on August 24, 2024 at 11am and will also be live-streamed on the church website. [View Viola's Obituary](#).

4. Pray for **Norm Dyck (MCEC Mission Minister), Fanosie Legesse (MCEC Intercultural Mission Minister), and Doug Klassen (MC Canada Executive Minister)** as they travel to Ethiopia from August 22 - September 2. They will be connecting with our sister congregations in Meserete Kristos Church, where they will provide teaching to pastors and lay leaders, preach in local congregations and engage with MKC leadership. Pray for their safety throughout the journey, strength and wisdom as they share God's Word and connect with the MKC church community.
5. Continue to pray for areas in the world who **cry out for peace: Ukraine, Russia, Myanmar, Israel, Palestine, Sudan and more...** Where there is conflict, bring reconciliation; where there is division, bring unity. Help us to be peacemakers, showing love and compassion to all.

From MCC ontario:

1. This week, **new participants in IVEP, SALT, Seed and YAMEN** are gathering for orientation in locations from Cambodia to Guatemala to the U.S. **We give thanks for the courage and faith of these young people.** Join us as we pray for them in this time of change. **May they be embraced and welcomed** in their new families and communities. **May they grow in Christ, and in patience and strength,** as they adapt to new countries and cultures.
2. We also give thanks for the perseverance and dedication of **young adults who just finished their year** in IVEP, SALT and YAMEN. See some of their reflections in [A season of growing and learning](#), an online gallery. We are inspired by their words and hope you will be too.
3. Please pray for young adults who just finished work in their home countries through **Summer Service in the U.S. or Summerbridge in Canada** and for so many other young people who give their time and talents to serve through MCC.

Congregational Prayer

Sending Song: VT 545 - Here I Am, Lord

Benediction

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LISTOWEL MENNONITE CHURCH

Announcements Sheet

Upcoming:

Sept 1 - John Fumana (AIMM) preaching
Sept 8, 11:15am-12:00 - Sunday School for all ages starts after worship.
Sept 22 - Noon Potluck.

LMC Announcements:

- **Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission, John Fumana, Sunday, Sept 1, 2024, 10 - 11:15 a.m., at Listowel Mennonite Church:** Come to Listowel Mennonite Church to hear John Fumana, Co-Executive Coordinator for Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission, preach September 1, and give updates on Mennonite Church Canada Witness and Evangelical Mennonite Conference ministries with African churches in Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Africa.
- **Sept 10 LMC Women's Fellowship:** Welcome back and we hope you had a great summer! We will begin meeting **Tuesday September 10 at 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** Lunch at 12:00, bring a bag lunch and a mug, beverage is supplied. Devotions at 1:00 pm led by pastor Nancy using the Mennonite Women USA resource *Abundant Liberation* by Samantha E. Lioi. The title for this week's devotions is **The solidarity of God** based on the following scriptures: **Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Luke 23:32-43**. Looking forward to working and fellowshiping together! EVERYONE is WELCOME!
- **Ride for Refuge! Sunday Sept 29 12:30pm, after worship.** We will be biking (or walking) from LMC towards Atwood, all on the trails (except for the first bit on quiet roads - the same route as last year!). You can sign up to bike 10 or 20 km, or walk 2.5 or 5 - in support of Compass Refugee Centre - The need is greater than ever!
 - Donate to the LMC Peace Pedalers here: <https://ride.w-ith.me/LMCPeacePedalers>
 - Join the LMC Peace Pedalers here! <https://ride.w-ith.me/LMCPeacePedalers>
 - For more info contact Dorothy T or anyone on the Missions Team.
- **Please note:** An **audio only** recording of the **July 28, 2024 service** is now available on our website at <http://www.lmchurch.ca/past-sermons.html> for those who missed it and are interested.
- **Sunday School Dates: Get set!** Sunday School **starts on Sept 8**. No classes on Oct 13, Dec 29, Jan 5, Feb 16, Mar 9, Apr 20, and May 18. The last day of Sunday School will be May 25, 2025. There will be **intergenerational activities** on **Sept 29, Nov 3, and Mar 30**, instead of regular Sunday School. And, we have all the teachers needed! (Thanks be to God! 😊)
- **Join Grassy Narrows First Nation in Toronto on Sept 18 at noon.** The Grassy Narrows First Nation lives on the river. Unfortunately, the Wabigoon river was poisoned with mercury by a paper mill which dumped mercury into the river back in the 1960's. Since then, the members of Grassy Narrows have had to purchase bottled water. The government has promised action on providing clean water as well as a Mercury Care home, but has not followed through on either promise. Each year in September, members of Grassy Narrows travel to Toronto, a distance of 1,875.5 km, to remind the government that they are still waiting for action. Pastor Nancy will be traveling to Toronto (possibly on a bus with Stirling Ave. Mennonite Church) and would be happy to travel with members of her LMC family. See more [here](#).
- **Jr Youth save the date October 20** - On Sunday October 20, MCEC's Jr Youth Fall event will take place at UMEI in Leamington from 1-5 PM.

- **In the week up to Sunday August 25, 2024 we offered \$ 9,490.00.00 in worship before God.**
General Fund \$ 1,695.00 PAR (Pre-Authorized Monthly Giving \$7,795.00)
 - August 25 attendance: 82
 - August 25 livestream viewers on Sunday: 13 (views after one week: 33)

- **NEW email addresses for LMC:** Due to changes at Mornington Communications our “@cyg.net” email addresses are no longer available to us. Effective immediately (August 16, 2024), please update your records with these new email addresses (which match nicely with our website www.lmchurch.ca):
 - Pastor Nancy Frey pastor@lmchurch.ca (No longer nancylmc@cyg.net)
 - Dorothy Tymchyshyn,
Admin Assistant office@lmchurch.ca (No longer lmc@cyg.net)
 - Robert Sider, Treasurer treasurer@lmchurch.ca (No longer treasurerlmc@cyg.net)
(including for E-Transfers!)

Note: Please be patient as we implement these changes, and don't hesitate to contact us directly if you encounter difficulties making these updates.

Community Announcements:

Wed. Sept. 11 2-4 pm. Woolwich Grey Mennonite Cluster Seniors Fall event. Theme-Blessed by Trees. Meet at Dennis and Helen Martin's farm (Winterose Farm) for a guided hike on the Burr Oak Trail followed by fellowship and snack. For those not hiking, please bring table games. Bring finger foods for snack time and a lawn chair. Drinks provided. Winterose Farm, 1220 Lundy Road, Winterbourne (2.5 km east of Winterbourne) Questions-Call Rosie Lichti 519-575-3517.

Hymn sing leaders - Caressant Care home is looking for people to lead a hymn sing on Sunday. If you are able and willing to help with this, please let Pastor Nancy know, or reach out to Linnea Versteeg, Activity Director, Listowel Caressant Care Nursing Home, (519) 539-0408.

Silver Lake Mennonite Camp has extended their Executive Director application deadline to Sept. 9. The ideal candidate is an excellent communicator with strong financial management and people skills. Those interested can view the job description at slmc.ca. Please send your resume and cover letter to boardchair@slmc.ca.

SLMC Fall Retreats – Registration is open for Fall Retreats at Silver Lake Mennonite Camp, including Men's Retreat (Sep 13-15), Bruce Trail Hikes, and Work Weekend (Nov 1-3). Register at slmc.ca/retreats.

Listowel Christian School Celebrates 50 Years! You are invited to join us as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Listowel Christian School! On **Saturday, September 7th, beginning at 3pm**, you're invited to join our current students, families, staff and membership, along with our alumni and community as we celebrate the wonderful memories and history that has made up the last 50 years of Listowel Christian School. What a blessing it has been as we *Look Back* over the years and as we *Look Forward* to the vibrant future of LCS. *"For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever and his faithfulness continues to each generation."* ~ Psalm 100:5

Listowel Christian School is looking for a **Bookkeeper**. If you're interested in joining the Financial team of LCS or you'd like to learn more about what this position has to offer, please reach out to treasurer@listowelchristianschool.ca.

Listowel Blood Donation Event: Friday, September 13 from 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. By appointment. Book now by calling 1 888 2 DONATE (1-888-236-6283) / www.blood.ca / GiveBlood App

AMBS Free lecture: How to Challenge Christian Nationalism: Building Peace in an Age of Extremism: Tuesday, Oct. 8, 7–8 p.m. EDT at Kern Road Mennonite Church, 18211 Kern Road, South Bend, Indiana. Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary Associate Professor **Drew Strait**, PhD, will share insights from his new book, *Strange Worship: Six Steps for Challenging Christian Nationalism*. Learn about why Christian nationalism is a threat to democracy and the church's witness, and how faith communities can counter it. **The**

event will be livestreamed, and a book signing will follow. Learn more:

ambs.edu/challenge-christian-nationalism

MCC Bucket of Thanks: *Saturday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Material Resources Warehouse, 65 Heritage Dr, New Hamburg* This fall, the Material Resources warehouse is opening its doors and welcoming visitors to an event for the whole family with games, snacks and hands-on activities for all ages. Enjoy activities for kids, pack a kit or two and experience the joy of community service. Admission is free, but we kindly ask for donations of [large bath or laundry bars of soap](#) (in original wrapping) to help fill our kits. Learn more at mcc.org/events/bucket-thanks.

MCC Soap for hope

MCC urgently needs soap donations for countries where soap is scarce. Both bath soap (85g or larger, in wrapper) and laundry soap (e.g. Sunlight) are needed. Please donate to meet this crucial need. Donations can be dropped off at your local [MCC Thrift Shop, office or the Material Resources warehouse](#).

MCC Stories from Africa: Lunch and Listen with Vurayayi Pugini

Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024, 12 p.m. - 12:45 p.m., 50 Kent Ave., Kitchener

Come and be inspired by powerful stories from the heart of Southern and Central Africa! Join us in the Community Room at 50 Kent Ave., Kitchener or live on Facebook, where Vurayayi Pugini, MCC's Area Director for Southern and Central Africa and Nigeria, will share firsthand experiences that will uplift and challenge us. Can't make it in person? No problem—tune in live on our [Facebook page](#)! Don't miss this unique opportunity to connect and learn!

Listowel Mennonite Church

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www.lmchurch.ca

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Pastor: Nancy Frey cell 226-622-3487 pastor@lmchurch.ca(New)

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Treasurer: Robert Sider 519-418-1624 treasurer@lmchurch.ca(New)

Please send **e-transfer offerings** to the treasurer.

Church Council Chair: Jessica Carter 519-505-7563 lmchair1963@gmail.com

Music Director: Tian Ip 778-883-1437 tianipmusic@gmail.com

Vision & Guidance Team: Ernie Reesor, John Ellison, Linda Weber, Jackie Hesselink

Ministers: Each Member of the Congregation

*If you would like to **receive this bulletin by email**, please contact Dorothy T. (above)