

Belmont Mennonite Church

925 Oxford St., Elkhart, IN 46516

(574) 293-5160

office@belmontmc.org

www.belmontmc.org

Larry Rohrer, Pastor

ext. 103

Mandy Yoder, Associate Pastor

ext. 104

Uryna Gerber, Administrator

ext. 101

Margaret Crebbs, Custodian



OUR COMPELLING VISION STATEMENT

We seek to be transformed by the Holy Spirit into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

We commit ourselves to be channels of God's grace and salvation,

wisdom and power, love and peace,

through challenging worship, nurturing fellowship,

discipleship, and intentional ministry to those we regularly relate to,

to the surrounding Belmont neighborhood,

and to the worldwide spiritual and physical need.



Belmont Mennonite Church

***THE LORD IS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS: A JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT
ADVENT IS... PROCLAIMING IN DARKNESS***

Words of Welcome and Intention

O come, O come, Immanuel HWB 172

Call to Worship (insert)

Prayer

Praising

Longing for light SJ 54

Comfort, comfort, O my people HWB 176

My soul proclaims with wonder HWB 181

Confession and Words of Assurance

Offering

Hearing God's Word

Children's Time

Scripture Reading: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6

Sermon: "Who's Who on the World Stage"

Responding to the Word

Hope is a candle SS 15

Encounters with God

Sending

Church in Action

Prepare the way of the Lord SS 14

Benediction

WELCOME to worship at Belmont, and a special welcome to our guests.
Everyone is invited to the activity center after worship for coffee and fellowship.

Worship Participants:

Worship Leader: Bekah York
Song Leader: Travis Kauffman
Pianist: Larry Rohrer
Children's Time: Marlene Kroeker
Scripture Reader: John David Thacker
Sermon: Larry Rohrer
Encounters with God and Church in Action: Mandy Yoder
Worship Visuals: Kris Shenk
Sound Technicians: Steve Brenneman, Tony Krabill

The Nursery/Toddler Room for infants and toddlers is staffed today Chris and Carl Weaver.

If a hearing device would allow you to participate more fully in worship, please contact an usher.

Last Sunday:

Offering \$6,910
Attendance 161

Thanks to all for your faithful and regular financial gifts. With four Sundays remaining in the year, an average of \$14,900 is needed each Sunday in order to meet our 2018 Giving Plan.

Advent Bread Donations Needed – Please see the sign-up sheet in the lobby if you can donate breads to be served after each church service during this Advent season.

THIS WEEK:

Tuesday 12/11

Coffee Break 10 am

Thursday 12/13

Mother's Club 9:30 am

Friday 12/14

AA Meeting 7 pm

LOOKING AHEAD:

Sunday, December 16:

Caroling at the Green House 1:30 pm

Sunday, December 23:

Christmas Program 9:30 am

Save the Date! In lieu of a Youth Auction this year, we are hosting our first ever Trivia Night youth fundraiser on **Saturday, March 16**. Plan on a family friendly meal, followed by an adult-only trivia evening (childcare will be provided). More details to come!

Nurture Hour at Belmont

- Children age 3 through grade 5 are dismissed at 10:45 am to the activity center.
- Youth in grades 6 through 12 remain in the sanctuary until the end of worship, and then go to their classroom.

Nursery/Toddler Caregivers: Sarah Steiner, Marisa Klopfenstein, Annie Mathew, Victoria Brenneman, Rhonda Smucker, Julie Rheinheimer, and Lois Oyer

Pre-K/Kindergarten	Room 228
Grades 1 – 3	Room 229
Grades 4 & 5	Room 216
JYF (Grades 6 – 8)	Room 220
MYF (Grades 9 – 12)	Room 144
Gathering Room	Room 237

Superintendents: Rachel Smucker and Rhonda Smucker

Adults are invited to choose from the following classes:

Shagbark Hickory Group Room 116
Facilitators: Andrea Opel, Brandon Kurtz, Katie Kurtz

Maple Tree Group Room 145
Facilitators: Jill Kio

Locust Tree Group Room 118
Care Leaders: Sharon Rohrer, Judy Keener

Cherry Tree Group Room 117
Coordinator: Wilbert Shenk

New Announcements:

December 9, 2018

Children and Youth: If you would like to offer an instrumental piece as part of the prelude for our Christmas program on Sunday morning, December 23rd, please let Kristin Kauffman know by Sunday, December 16th. Please send your name, name of song, and instrument you will be playing. We will have room for the first 8 who reply with interest!

Apply now for a scholarship with higher awards in 2019: Everence wants to help people nurture their talents. If you or your parents are Everence members and you will be enrolled as an undergraduate or in a trade school next fall, apply now for an Everence College Scholarship of \$1,000 to \$3,000. The deadline is Feb 28. Visit everence.com/college-scholarships for the guidelines and an application.

Midwinter Lecture Series: The Lifelong Learning Institute of Elkhart County invites the public to its annual Midwinter Lecture Series at the Greencroft Goshen Community Center. These free one-hour presentations begin at 1:30 pm on Wednesdays starting January 16th. No registration is required. See the bulletin board or visit their website for more information and lecture topics: www.greencroft.org/lifelonglearning.

The Center for Healing & Hope seeks a half-time communications specialist to manage print and email communication and to collaborate on digital and social media communication. Requirements include strong writing, editing and design skills along with experience in working with Creative Cloud software, managing websites and marketing. The emphasis is on communication in English; understanding of Spanish is helpful. To apply, send a letter of application and résumé to Bryan Mierau at bmierau@CHHclinics.org.

Volunteer with SWAP: Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP), a program of MCC Great Lakes, has openings for volunteer groups. Groups of all ages are an essential component of SWAP's ministry, addressing multiple challenges of low-income families in Appalachia, including home repair and personal need. If your church has never been to one of our SWAP locations, or if it has been a while since you have been to SWAP, consider forming a group to come and experience a week at one of the locations in West Virginia or Kentucky. For more information, go to mcc.org/get-involved/serve/volunteer/swap.

Bethany Christian High School will hold its annual Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 14 in Goshen College's Sauder Concert Hall. Come hear choral and instrumental groups as they celebrate the birth of Christ in music and join them on stage for their concluding song "The Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah.

Repeat Announcements:

Any Junior or Senior High Youth interested in singing with the Adult Ensemble during the Christmas service on **Sunday morning, Dec 23rd** is welcome to join. We will be rehearsing on Dec 16th at 8:30 am, and then again on Dec 23rd at 8:15 am. Email Kristin Kauffman to let her know if you plan to participate, so she can plan accordingly.

Call to Worship

Leader: We are a people walking in darkness.

People: We have seen and know of the deep darkness in our world.

Leader: We come together: searching, grasping, longing for the Light.

People: We want the Light to shine in the darkness! We long for things to change.

Leader: Every valley shall be filled in and every mountain be made low.

People: As we await the coming of the Messiah, we prepare our hearts.

Leader: We are called to turn around, repent, and allow God to renew us and work within us.

All: Then we will see and know the salvation of our God!

Words of Assurance

Our souls magnify, you, Lord;

our spirits exult in you, our Savior.

You, Lord, have noticed the humiliation of your servants;

From now on all generations will count us blessed.

Mighty One, you have done great things for us,
and holy is your name.

Your mercy is on all who fear you
from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm,
and dispersed the haughty
in the scheming of their minds.

You have unseated tyrants from their thrones
and lifted high the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things
and send the rich ones away empty.

You have come to the aid of Israel your servant;
you have remembered your mercy,
just as you promised our ancestors,

Abraham and Sarah and all their descendants forever.
Amen.