

Assembly Mennonite Church
Baptisms & Covenanting Service
August 9, 2020



Gathering

Gathering Drum
Welcome & Introduction to the Service
Be Still and Know
Peace Lamp

Leader: *The light shines in the shadows*

People: **and the shadows have not overtaken it.**

Faith Stories #1 - Wesley Mast, Elsie Mast, Lydia Miller

Response: *As I went down to the river to pray* (humming)

Offering our Gifts

Blessing of the New Year
Bringing of Offerings
Offering Prayer

Faith Stories #2 - Darin Bontrager, Sara Morris, Caleb Morris

Response: *As I went down to the river to pray* (humming)

Hearing God's Word

Romans 12:1-5, 9-16

Faith Stories #3 - Ally Mast, Daniel Mast

Response: *Amazing Grace* (Josh Schrock, and Kora Beasley)

Baptisms - Kora Beasley, Josh Schrock

Response (led by Rebecca Dengler Kaufman)

Responding

Reading the Assembly Covenant
Pastoral Prayer

Sending

Announcements
Benediction
Go Now in Peace

Leading us in worship today - Musicians: Josh Kaufman, Sophie Yoder Schlabach, Emery Beechy King, Magdalena Horst, Stacey Farran, Josh Schrock, Kora Beasley, Rebecca Dengler Kaufman; Scripture Reader: Aaron Kaufmann; Blessing & Baptisms: Lora Nafziger; Pastoral Prayer: Anna Yoder Schlabach; Worship Leader: Scott Coulter

Our covenant

As a community of God's people, we receive with joy God's gracious love. In response, we join in worship and praise and make this covenant with God and with each other.

We affirm our faith in God,
the source of life and love, the Sovereign of the world.

We commit ourselves to follow Jesus Christ,
who redeems, reconciles, and reveals God to us.

We invite God's Spirit to transform, empower and guide us,
as together we discern and follow God's word.

We pledge to nurture and care for each other
and call out the gifts of each person.

We repent of sin, both private and social,
and join God's plan for healing the earth
and bringing peace and justice to its people.

We accept God's call to share the good news of redeeming love,
and invite others to faith in Christ and membership in his church.

We encourage and pray for each other as we live out this covenant
in hope for the time when God brings all of creation to its fullness in Christ.

-Covenant: adopted March 1993

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Group Almond Joy enthusiastically recommends Wesley Mast for membership in AMC. When Wesley Mast decided to move to Goshen, he and Elsie listed the desired characteristics of the church they would attend. His list included: hospitality and welcome, music, covenanting for members, strong community, and relationship to the created world. Wes said he was "hooked" the first Sunday they attended by the welcome and a Capella singing. Later, he was also pleased to discover the degree of vulnerability among the attendees. Throughout his life, it has been Wes's commitment to follow the path of Jesus. He is sensitive to the needs of others and clearly has found joy in serving. He also finds joy in gardening and taking a nondescript chunk of wood and turning it into an object of beauty on the turning lathe. -Glen Miller

Small Group Almond Joy celebrates the covenanting of Elsie Mast. Elsie joined our small group shortly after moving to Goshen and has become actively engaged with other assembly participants. Elsie grew up in a family where following Jesus was important and she in turn has embraced a life of faithfulness. We have come to know Elsie as an affirming person, a good listener, a willing and hospitable hostess, baker, lover of flowers, a gardener (and sharer of garden produce). She maintains friendships and reaches out in friendship to people on the margins. She has a good sense of humor and the gift of cheerfulness and gratefulness even in the presence of disappointment and adversity. We are pleased Elsie has chosen Assembly Mennonite Church as her faith community and are grateful to be recommending her for membership.
-Julia Gautsche

Small group “Cantaloupe, The Group” is delighted to welcome Lydia Miller into full membership in the congregation as she has been a full member of our small group for a couple of years now. She is already on the worship committee and has led worship and singing and participated in many other ways in the congregation.

As our group was thinking about the gifts Lydia brings the list was long! She is enthusiastic, eager, open, energetic, and welcoming. She loves the church and its people and thinks deeply about what it means to be a community together. She has a mischievous sense of humor. She is organized and takes initiative. She shares her life and thinking and receives the lives of others openly. Our small group and congregation are enriched by her presence and her joining with us today officially (though she has been with us in heart awhile now) and strengthens our community.

She brings her membership to us from St. Paul's Methodist Church in Ithaca, New York. -Kathy Meyer Reimer

Small Group Gluten Free Bread of Life (GFBOL) celebrates the covenanting of Darin Bontrager. We have seen an outrageous quantity of gifts from him including: Serving multiple communities through his passion of community outreach and disaster service, being a positive support for those whom he shares his life with, his range of knowledge from competitive sports to green sustainability, singing to aviation, and building houses to traveling the world to help others. While equipped with these skillsets, Darin does not take these for granted and shares his knowledge to help others in need. Darin continuously learns and adapts to be better at what he does and carries others along on his journey. This also consists of his relationship with God as an example of seeking knowledge to grow deeper in his faith with Christ. We are proud of Darin and his motivation to be better and do better in his walk with God. -Ryan Gomez Wengerd.

Small group Auklet is delighted to present Sara Morris for covenanting with Assembly Mennonite Church. Sara grew up in the Greater Milwaukee area, then attended college here in Indiana. Her collegiate studies included Youth Ministry and Adolescent Studies. After Sara and Caleb were married, Sara worked as an ABA therapist for Lighthouse Autism Center. She delights in being at home with Avery and Rylan. Sara enjoys cooking/baking, dancing, hiking, reading, taking family bike rides, picnics, and hosting friends. Sara has shown a depth of faith and a strong commitment to peace and justice issues. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Sara, and we are thankful for the many gifts she brings to small group and to Assembly. It is indeed with joy that we present Sara for covenanting. -Bruce Glick

Small group Auklet is happy to finally celebrate the covenanting of Caleb Morris. He was originally scheduled to covenant March 15, the first Sunday of “shelter at home.” Caleb is a great asset to our small group. He’s introduced us to his favorite books and helped us find resources for study and contributes thoughtful comments and questions from his philosophical mind. I admire the way Caleb moved smoothly from the worldview of his upbringing to his own mature worldview. We love watching his full-throated embrace of parenting, his laughter and genuine care for those on the margins of our society. Thank you Caleb for joining our small group and AMC. -John Nafziger

Small Group Derailed celebrates the covenanting of Ally Mast. Ally’s down to earth personality is a lovely balance between highly organized and relaxed and flexible at the same time. She listens well, is very caring and laughs readily. She has a positive, straightforward style, and funny insights into life. She loves to engage with others and is always learning and sharing about what she has learned. She is an athlete who loves the outdoors and pushes herself to achieve goals. She has great observations in small group and a great laugh.
-Janine Ostergren

Small Group Derailed celebrates the covenanting of Daniel Mast. Daniel is a calm, somewhat quiet, deep thinker who’s completely passionate about most any kind of game and coaching. He has a good sense of humor and is caring and deliberate in what he says, whether sharing a funny insight or a bit of wisdom. He is naturally skilled at connecting and drawing out the young folks in our small group and knows how to help us all laugh at ourselves. He is a wise and curious observer of the world around him, noticing things others may miss.
-Janine Ostergren