

# Willow Springs Worship

July 21, 2024. 9:30 am

zoom:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4743450556>

Meeting ID: 474 345 0556 Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Hosted by Elaine Good

## Welcome and Call to worship – Cal Zehr

**Call to worship:** Sing the Story #189

Prayer SS#197

**Songs** - Phil Kaufmann

**Children's time** – Tarik Kheshgi

**Scriptures** – 1 Cor. 13:7-13

**Sermon** - *Sharing by Julius Malin*

**Songs**

**Sharing/Pastoral prayer**

After prayer times “Lord, in your mercy” respond with “hear our prayer.”

**Song**

## **Announcements:**

Special thanks to **Julius Malin** for sharing during worship this morning. Julius is a PhD student at the university of Basil, Switzerland and during research with Hungry World Farm. He leaves the area today with Cal to present at an Au Sable Integration Day in Central Michigan. On Tuesday he travels to a conference in Madison.

Our **sympathies to Ellen Davis Zehr and family** in the passing of her Mom, Ruth Davis on Wednesday evening.

Willow Springs Missional Giving emphasis for July is Hungry World Farm. If you would like to give to the organization, **make a notation on the memo line of a check.** Thank you all for supporting organizations ministering to many.

In beginning the Pastoral Search, MCUSA asks **us all to fill out a form of CONGREGATIONAL and PASTORAL PRIORITIES** to create a Congregational Information Form.

## CALENDAR

July 21 – Brief Congregational mtg around IMC statement led by Phil. (See Back)

August 4 – All Tiskilwa Worship, 10:30am at the West Park.

August 11 – Child safety updates.

September 1 – Cal's Retirement Recognition

September 8 – WS Annual Meeting

**Sending:** Sing the Journey #159

Online giving option: <https://tinyurl.com/donateWSMC>

1 Corinthians 13 Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

## Illinois Conference Credentialing Proposal April 2024

Dear Illinois Conference churches,

After listening to discussions around presenting two credentialing proposals to IMC congregations at the March annual assembly, the Missional Leadership Team is presenting a single credentialing proposal to IMC congregations for your responses.

Please give written responses "signed" (listed) by at least two congregational leaders to [ilmennconference@gmail.com](mailto:ilmennconference@gmail.com) or, Illinois Mennonite Conference, Box 3, Tremont, IL 61568, or personally, to any MLT member by July 1.

(Asking for more than one name to accompany responses has been a practice of other conferences in canvassing efforts.)

These responses will be the basis for IMC credentialing practices around same sex marriage. The Missional Leadership Team welcomes any requests to meet with congregations to answer any questions.

Missional Leadership Team

Darrel Miller  
Jai Prakash Masih  
Patty Yordy  
Lyle Bohnert  
Eric Nafziger  
Randy Nelson

**To acknowledge both our disagreement around the question of same sex marriage, and our desire to continue together despite these disagreements, IMC credentials of persons who officiate a same sex wedding or are in a same sex marriage will be designated “*at variance*” with the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*.**

Explanations

Any measures to accommodate our conflicting views will be imperfect. We want to acknowledge our disagreement and respectfully accommodate each other. Each viewpoint should be able to identify some accommodation of their views in this practice.

This proposal adapts various earlier “*at variance*” credentialing practices from across the church as a demonstration of mutual accommodation between different viewpoints.

There are other matters of faith and practice where persons may be “*at variance*” with the Confession of Faith. However, in this instance, “*at variance*” applies only to same sex marriage because this is the current issue that is dramatically splitting the church.

Leaders with IMC credentials will be expected to communicate their involvement with same sex marriage to the Conference Minister.

Accept \_\_\_\_\_

Don't accept \_\_\_\_\_

Please feel free to attach whatever comments you would like:

By agreeing to this credentialing practice, we do not relinquish our congregation's right to conscience in these matters, nor does agreeing endorse or condemn the policies of other IMC churches regarding their policies regarding same sex marriage. Rather, we value all churches in our conference and commit to respect, pray for, and love one another as fellow servants, following Jesus in the work of reconciliation of all things to God.