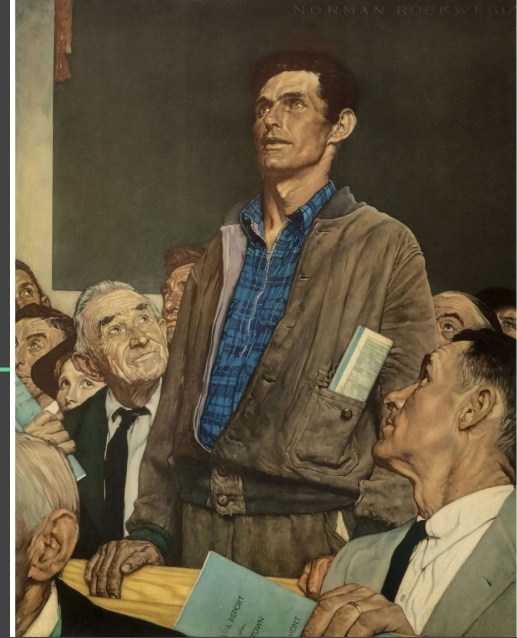


Welcome to Lake Avenue Baptist Church

July 5, 2026



"Freedom of Speech" - Norman
Rockwell

Centering Words

- “I think we can say that democracy is a form of government that demands more virtue of its citizens than any other form of government, but I do not think we can say that democracy guarantees the virtue will be exercised. So let us term freedom of choice less a virtue than a necessity, a precondition to real freedom, which is the ability to make choices that are generous, loving, and wise. Our wills are not free when they will what is bigoted, narrow, ungenerous. Our wills are truly free when they can will the will of a loving God. ‘Thy will be done on earth.’”
- William Sloane Coffin

Good Mornings

Ma gwa na ni (Shona), **Ming galaba** (Burmese), **Mwah be you ay** (Bembe), **Mbote** (Lingala), **Jam bo** (Swahili), **Na Dam Ma** (Chin), **Gaw Ler Gay** (Karen), **Buenos Dias** (Spanish), **Bonjour** (French), **Zǎoshang hǎo** (Chinese), **Kaja Na Ai Ee** (Jinghpaw Kachin), **Te Rya Beh Tee** (Karenni), **Mauri** (Kiribati), **Oo-ya Morgen** (Flemish)

Announcements

- Mission Committee is collecting snacks for Cameron Community Ministries Summer Kids' programs
- Tie-Dye Party and Luncheon Sunday, July 12 at FBC Rochester
- Pride Parade Saturday, July 18
- Pride Service Sunday, July 19
- Sunday School is looking for teachers and people to do the Children's sermons over the summer

Call to Worship -

One: We have come from East and West, from North and South to worship God together!

All: We come, praising God!

Two: We have come – a beautifully diverse collection of many genders, many sexual orientations, many races and ethnicities, many ages and abilities!

All: We come, praising God!

Call to Worship -

One: We have come in peace, breaking down old misunderstandings, welcoming strangers and being welcomed, learning and growing together, greeting one another as siblings in the family of God!

All: We come, praising God!

Two: Praise God who made us all, who loves us all, who calls us together so that we might sing alleluias!

All: We come, praising God!

Opening Hymn - America, The Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain;
For purple mountain majesties,
Above the fruited plain!

Opening Hymn - America, The Beautiful

America! America!

God shed his grace on thee,

And crown thy good with brotherhood

From sea to shining sea.

Opening Hymn - America, The Beautiful

O beautiful for heroes proved

In liberating strife;

Who more than self their country loved,

And mercy more than life!

Opening Hymn - America, The Beautiful

America! America!

May God thy gold refine,

Till all success be nobleness,

And every gain divine.

Opening Hymn - America, The Beautiful

O beautiful for patriot dream

That sees beyond the years

Thine alabaster cities gleam,

Undimmed by human tears!

Opening Hymn - America, The Beautiful

America! America!

God mend thine every flaw,

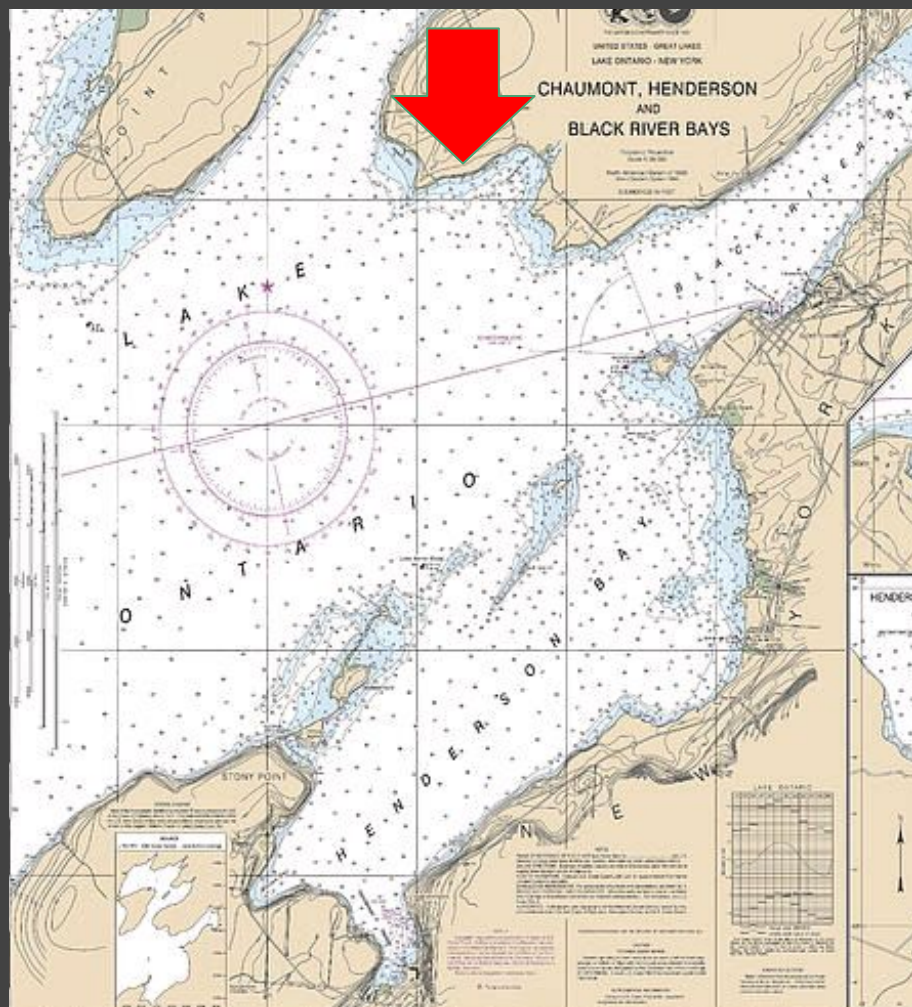
Confirm thy soul in self-control

Thy liberty in law.

Children's Message



"Let the Little Children Come unto Jesus" - Carl Bloch



Song of Blessing for Children

**Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the
love of God surround you everywhere,
everywhere you may go. X2**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

- Invitation to Offering
- Ministry of Music
- Doxology
 - **Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**
- Blessing

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

- Sharing of Joys and Concerns
- Pastoral Prayer
- Lord's Prayer
 - **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Ancient Word: Galatians 5:1, 13-26

1 Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.

13-15 It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom. If you bite and ravage each other, watch out—in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then?

Ancient Word: Galatians 5:1, 13-26

16-18 My counsel is this: Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness. For there is a root of sinful self-interest in us that is at odds with a free spirit, just as the free spirit is incompatible with selfishness. These two ways of life are contrary to each other, so that you cannot live at times one way and at times another way according to how you feel on any given day. Why don't you choose to be led by the Spirit and so escape the erratic compulsions of a law-dominated existence?

Ancient Word: Galatians 5:1, 13-26

19-21 It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on.

This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom.

Ancient Word: Galatians 5:1, 13-26

22-23 But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

Ancient Word: Galatians 5:1, 13-26

23-24 Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified.

Ancient Word: Galatians 5:1, 13-26

25-26 Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives. That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn - This is My Song

This is my song,
O God of all the nations,
A song of peace
for lands afar and mine.

Hymn - This is My Song

This is my home,
the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes,
my dreams, my holy shrine.

Hymn - This is My Song

But other hearts
in other lands are bearing
With hopes and dreams
as true and high as mine.

Hymn - This is My Song

This is my song,
O God of all the nations,
A song of peace
for lands afar and mine.

Hymn - This is My Song

My country's skies
Are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams
On cloverleaf and pine;

Hymn - This is My Song

But other lands
Have sunlight too, and clover,
And skies are ev-erywhere
as blue as mine.

Hymn - This is My Song

O hear my song,
Thou God of all the nations,
A song of peace
For their land and for mine.

Hymn - This is My Song

This is my prayer,
O Ruler of all nations;
Let thy reign come;
On earth thy will be done.

Hymn - This is My Song

In peace may all
Earth's people draw together,
And hearts unit-ed
Learn to live as one.

Hymn - This is My Song

O hear my prayer,
Thou God of all the nations;
Myself I give
Thee; let thy will be done.

Reflection on the Word - “It’s a Long Road to Freedom”



“Transition of Bondage to Freedom” - Yvonne Valenza

The Ordinance of Communion



Art for World Communion Sunday 2015

Closing Hymn - O for a World

O for a world

Where everyone respects each other's ways,

Where love is lived

And all is done with justice and with praise.

Closing Hymn - O for a World

O for a world

Where goods are shared and misery relieved,

Where truth is spoken,

Children spared, equality achieved.

Closing Hymn - O for a World

We welcome one
World family and struggle with each choice
That opens us
To unity and gives our vision voice.

Closing Hymn - O for a World

The poor are rich,
The weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn;
Outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

Closing Hymn - O for a World

O for a world

Preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,

Where time and tears

Will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Sung Blessing - Here I Am, Lord (Refrain)

Here I am, Lord

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord,

If you lead me,

I will hold your people in my heart.

Thank You
for Joining
Us!



"Underground Railroad" - Charles T Webber