

Salem–Zion Mennonite Church

Epiphany: “God Calls us to Light”

January 4, 2026

God calls us to



Epiphany

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GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude/Gathering Music Sheila Epp

Welcome and Call to Worship Clara Beseman

L: In the days of Herod, wise people began a journey to search for the newborn Messiah.

P: The light of a bright star appeared in the heavens.

L: God placed the bright star in the sky to guide the people in their journey.

P: The light shines in the darkness!

L: The light of Jesus still helps us find our way as we journey through life.

ALL: We are called to the light that casts out darkness!

Prayer of Invocation

* Singing our Praise – *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* VT #265

Greeting each other

Children’s Story Jeremy Waltner

Offering – Household Treasury

Adhesive bandages (minimum 40), Sanitary pads (**THIN**; 1 or 2 packages, minimum 28 pads total) for Relief Buckets

Offertory

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Old Testament Isaiah 60:1-6

Song – *O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem* VT #275

* Hearing the Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon – “Unlikely Visitors” Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Communion

Mary’s Song of Praise Luke 1:46-55 VT #987 F

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

SENT OUT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS

* Sending Song – *The First Noel, the Angel Did Say* VT #250

* Benediction

Postlude

Church Calendar

Deadline for bulletin submissions is 8:30 p.m. Wednesday; salemzion@gwtc.net

TODAY

Epiphany is the season that reveals God's Good News in Christ Jesus. As the star guided the wisemen to Jesus, so Christ's light guides all to Jesus' truth, salvation, and love. On this first Sunday of the year during this Christmas season, we welcome all who have joined us in this time of worship. We are glad you are here!

All who earnestly love God and are committed to following Jesus are welcome to participate in communion this morning. May we taste and see that the Lord is good!

Thanks to Carol Eisenbeis for writing our Call to Worship. Nancy Miller designed the bulletins and created the visuals for our Advent/Christmas season.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for the **Household Treasury**. Because our worship service was canceled last Sunday, we didn't get a chance to receive an offering for Mennonite Central Committee Immigration Support. Please consider contributing to BOTH our Household Treasury and MCC's Immigration Support.

9:30am – Sunday School

10:30am – Worship Service

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

THIS WEEK

Jan. 6 (Tues) – Worship Team meeting at 7:00pm

Jan. 7 (Wed) – Outreach and Service Team meeting at 7:30pm

Jan. 9 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – January 11

Next Sunday continues the season of Epiphany with the theme: *“Light Dawns on a Weary World.”* The focus of the morning is *“Bringing Justice.”* The texts are Isaiah 42:1-9, Ps. 29, Acts 10:34-43, and Matthew 3:13-17. Pastor Corey will be preaching. The offering will be for Central Plains Mennonite Conference.

COMING EVENTS

January 11 – Administrative Board meeting at 4:00pm at Pastor Corey's home

January 14 – Feeding Our Faith begins Winter season

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Judy Gross was admitted last weekend to the Freeman Hospital. She continues to receive care there.

- Ron Unruh remains a patient at the VA hospital in Sioux Falls.

Remember to praise God for:

- the gift of the Light of Christ that guides us to the saving news of Jesus.
- grace given to us in the events of the last year as well as Hope for what 2026 will bring.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Mary Schmidt.

- Judy Gross and Ron Unruh as they spend time recuperating in the hospital.

Prayers for Freeman Academy: Over the next month, Pastor Corey will be sending out guided prayers for our church every Monday as we specifically focus on our school, Freeman Academy. While the board and the corporation meet to discern about the school's future during this month, I felt strongly that this is also a time for Salem-Zion to be praying for this process and for the leading of the Holy Spirit in this time of discernment. The guided prayer times will be emailed to everyone on Monday mornings. Please pray collectively for God's Spirit to bring clarity and direction. James reminds us, *“The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.”* (5:16).

Thank You! We have been blessed once again this year by your kind gestures of love to us this Christmas season. We enjoy reading your cards, receiving food and special gifts, and feeling your caring love to us. Thank you for sharing these gifts to us once again. We are very blessed to be a part of this wonderful church family! - Corey and Nancy

The January church **newsletter** is available on the table in the narthex. 2026 **yearbooks** are also available for you in the narthex.

To give to Salem-Zion or the missions we support through Venmo, please use the attached QR code or go through your Venmo app and search (under charity) for Salem-Zion Mennonite Church. If you want your donation to go somewhere other than the household treasury, please put that in the notes. Thank you!



The **Et Cetera Shoppe** is seeking more volunteers to sew rug strips together, for weavers to make into rugs. Details are in the church newsletter.

God's Peace at Epiphany: *“Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die.”*

– Peter Chrysologus

Pastor Corey Miller

Office Hours:

Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon

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