



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

Journey toward Light
January 5, 2025
10:30am

*“When they saw that the star had stopped,
they were overwhelmed with joy.” - Mt. 2:10*

GATHERING TO PRAISE

- Prelude – *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*
Still, still, still (Paul Manz) Ken Mannes
- Call to Worship “Heavenly Host”
- Welcome and Opening Prayer Elizabeth Janssen
- * Singing our Praise – *On This Great Day of Days* VT #260
- * Greeting each other
- Children’s Story Corby and Emma Jeremy Waltner
- Offering – Household Treasury
MCC Infant Kits: 1 pair of socks, 1 cap
- Offertory – *Michau, who is causing this great light?* (old French carol)
(Jean-Francois Dandrieu)

HEARING GOD’S WORD

- Hearing the Old Testament Isaiah 60:1-16
- Song – *O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem* VT #275
- * Hearing the Gospel Matthew 2:1-12
- Sermon – “Led by the Light” Pastor Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

- Song – *Where Is This Stupendous Stranger* VT #266
- Communion
- Sharing and Congregational Prayer

SENT OUT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS

- * Song – *Silent Night, Holy Night* VT #244
- * Benediction
- Postlude – *Hark! The glad sound* (Paul Manz)

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Our Christmas season culminates today as we celebrate Epiphany! With the wise ones who traveled far and wide to see the Christ child, we come to experience the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love in Jesus. May Christ our Light, guide us into all the opportunities in this new year! As we come to Christ’s table of grace, everyone who loves God and is committed to follow Christ is welcome at the table. We are glad you are here!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for the **Household Treasury**.

9:30am – Jr. SS Opening; Sunday School for all ages
10:30am – Worship Service
2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

THIS WEEK

Jan. 8 (Wed) – Feeding Our Faith. Pizza supper at 6:15pm and Bible Study for all ages at 7:00pm. A donation basket will be available to help pay for the pizza.

Jan. 9 (Thurs) – Deacons’ meeting at 7:45pm

Jan. 10 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – Jan. 12

Next Sunday we begin a new series that highlights our Anabaptist Values in this 500th Anniversary year. Over the next month, the theme of “*Services of Renewal*” will guide our worship. The focus of the day is “*Renewal Through Story*.” The text is I Corinthians 3:1-11 and Pastor Corey will be preaching.

The offering will be for Central Plains Mennonite Conference.

COMING EVENTS

Jan. 13 – Beginning of the Year Administrative Board meeting at 7:00pm

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Remember to praise God for:

- all times when God’s light has shined for us, revealing truth, bringing healing, and offering hope.
- the opportunities in this new year to gather around God’s Word and dwell in the scriptures together.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Marian Gering.

- our country as it both remembers President Carter's servanthood spirit and as it prepares for new leadership.
- the city of New Orleans and all who are grieving the senseless tragedy that occurred in that city on January 1st.

Feeding Our Faith begins January 8th!

Feeding Our Faith is a winter study/ministry for our church and community that gathers us for food, fellowship, study and learning. Supper will be at **6:15pm** and studies for all ages will be at **7:00pm**. This year, the adults will be reflecting on the 500th Anniversary of the Anabaptist Church and specifically we will be ***Dwelling in God's Word*** together. The children will have Bible Study and Choir rehearsal with Sheila. Feeding Our Faith is one specific practice that we do to nurture our faith and develop relationships with each other in community.

For the upcoming Administrative Board meeting, anyone that is serving on the **Plant, Outreach, Worship, or Spiritual Formation** teams, whether you were called by selection committee or an individual from the team itself, is invited to gather at 7:00pm on January 13 in the fellowship hall. We will all meet together for a short time and then break out into teams to organize for the upcoming year.

Anabaptist Community Bible: The long-awaited Anabaptist Community Bible recently came out. If you have ordered one, you can see how rich a treasure this Bible is. If you wish to order one, you can still do so (contact the church office with any questions). We look forward to reflecting on our Anabaptist story in the new year ahead! May this be a wonderful year for us as we endeavor to Dwell in the Word.

On behalf of Freeman Regional Assisted Living and Oakview Terrace residents, we express our sincere **thanks for your participation in the Senior Giving Tree Project**. Your kindness and generosity definitely brightened their holiday season! - Salem Mennonite Mission and Service Team

The Household Treasury **monthly report** is posted in the narthex.

December Offerings and Gifts: The Banquet - \$500.00; CPMC - \$2,094.00; Deacon Sharing Fund - \$5,030.00; Freeman Academy - \$500.00; Food Pantries - \$50.00; Household Treasury - \$36,541.00; MCC - \$1,638.00; MCC Meat Canning - \$500.00; MCUSA - \$1,205.00; MDS - \$500.00; Outreach & Service - \$3,000.00; Presentation Sisters - \$1,126.00; SD MCC Relief Sale - \$1,000.00.

2025 church yearbooks are available in the narthex.

The January church **newsletter** is available on the table in the narthex.

Community Connections

The **Freeman Network for Justice and Peace** will meet Wednesday, January 8 at 11:30 A.M. in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome.

There will be a **Piano Night fundraiser** at Swan Lake Christian Camp on January 26 at 6:00pm. Please see the poster in the narthex for details.

Seeking Peace: *“What are the things that you can't see that are important? I would say justice, truth, humility, service, compassion, love. You can't see any of those, but they're the guiding lights of a life.”*
 - President Jimmy Carter

Pastor Corey Miller
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