



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

Epiphany: "How will we know....what we know?"

January 7, 2024

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Sheila Epp

Welcome

Lori Hofer

Call to Worship

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

People: Lift up your eyes and look around; they gather and come to you.

High Voices: You shall see and be radiant;

Low Voices: your heart shall thrill and rejoice and proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Leader: The mystery of Christ has been revealed by the Spirit. We have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise of Christ through the gospel.

People: We know this through faith in Christ. May our lights shine! (pause)

All: Together we carry the light.

Opening Prayer

* Hymn – *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

VT #273

* Greeting each other

Children's Story

Estelle Waltner

Sharing our Offerings (Household Treasury) and Dedicating Hygiene Kits

Offertory – *O come, O come Emmanuel*

Simon Ortman & Thomas Lewter, baritone duet

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Hearing the Old Testament

Isaiah 60:1-6

Drama

Brian and Maria Paff

* Hearing the Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

* Hymn – *O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*

VT #275

Sermon – "God's Light Has Come"

Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD

Hymn – *Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets*

VT #276

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

* Sending Song – *As with Gladness*

VT #277

* Benediction

L: Together we carry the light.

P: This is what we know.

L: No go, basking in the glow of Christ! We have become God's heirs, members of one body, and sharers of the promise. Amen!

Postlude

Epiphany



January 7, 2024

SALEM-ZION MENNONITE CHURCH

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Jesus, our Light has come! As we enter the story of the wise men watching stars and seeking a Savior, we also are confronted with Herod who is not ready for Christ's Light to shine. While we still have questions, we know that the Messiah has come and we are witnesses to the difference that makes to the world. Welcome to worship!

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 (Mon) – Administrative Board meeting at 7:00pm

Jan. 10 (Wed) – Children's Choir practice, 6:00-6:30pm

Jan. 10 (Wed) – **Feeding Our Faith** kickoff with pizza and an intergenerational prayer walk experience, 6:15pm

Jan. 11 (Thurs) – Deacons meeting at 7:00pm

Jan. 12 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – Jan. 14

Next Sunday recalls the Baptism of Jesus. The texts will be Gen. 1:1-5, Ps. 29, Acts 19:1-7, and Mk.1:4-11. Pastor Corey will be preaching.

The offering will be for Central Plains Mennonite Conference.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Remember to praise God for:

- the gift of a new year, new beginnings, and God's mercies that are new every morning.

We pray for:

- our Administrative Board meeting on Monday as we begin a new year, discern what God is calling us to, and strength to follow the Holy Spirit's leading.

Feeding Our Faith (FOF): Our FOF season begins Wednesday night with a special pizza and salad supper (6:15pm) along with an introduction of our programming and staff for the next two months. Culminating our time will be an **intergenerational prayer walk** throughout the church, so make plans to come out and enjoy food, fellowship, and feeding our faith. A free-will donation basket will help offset the cost of the pizza. Please bring any leftover Christmas

goodies for our dessert. We hope to see you all come out! And if you are needing childcare (infant-kindergarten) during FOF from 7:15-8:00 in the following weeks, please let Sheila know.

New Membership Class: The new membership class will begin on January 14th during the SS hour. Currently, we have 7 people signed up and the class will run for 4 weeks. If you are interested, talk to Pastor Corey.

The Jr Sunday School **offering project** for the fall quarter was for Swan Lake Christian Camp. \$165.00 was collected and given to the camp. The December offering collected from the Adult and Jr SS classes, and the love offering collected at the Christmas Eve service will be sent to the family of Megan Rollag. The offering for the Jr SS department for January and February will be for the Byron Bible Camp in Huron, SD, the camp that Megan attended. This offering will be given to the camp in memory of her. If you are interested in giving an offering in January and February, please talk to Sheila. Thank you!

December Offerings and Gifts: Household Treasury - \$21,917.00; Deacon Sharing Fund - \$1,450.00 Student Tuition Sharing Fund - \$500.00; Feeding SD - \$250.00; Bethany Food Pantry - \$525.00; NTC Food Pantry - \$25.00; Salem Home - \$500.00; CPMC - \$1,825.00; MC USA - \$1,227.00; MCC - \$5,000.00; Jr. SS - SLCC - \$165.00; SD Network Against Family Violence - \$1,664.00; Megan Rollag - \$613.00.

A **thank-you card** from Hannah Miller has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

A copy of the Household Treasury **monthly report** has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex and the January church **newsletter** is available on the table in the narthex.

Community Connections

Freeman Network for Justice and Peace will meet Wednesday, January 10 at 11:30 A.M. in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome.

Praying God's Peace in Epiphany: *“Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things.”* – Apostle Paul, Ephesians 3:8-9