



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

**Journey toward Hope  
December 1, 2024  
10:30am**

*“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth.”  
- Luke 2:7a*

## GATHERING TO PRAISE

- Prelude – *The angel Gabriel called Mary blessed* (VT #221)  
(arr. Paul Manz) Ken Mannes
- Call to Worship “The Heavenly Host”
- Advent Candle Lighting *Hope Is a Candle* Duet
- Welcome and Opening Prayer Tim Graber
- \* Singing our Praise – *There Is a Line of Women* VT #546
- \* Greeting each other
- Children’s Story Corby and Emma Lori Hofer
- Offering – Household Treasury  
MCC Infant Kits (3 gowns/sleepers – flannel or similar warm, soft material)  
Offertory – *O come, O come, Emmanuel* (arr. Paul Manz)

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

- Hearing the Old Testament Isaiah 9:2-7
- Song – *What Child Is This* and *Helpless and Hungry* VT #267-268
- \* Hearing the Gospel Luke 2:1-7
- Sermon – “Finding Hope in the Unknown” Pastor Corey Miller

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

- Guiding us to Hope
- Hymn – *Bless’d Be the God of Israel* VT #223
- Sharing and Congregational Prayer

## SENT OUT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS

- \* Song – *To Us a Child of Hope Is Born* VT #259
- \* Benediction
- Postlude – *Improvised*

## Church Calendar

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

### TODAY

Advent invites us to slow down, listen more carefully, and experience the wonder of Jesus’ birth. Today we enter the story by walking with Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem. On our journey toward HOPE, we trust that God is with us. Welcome to our worship!

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

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

### THIS WEEK

- Dec. 4 (Wed)** – Children’s Choir, 6:00-6:30pm  
**Dec. 4 (Wed)** – Adult choir rehearsals (chancel at 7pm, men/ladies at 8pm)  
**Dec. 6 (Fri)** – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

### NEXT SUNDAY – Dec. 8

Next Sunday we continue the season of Advent with the theme: *Journey Toward Peace*. The texts are Luke 2:8-14, Psalm 103:1-5, and Isaiah 40:9-11. Pastor Corey will be preaching and we will be receiving items for MCC infant kits. Items that will be received during our regular offering will be: 3 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves).

The offering will be for Central Plains Mennonite Conference.

### COMING EVENTS

- Dec. 8** – Christmas Open House at the Miller’s Home from 3-6pm  
**Dec. 11, 18** – Adult choir rehearsals (chancel at 7pm, men/ladies at 8pm)  
**Dec. 22** – Christmas Choir Service at 7:00pm at Salem-Zion Mennonite  
**Dec. 24** – Children’s Christmas Eve program at 7:00pm  
**Dec. 25** – Christmas Day worship service at 10:30am

## Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

### Remember to praise God for:

- all the people and places that bring us hope.
- our annual business meeting and the budget we passed for the new fiscal year.
- the opportunities to enjoy family, friends, and food over Thanksgiving weekend. God has blessed us!

### Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Cody Schrag.

- those who feel helpless and hopeless in our day.
- safe travels and formative conversations and much good fellowship as the conference ministers for all area conferences of MC USA and MC Canada gather at the Kineo Center in Puerto Rico.

**Advent Opportunities to Grow and Give!** During this year’s Advent season, we invite you to join in the timeless story of Jesus’ birth. One way that you and your family can do this is by reading through the Gospel of Luke. If you read one chapter a day during the month of December, you’ll cover the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Let’s dwell in God’s Word together!

Also, with all the needs in the world, we are again receiving items for **infant kits** for Mennonite Central Committee. Each week during Advent through Epiphany, we are invited to bring items that will be received during the regular offering.

- Dec. 8 - 3 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves)
- Dec. 15 - 1 receiving blanket [lightweight fleece or flannel, minimum 75 cm x 75 cm (30 in x 30 in), larger sizes preferred]
- Dec. 22 - 4 large, heavy-duty safety pins
- Dec. 29 - 1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper)
- Jan. 5 - 1 pair of socks, 1 cap

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

Phyllis Hartzler, a former member of North Church, is celebrating her 90th birthday. **Birthday greetings** can be sent to Phyllis at this address:

Phyllis Hartzler  
 506 West Front Street  
 Apartment F  
 Wayland, IA 52654

### Community Connections

For the second year in a row, **Heritage Hall Museum & Archives** is inviting the public to a free community Christmas Carol Sing-Along. It will start at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the Bethel Church on the museum grounds. The church, decorated for the season, will be open free to the public prior to the carol sing-along starting at 10 a.m.; light refreshments will be served. "Christmas at the Bethel Church" will continue through December. The historical church features 14 decorated trees sponsored by community businesses, families and organizations. The church will be open to museum guests, as well as those making a \$10 purchase at the HHM&A Mercantile or by donation. Passes are available at the museum. In addition to the Dec. 7 event, the museum is also extending its regular hours – noon to 4 weekdays – to

include Saturdays, Dec. 14 and 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you have questions or want to schedule an event of your own at the church – a Sunday school class, youth group or family, etc. – please call us at 605-925-7545.

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

**Hope in Advent:** “The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.”  
 - Henri Nouwen

**Pastor Corey Miller**  
 Office Hours:  
 Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon  
 corey.miller@gwtc.net  
 Cell phone: 319-930-7320

**Church Admin. Assistant:**  
 Lisa Kaufman  
 (605) 951-1871 ~ salemzion@gwtc.net  
 Office hours: Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and by appointment as requested