



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

December 12, 2021

*Entering Love's Story: Birth*

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

ENTERING *Love's* STORY



December 12, 2021

*Advent, Three*

SALEM-ZION MENNONITE CHURCH

Prelude Sherilyn Ortman

1. 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime
2. What Is This Lovely Fragrance?
3. Cold December Flies Away (John Ferguson)

The Prophetic Voice Isaiah 7:10-16 Gloria Graber

Welcome and Call to Worship Susan Schrag

L: Today, O God, the soles of your feet have touched the earth.

**P: Today, the back street, the forgotten place has been lit up with significance.**

L: Today, the households of earth welcome the King of heaven.

**P: For you have come among us, you are one of us.**

**ALL: So may our songs rise to surround your throne as our knees bend to salute your cradle. Amen.**

Opening Prayer

\* Hymn – *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* VT #243

Greeting Each Other and “Passing the Peace”

*“The Peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.”*

Advent Candle Lighting *Hope Is a Candle* vv.1-3 #211

Celebrating our Mission with *Central Plains Mennonite Conference*

MCC Infant Kits - 1 receiving blanket - lightweight fleece or flannel

Children’s Story The Dove’s Story Jeremy Waltner

## PROCLAIMING

Hearing the New Testament – I John 5:1-5 Diane Ellinger

Song – *My Soul Proclaims with Wonder* #222

Judy Graber – verses, Congregation - chorus

\* Hearing the Gospel – Luke 2:7 Keely Penner

Meditation – “God’s Remarkable Entrance” Corey Miller

## RESPONDING

Testimony Laura Hofer

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

\* Sending Song - *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* #261

Blessing

Postlude – *from "Partita on In Dulci Jubilo"* (Raymond Haan)

## Church Calendar

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

### TODAY

We enter the holy manger scene to witness the birth of Jesus in the most humble of settings. In some of the most unexpected places, God's Spirit is working to bring hope, peace, joy and love. We look forward to entering in this story of Christ's birth which changed the world. Welcome everyone! We are so glad that you are here.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Central Plains Mennonite Conference**. Items for the MCC Infant Kits: **1 receiving blanket - lightweight fleece or flannel**

9:00 a.m. – Zoom Adult Sunday School  
9:30-10:15 a.m. – Jr. Dept. Sunday School  
9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for adults  
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

Special thanks to Polly Waltner for the Advent bulletin cover picture, Gary Graber for the stable, and Nancy Miller for the animals in the stable.

### THIS WEEK

**Dec. 15 (Wed)** – Children's choir 6:30-7:30pm

### NEXT SUNDAY – December 19

Next Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Advent. The theme this year is "Entering Love's Story" and the focus of the morning is **Shepherds**. The texts are Ezekiel 34:11-16, Luke 2:8-20 and Pastor Corey will be preaching. Offering next Sunday will be for **Mennonite Church USA**.

### COMING EVENTS

**Sunday, Dec. 19** – Christmas Worship Service at Salem-Zion at 7:00pm  
**Friday, Dec. 24** – Children's Christmas Eve Service at Salem-Zion at 7:00pm  
**Saturday, Dec. 25** – No Christmas Day service

## Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

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### Happenings over the past week:

- Tammy Benjamin continues as a patient at the Avera Hospital where she is still on the ventilator.

### Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Paul & Darlene Engbrecht.  
- those who are recovering from surgeries or those who will have surgeries yet this year.  
- Tammy Benjamin as she continues her fight against Covid.  
- each of us as we welcome the birth of Jesus into our lives.

- our sister churches in South Dakota: Sermon on the Mount in Sioux Falls and Bethany, Hutterthal, Salem, and the Freeman House Church in Freeman.

**Infant Kits for MCC during Advent:** As we have done recently, we will be receiving items needed for Infant Kits for MCC as a part of our offering.

The following is the schedule that we will follow:

Dec. 12 – **1 receiving blanket - lightweight fleece or flannel**

Dec. 19 – **4 large, heavy-duty safety pins**

Dec. 26 – **1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper)**

Jan. 2 – **1 pair of socks, 1 cap**

**Please take time to sign the Christmas cards** on the table in the narthex. They will be available through December 16.

**November Mission Fund Offerings & Gifts:** SD MCC Relief Sale - \$20.00; MEA - \$25.00; CPT - \$20.00; Wellspring - \$20.00; MCC - \$20.00; AMBS - \$20.00; Freeman Academy - \$225.00; Mennonite Mission Network - \$1,005.00; Central Plains Mennonite Conference - \$1,648.00; SLCC - \$20.00; MC USA - \$2,112.00; White River Cheyenne - \$2,641.00.

## Community Connections

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The Salem Mennonite Church Mission and Service Team is sponsoring the holiday **Senior Giving Tree for residents of Oakview Terrace and the Salem Home in Freeman**. Trees with gift tags and instructions are located at Jamboree Foods, Norm's Thrifty White and the Salem Mennonite Church narthex. Gifts must be returned to one of the tree locations by Dec. 21 to ensure Christmas delivery. Monetary donations to cover remaining gift tags are welcome, and can be sent to Salem Mennonite Church, Attn: Chris Eisenbeis, 28103 443<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Freeman, SD 57029. Thank you in advance for bringing joy to our senior citizens this holiday season!

Do you have a heart for mentoring students, along with strong organizational skills? Freeman Academy has greatly appreciated the Singletarys and Andersons stepping in for this year as Resident Directors, but it is time to begin our search for a **new couple to supervise and encourage our boarding students in on-campus housing beginning next fall**. Main responsibilities are building relationships with students and overseeing daily life at the dorm, including cooking the evening meal, coordinating student activities, and communicating with parents. Includes salary plus benefits, including health insurance, retirement, room and board. For more information visit <https://freemanacademy.org/employment/> or contact Nathan Epp, Head of School, [nepp@freemanacademy.org](mailto:nepp@freemanacademy.org) or 605-925-4237.

The **Swan Lake Christian Camp December newsletter** is available online at [www.myslcc.com](http://www.myslcc.com) under the “about us” tab. Read about upcoming events and happenings and some Christmas reflections from SLCC staff.

Swan Lake Christian Camp is hosting **Piano Night at the Lake** on January 9, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Pianists will be Russell Adrian (a SLCC alum), formerly of Mt. Lake, MN and now choral director at Hesston College, KS along with his colleague Ken Rodgers. They will provide some duets and individual pieces. Mary Anderson will be providing music as well as a great meal. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 605-326-5690 or emailing at [campoffice@myslcc.com](mailto:campoffice@myslcc.com). A freewill offering will be taken for the evening.

Swan Lake Christian Camp 2022 **Winter Retreats** are just around the corner. Make plans now to attend. Dates are as follows: 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat January 14-16, Junior High Retreat January 21-23 and Senior High Retreat January 28-30. Sign up online at [www.myslcc.com](http://www.myslcc.com).

**God’s Peace is Good News:** "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

“As followers of Jesus Christ, our purpose is to live and share the good news of Christ’s Kingdom, welcoming all as we worship, study, fellowship and serve others together.” - Salem-Zion Mennonite Mission Statement 2015

**Zoom Adult Sunday School**

<https://zoom.us/j/97667382194?pwd=NHNieHZ6a29ZMGpZSHJpczlibUxtdz09; Meeting ID: 976 6738 2194; Passcode: 523139>

**Livestream link for Sunday morning worship**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX8KyFlZChK0Ef-rlBAaS3A>

**Pastor Corey Miller**

Office Hours:

Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon  
[corey.miller@gwtc.net](mailto:corey.miller@gwtc.net)  
Cell phone: 319-930-7320

5

**Church Admin. Assistant:**

Lisa Kaufman

(605) 951-1871 ~ [salemzion@gwtc.net](mailto:salemzion@gwtc.net)  
Office hours: Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and by appointment as requested

6