



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

**December 13, 2020**

*“On the road to restoration”*

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

- Prelude Sheila Epp
- Welcome and Call to Worship (Psalm 126) Tim Eisenbeis
  - L: The Lord has done great things for us, and so we rejoice!
  - P: Our mouths are filled with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy.**
  - L: Those who sow in tears will reap shouts of joy.
  - P: Those who go out weeping will come home with shouts of joy.**
  - ALL: The Lord has done great things for us and we rejoice!**
- Lighting of the Advent Candle-*O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Beth Kaufman
- Inviting God’s Spirit
- Opening Hymn – *Praise the One who breaks the darkness* (SS #1)  
Choristers: Hannah Miller & Rachel Miller
- Celebrating God’s Mission – Central Plains Mennonite Conference
- Children’s Story Polly Waltner

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

- Hearing the Old Testament Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
- Hymn – *O Come, O Come, Immanuel* (HWB #172)
- Hearing the Gospel Luke 1:46-55
- Sermon – “The Mighty One has done great things” Corey Miller

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

- Confession
- Silence
- Song – *My soul proclaims with wonder* (HWB #181)
- Sharing and Congregational Prayer
- Sending Song – *To us a Child of hope is born* (HWB #189)
- Benediction
- Postlude

## Church Calendar

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

### TODAY

The gift offered to the repentant is restoration. The road to restoration is a journey toward wholeness in body, soul, and spirit, both individually and within community. We pray that this time of worship will bring restoration to the places that long for it. Welcome to this worship time. We are so glad you are here!

This morning our tithes and offerings are gifted to **Central Plains Mennonite Conference**. CPMC is a vibrant area conference of Mennonite Church USA made up of 46 diverse congregations spanning 8 states (Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) and more than 1,000 miles from corner to corner. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

**Today** – Catechism will be held virtually at 4:00pm. Pastor Corey will send out the link to the students.

### THIS WEEK

**Dec. 16** – Board of Education meeting at 7:30 at church. A Zoom link will be available.

### NEXT SUNDAY – December 20

Next Sunday we will continue our Advent theme: “**On the Road.**” The theme of the morning will be “*On the road to revelation*” and the texts will be II Samuel 7:1-11, Ps. 89, Romans 16:25-27, and Luke 1:26-38. Pastor Corey will be preaching.

Offering next Sunday will be for **Mennonite Church USA.**

### COMING EVENTS

- Dec. 20** – Recorded choir program via live-streaming at 7:00pm
- Dec. 21** – Longest Night Worship Service at 7:00pm. Live-streaming.
- Dec. 24** – Christmas Eve Worship Service at 7:00pm. Live-streaming.
- Dec. 25** – Christmas Day Service Zoom hosted by South Church at 10:30am. There will be no in-person service. There will be a greeting, prayer and possibly a scripture reading and then a recording of a South Church Christmas Concert. The link will be sent out next week.

## Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

### Happenings over the past week:

- On Tuesday, David Janssen’s mother, Joy Janssen, passed away at the Freeman Hospital. A private family graveside service for Joy was held on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Greenwood Cemetery in Marion.

- On Wednesday, Mark Miller was discharged from Sanford Hospital after spending 46 days there fighting COVID-19. We praise God for his recovery and we pray that he will continue to gain strength at home.

- On Tuesday, we got a new copy machine in the church office to help Lisa do the amazing things she does! Thank you to our attentive trustees for keeping our equipment in good order so we can declare Good News.

**Remember to pray for:**

- those who cannot be here today: Sharon Schmidt.
- Dave Janssen and his family in the loss of his mother Joy. Pray for comfort and healing love to surround them in these days of grief and loss.
- our sister congregations in North and Central Iowa: Cedar Falls Mennonite, Cedar Falls, IA, Christ Community, Des Moines, IA, Des Moines Mennonite, Des Moines, IA, and Manson Mennonite, Manson, IA.

**Remember to thank God for:**

- the healing and recovery that Mark Miller has been able to experience. Praise God for restoration!!

**Thank You:** Mark Miller is *“appreciative beyond words for all the prayers, support, and cards from the congregation. It’s by God’s grace that I am able to continue my life.”*

There is one more week to express your opinion on Salem-Zion joining the **Ross Richer mission in Ecuador** as a supporting congregation. We’ve heard from many of you, but would like to be sure to have as many voices engaged in the process as possible. If you haven’t already, please take one or two minutes to fill out your ballot electronically or return a paper ballot to the church office or the box in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Ortman. Thank you. <https://forms.gle/fUfEMQQxFgKT2ion8>

The Jr. Sunday School Department will continue to take an **offering** for the Don and Sonja Waltner family during the winter quarter. There will be a box in the narthex on Sunday mornings. If you want to contribute, but are not able to be in church, please send your offerings to the church or call Sheila Epp.

**Christmas Card Blitz:** The deacons are suggesting that we each send one another a Christmas Card that is filled with words of encouragement, care and love. An email was sent out on Tuesday with the name of the person/family you are invited to write to. For those who don’t have email, letters were sent out on Thursday with your names. Let’s let words of love, grace and hope fill our hearts as we stay connected in our church family.

**Candy refreshments after the Christmas Choirs program?** Yes!! The Music Committee and the Sunday Evening Fellowship Committee (who traditionally has hosted the refreshment time after the Christmas Choirs Program) have been envisioning how to safely celebrate this 2020 Christmas season while maintaining some traditions. Although we are not planning to fill the sanctuary or meet around tables in the Fellowship Hall, we can connect with each other while in our respective homes through a candy and cookie exchange! This exchange will happen over a few days beginning on December 16th when donations of homemade candy or cookies can be delivered to the church kitchen. The following day a small group of masked and gloved individuals will divvy up goodies which will then be available for pick-up on December 18th at your convenience. If you have Covid, are a close contact, or have similar symptoms please refrain from donating. Anyone is able to sign-up for a package of goodies. How to sign-up?...Please email [charityjb@gmail.com](mailto:charityjb@gmail.com) if you would like a package of goodies or plan to donate. Fruit will not be included this year, but servings of peanuts will be available for pick-up. These treats can be enjoyed during the youtube streaming of the Choirs Program.

**December 21 is the longest night of the year.** As part of the webinar series, “Long Cold Winter: a series of warm webinars for a cold season,” the Christian Formation Committee of CPMC invites you to seek comfort and healing as we worship together. Monday, December 21, 7:00pm. For more information about this and other webinar offerings, visit our website, [centralplainsmc.org](http://centralplainsmc.org).

Swan Lake Christian Camp 2021 **Winter Retreats** are just around the corner. Make plans now to attend. Family Camp is February 26-28. Families with children, grandparents, singles and young married couples are all invited to attend this fun-filled weekend. Don’t forget to sign your kids up for Winter Youth retreats. Dates are as follows: 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat January 8-10, Junior High Retreat January 15-17 and Senior High Retreat January 22-24. Sign up online at [www.myslcc.com](http://www.myslcc.com).

**Advent Hope:**

“There is Good News. And it comes in the vulnerable, unexpected package of a baby born into poverty in an occupied land.” - Katie Lacz

**Pastor Corey Miller**  
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