

# Salem–Zion Mennonite Church

Advent 3: “God Calls us to Joy”

December 14, 2025

## GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude – *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* (arr. R. Haan)  
*Still, Still, Still* (arr. P. Manz) Sharon Waltner  
Choral Call – *Break forth, O beauteous, heav’nly light*  
(Bach, arr. A.T.D.) Men’s Choir  
Welcome and Lighting of Advent Candle VT #917 Austin Unruh  
Call to Worship

L: From generation to generation, the people waited for the coming of the Messiah.

**P: Jesus, the Messiah, will save his people from their sins!**

L: God chose the virgin Mary and also Joseph, to whom she was engaged, to bring the infant Messiah into the world through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**P: An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to take Mary for his wife.**

L: In the darkness of Advent, we wait with active anticipation for the fulfillment of God’s promises.

**All: May we trust God as Joseph did and be empowered to express joy in our waiting!**

Prayer of Invocation

\* Singing our Praise – *Bless'd Be the God of Israel* VT #223

Greeting each other

Children’s Story Brian Paff

Offering – Central Plains Mennonite Conference

Offertory – *The Manger Shepherd’s Pipe* (arr. G. Young)

Special Music – *What Child is This?* Kerry, Lori, Cadence, & Reeslyn Hofer

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Old Testament Isaiah 7:14-17

Special Music – *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* (arr. Wiebe) Men’s Choir

\* Hearing the Gospel Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon – “He will save his people from their sins” Corey Miller

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Mary’s Song of Joy Luke 1:46-55 Judy Graber and Lacey Friesen

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

## SENT OUT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS

\* Hymn of Joy – *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (sing last verse in unison) VT #241

\* Benediction

Postlude – *Der Tag, Der Ist So Freudenreich* (J.S. Bach)

*God calls us to*



Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

## Church Calendar

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

### TODAY

God calls us to Joy! How did Joseph experience joy in his responsibility to help bring the Christ child into the world? As we enter into his story, we pray that the Holy Spirit will remind us of the ways that God meets us with grace. Welcome to worship! We are glad you are here.

Thanks to Carol Eisenbeis for writing our Call to Worship.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Central Plains Mennonite Conference**.

9:30am – Sunday School  
9:30-10:15am – Children’s Choir in the sanctuary  
10:30am – Worship Service  
2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

**TODAY:** Christmas Open House at the Miller’s from 3:00-6:00pm. Come enjoy Christmas goodies and fellowship with others in our church.

### THIS WEEK

**Dec. 17 (Wed)** – Children’s Choir from 6:15-7:00pm; **Chancel Choir at 7:00pm (note updated time)**; Men’s Choir at 8:30pm

**Dec. 19 (Fri)** – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

### NEXT SUNDAY – December 21

Next Sunday continues our Advent season with the theme, “*God Calls.*” The focus of the morning is “*God calls us to Love.*” The texts are Isaiah 57:14-19 and Luke 2:1-20. Pastor Corey will be preaching and we will be receiving items (4 new bath towels [medium weight, dark or bright colors preferred]; approximately 28 in. x 50 in.) for MCC’s Relief Buckets. The offering will be for Mennonite Church USA.

### COMING EVENTS

**December 21** – Christmas Choirs Program at 7:00pm

**December 24** – Children’s Christmas Eve Program at 7:00pm

**December 25** – Christmas Day worship service at South Church at 10:00am

## Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

### Happenings over the past week:

- Pastor Ron Krehbiel (son of Olan who pastored at Salem-Zion in the late 1950’s) passed away in Hesston this week. Memorial services are pending.
- Ellen Ortman was scheduled to go back to her home on Friday.

### Remember to praise God for:

- the snippets of joy that come to us in big moments and small in this Advent season.

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- the inspiring examples of Elizabeth and Mary for their faithful responses to God’s transformative call.

### Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Paul Engbrecht.
- Sonja and Nick Schrag as they anticipate the birth of their baby. Prayers for all involved.
- those who are overwhelmed with heavy loads. Pray that sustainable grace and power will hold and carry them.
- all those who are preparing for our Christmas choir program and our children’s Christmas Eve service.
- ways to find our common humanity especially with those believers who see things differently than we do.

**Relief Buckets for MCC:** Please consider contributing to our offerings during Advent by bringing items for **Relief Buckets**, an essential part of aid that MCC is sending to places around the world that have been traumatized by violence, war, and poverty. We have learned that the requested **laundry soaps are not available** in most stores. In light of that, we will not be collecting anything this Sunday for the buckets, but will resume next Sunday. The MCC warehouse in Newton will order the soap and get it into the Relief Buckets when we take the items that we collected over Advent.

Everyone is invited to sign the **Christmas cards** on the table in the narthex. They will be available through Wednesday, December 17.

**Christmas Choirs Program:** As in past years, choir members are being asked to provide food for the fellowship time following the program. Men, please each bring 9 pieces of fruit – a variety of clementines, oranges, and apples washed and tags off. Ladies, please each bring 4 dozen of a variety of candy, cookies or bars. No fudge please! Please bring on Sunday morning, December 21, if possible. Thank you!

**To give to Salem-Zion or the missions we support** through Venmo, please use the attached QR code or go through your Venmo app and search (under charity) for Salem-Zion Mennonite Church. If you want your donation to go somewhere other than the household treasury, please put that in the notes. Thank you!



**God’s Joy in the Incarnation:** “*We know the Incarnation mysteriously unites all of humankind to God and one another, but so often the lines of Christianity feel like they do nothing but divide us.*” - Shannon K. Evans

### **Pastor Corey Miller**

Office Hours:  
Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon  
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### **Church Admin. Assistant:**

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