



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

December 16, 2018

*Rejoicing in God's Justice*

*"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."* – Luke 3:16

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Song– *Come, thou long-expected Jesus* (insert in back of hymn book)

Welcome and Announcements Nathan Epp

Preparing for Worship – *Old French Carol* Dale Wood

Call to Worship

L: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for God-with-us is coming to set things right!

**P: The proud will be scattered and the humble lifted up.**

L: The hungry will be filled and the prisoners set free.

**P: He will guide us in the way of peace and proclaim salvation.**

**ALL: Let us rejoice, for our God comes to bring wholeness and new life to the world.**

Opening Prayer

## PRAISING GOD

\* Gathering Song – *Oh, how shall I receive thee* HWB #182

Children's Story Elizabeth Janssen

Offering our gifts – Freeman Academy; Infant Kits - receiving blanket (lightweight fleece or flannel, minimum 30 in x 30 in, larger sizes preferred)

Offertory Prayer

Offertory – *O how shall I receive thee* Paul Manz

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading Luke 3:7-18

Special Music – *How can we be silent* Michael Mahler

Scriptures Isaiah 12:2-6

Sermon – "Searching for Joy" Stacey Waltner

Silence

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* Response Hymn – *Joy to the world* HWB #318

Congregational Prayer

\* Sending Hymn – *To us a Child of hope is born* HWB #189

\* Spoken Benediction

Postlude – *Improvised*

\* Congregation please stand. If standing is difficult, please remain seated.

*The peace lamp is lit weekly as a reminder that there is violence and suffering in the world. We as a faith community pray for peace for all people and look for ways to be active in peacemaking and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

## Church Calendar

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

### TODAY

We wait and watch with anticipation for the one who comes proclaiming righteousness in the name of the Lord. We hold our hope in the coming Messiah while we wait and learn what it means for us to receive God's righteousness today. Welcome to all who have joined us for worship. We are glad you are here.

Thank you, Blake, Piper, Meranda and Adam, for designing the bulletin covers for this worship service.

**Greeters:** Kerwin and Robin Graber; **Organist:** Ken Mannes; **Special**

**Music:** Ladies Choir

9:15 a.m. – Sunday School

10:10 a.m. – Fellowship Time

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

12:00-12:15 p.m. – Christmas Eve practice for Preschool-2<sup>nd</sup> graders

12:15-2:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve program practice at Salem-Zion (gr. 3-8)

4:00-7:00 p.m. – Christmas Open House at Miller home

### **"Celebrating Giving"**

This morning the offering will be given to Freeman Academy. The money received will be used to support the school and the ministry it provides to the community and its families. Thank you for your prayers and support of the school.

### THIS WEEK

Dec. 19 (Wed) 7:00-7:30 p.m. – Children's choir practice

Dec. 22 (Sat) Christmas Eve program practice from 10:00 a.m. – Noon

### NEXT SUNDAY – December 23

Next Sunday we continue our Advent theme, "*The Lord is our Righteousness.*" The focus of the morning is "**Blessing and Restoration**", the texts are Micah 2:2-5, Psalm 80:1-7 and Luke 1:39-55 and Corey will be

preaching. We will be collecting “4 large, heavy-duty safety pins & 1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper)” during our regular offering for MCC infant kits.

**Greeters:** John & Beth Epp family; **Organist:** Ruby Waltner; **Special Music:** Men’s Choir; **Offering:** Central Plains Mennonite Conference

### **COMING EVENTS**

- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve service at Salem-Zion at 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 25 – Christmas Day worship at South Church at 10:30 a.m.
- Jan. 2 – **Feeding Our Faith** kickoff with a pizza party at 6:00 p.m., followed by activities for all ages

## **Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News**

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### **Happenings over the past week:**

- Alice Graber was able to return back to her home on Wednesday. Her recovery is going well.

### **Remember to pray for:**

- those who cannot be here today: Sharon Schmidt.
- Lillie Eisenbeis as she and the Brockmueller family grieve the untimely death of her cousin Bill.

### **Remember to thank God for Advent:**

As we prepare our hearts to receive the Savior, may God give us hearts that produce fruit in keeping with repentance. May we remember our baptisms when we turned away from sin and death and placed our trust in the power of God’s grace and love to save us.

**The Men’s choir** is scheduled to sing next Sunday. We will not have practice Wednesday but will meet after Sunday school to run through a couple of songs that we sang at the Christmas program.

**Freeman Academy** is grateful for each gift given in response to our annual fall church drive in October. A total of \$8,050.00 was given by North Church members as of December 11. If you missed this opportunity, we would welcome any additional gifts since we have not met our budget goal for church drives this year. Thank you! Nathan Epp, head of school and Vernetta Waltner, development director.

Today is the last day to sign the **Christmas cards** on the table in the narthex.

**What is next for Bearcat Avenue?** We will be collecting boots and coats for the school kids with a special need for the younger kid sizes. New or gently used items only. Please leave your donations in the white collection box in the Women's coatroom. If you have a question, please ask Elizabeth Janssen, Chair of Outreach & Service.

**Advent is a time to reflect and pray.** While the rest of December is filled with a myriad of activities, Advent invites us to silent reflection. Goshen College faculty and students have written devotionals that are available to us based on the lectionary Scripture passages and the theme: “The Lord is our righteousness,” taken from Mennonite Church USA worship resources. [www.goshen.edu/devotions](http://www.goshen.edu/devotions)

## **Community Connections**

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**FJC/FA Alumni, Family and Friends Gathering:** Thursday, December 27 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Sterling Hall/The Link. Come out for fellowship, pick-up basketball/volleyball, let the kids run off some energy and enjoy a light lunch grilled by Head of School, Nathan Epp.

### **Practicing the Peace of Christ:**

*“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.”*

- John 1:5

### **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

### **Church Admin. Assistant:**

Lisa Kaufman  
Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
(605) 925-7771 ~ [salemzion@gwtc.net](mailto:salemzion@gwtc.net)

