



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

December 2, 2018

Watching and Waiting

“When you see these things taking place, you know the kingdom of God is near.”
– Luke 21:31

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Song– *Come, thou long-expected Jesus* (insert in back of hymn book)
Welcome and Announcements Stacey Waltner
Preparing for Worship – *Awake! Hear the call of watchmen* Dupré
Choral Call to Worship – *O Come, O Come, Immanuel* Natalie Sleeth
Call to Worship

L: Now is the time of waiting and watching. We wait expectantly for the Messiah, for God’s promises to be fulfilled.

P: We turn to you, O God, in the midst of this chaotic world, longing for that day of salvation to arrive. How long must we wait?

L: Pay attention, be still and know that God is with us. The signs are all around us.

P: Fill us with the faith and hope of what is to be as we come before you with open hearts.

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Opening Prayer

PRAISING GOD

* Song of Praise – *O come, O come, Emmanuel* MH #111
Children’s Story Elizabeth Janssen
Offering our gifts – Mennonite Church USA; Infant Kits - 3 gowns/sleepers (flannel or similar warm, soft material)
Offertory Prayer
Offertory – *Herr Christ, der einig Gottes Sohn* Walther
Special Music – *We Wait for a Little Child* Kathy Lowe Hart

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Scriptures Jeremiah 33:14-16, Luke 21:25-36
Sermon – “Holding Our Hope” Corey Miller
Silence

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

* Response Hymn – *Longing for light* SJ #54
Congregational Prayer
* Sending Hymn – *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah* HWB #582
* Benediction
Postlude – *Savior of the Nations, Come* arr. Sedio

* 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, Estelle Waltner, for designing the bulletin cover.

Greeters: Jim and Teresa Dick; **Organist:** Lisa Kaufman; **Special Music:** Children’s Choir; **Nursery Care:** Lacey Friesen & Polly Waltner

9:15 a.m. – Sunday School

10:10 a.m. – Fellowship Time

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

12:15-1:45 p.m. – Christmas Eve program practice at Salem-Zion (gr. 3-8)

4:00 p.m. – Freeman Area Children’s Choir Winter Concert - The choir will offer songs to remind us of the Christmas message.

“Celebrating Giving”

This morning we receive an offering for the Mennonite Church USA. This offering will help with the general budget of Mennonite Church USA, which aids and supports local conferences and the worldwide church. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

THIS WEEK

Dec. 5 (Wed) 6:30 p.m. – Children’s choir, Chancel choir

8:00 p.m. – Ladies choir; Men’s choir

Dec. 8 (Sat) 7:00 p.m. – Dress rehearsal for all choir participants

Pastor Corey and Nancy will be traveling to Goshen to hear Hannah sing on Thursday, December 6th. They will return back home on Saturday evening, December 8th.

NEXT SUNDAY – December 9

Next Sunday we continue our Advent theme, “*The Lord is our Righteousness.*” The focus of the morning is “**Proclaiming**”, the texts are Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 1:3-11 and Luke 3:1-6 and Pastor Corey will be

preaching. We will be receiving 3 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves) during our regular offering for MCC infant kits.

Special Music: Chancel Choir; **Offering:** Household Treasury

COMING EVENTS

- Dec. 9 – Choir-led worship service at Salem-Zion at 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 16 – Christmas Open House at Miller Home from 4:00-7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve service at Salem-Zion
- Dec. 25 – Christmas Day worship at South Church

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Duane & LaVonne Schrag.
- pastors who are serving congregations in times of transition: Gordon Scoville (Bellwood); Jack Scandrett (Hutterthal); Gene Miller (Christ Community); David Huesinkveld (West Union); Scott Roser (Zion). Pray for wisdom to lead congregations to clear vision for the next season of ministry and mission in their communities.
- all the migrant travelers who have traveled many miles in search of a better life. Pray for humanitarian treatment of people at the border and for a good process.
- our choirs and children's Christmas Eve service, that these times of worship would draw us more deeply into the love of God through Jesus Christ, born to us this day.

Remember to thank God for:

- our deacons. Last Sunday night the deacons hosted a "farmer's chili" supper. Around 50 farmers gathered around tables to share stories, laugh a little and encourage each other through a challenging farm year. Our deacons really love and care for this church!

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. Beginning Nov. 26, the week before the first Sunday of Advent, and culminating on Christmas Day, Goshen College students, faculty and staff provide weekday reflections 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

All are invited to sign the Christmas cards on the table in the narthex. They will be available through December 16.

The flower committee invites you to share a poinsettia with the church during this Advent season. Please talk to Mary Mannes today or call 925-7938 or (605) 695-0743 to reserve yours. Cost is \$19.00. We would like to get them up soon, especially for our choirs program on Dec. 9. Thank you!

Church office hours this week: Lisa will not be in the office on Tuesday, Dec. 4, but can be reached by e-mail or cell phone (605-951-1871).

Advent is a time for us to remember where Jesus enters God's story and our own stories; to remember what it means to live righteously, and to look to the future as we seek God's plan for us as faithful individuals and faithful communities. With this in mind, during the Advent season we plan to begin worship with a gathering song at roughly 10:25 every Sunday. This song is intended to bring us together and prepare us for entering into God's story. Please make your way into the sanctuary in a timely manner for this song. There will be a short musical prelude following a welcome to continue to prepare ourselves for worship. Our prayer is that you will encounter Jesus in a fresh way this Advent and Christmas season.

Dear members of Salem-Zion, I regret to inform you that I made some errors in my initial **annual financial report**. I will blame it on the fact that it was my first one! I have made the corrections and there will be a copy of that in the Narthex and those will be the numbers that will be printed in the yearbook. Thanks for your patience and understanding. Your treasurer, Lacey Friesen

Since there will be no children's room or children's tables this year after the choirs program on December 9, children will be eating with their parents.

We are asking for five volunteers, in addition to the ladies choir, to bring 4-5 dozen pieces of candy the morning of Dec. 9 to the church kitchen. Sign up on the bulletin board TODAY. Thank you.

November Offerings and Gifts: Household Treasury - \$15,331.68; Shalom Mennonite Church, Eau Claire, WI - \$1,399.00; Student Tuition Sharing Fund - \$1,504.00; Central Plains Mennonite Conference - \$2,803.00; Mennonite Mission Network - \$2,134.00; MCC (cows) (1/2 Thanksgiving offering) - \$1,813.00; Freeman Academy - \$720.00; Meat Canning - \$220.00; Mennonite Central Committee - \$100.00; Mennonite Disaster Service - \$220.00; Mennonite Church USA - \$140.00; Gideons - \$200.00; The Banquet - \$200.00; Bethany Food Pantry - \$100.00; Turner County Food Pantry - \$100.00.

It is time to renew our group subscription to The Mennonite. If you are not currently receiving The Mennonite and would like to be added to the list, please contact the church office. If you are currently subscribing, please submit any address corrections or inform the office if you'd like to be removed from the list for 2019. The deadline for submitting changes is December 5.

Community Connections

South Dakota Mennonite Disaster Service is planning to go to Martin, SD next week to work indoors on a Native American women's abuse shelter. They are looking for 4-6 people. Food, tools, and motel lodging will be supplied. The project is expected to last 2-3 days. The project will include installing window and door trim, two doors, floor baseboards, ceiling repair, finish one step, and minor repairs. The plan is to leave Tuesday, Dec. 4, at 8:30 a.m. from the Freeman Shopping Center parking lot. If you can go contact Dennis Ries, 925-7788, as soon as possible.

Mark your calendars for the 1-6th grade Christmas musical presented by Freeman Academy Elementary students! Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 5:00 pm in the Dining Hall! **Radio J-O-Y!** is a musical in a radio station set on the 1225 AM dial where the *best songs are songs about Christmas!* Join us as the students share the story of Mary, Joseph, the Wise Men and the animals via a radio show performance! Refreshments will be enjoyed!

Limited **Schmeckfest sausage** available. Great for gifts or a special family/friends meal during the holidays. Call 925-4237 to get yours while it lasts!

Practicing the Peace of Christ:

*When we feel certain that the human soul is no longer at work in the world,
it's time to make sure that ours is visible to someone, somewhere.*

- Parker J. Palmer

Pastor Corey Miller

Office Hours:

Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon

corey.miller@gwtc.net

Cell phone: 319-930-7320

5

Church Admin. Assistant:

Lisa Kaufman

Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(605) 925-7771 ~ salemzion@gwtc.net

6