



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

December 22, 2019

Advent 4: Worth the wait

“...Look, the young woman...shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.”
- Isaiah 7:14

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude Sheila Epp
 The Prophet Calls Isaiah 7:10-16 LeRoy Epp
 Choral Call to Worship – *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Petker
 Welcome and Call to Worship Tim Eisenbeis
 L: Oh God, our God, we cry out to you.
P: Asking, will I be saved to your goodness, forgiven of the brokenness I have made, certain that I am called to you?
 L: Will I follow the child you sent to lead me?
P: Will I no longer be afraid, but be restored?
ALL: God, what am I waiting for?
 Opening Prayer

OFFERING OUR PRAISE

* Hymn – *O come, all ye faithful* HWB #212
 Lighting Advent Candles
 Children’s Story Gwen Ortman
Come, Light of the world SS #3
 Offering our gifts – Deacon Sharing Fund; receiving blanket (lightweight fleece or flannel, minimum 30 in x 30 in, larger sizes preferred)

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Epistle Romans 1:1-7
 Anthem – *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* arr. Dan Forrester
 * Hearing the Gospel Matthew 1:18-25
 Sermon – “God is with us” Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Silence and Confession
 Song – *Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming* HWB #211
 Announcements and Congregational Prayer
 * Sending Song – *Oh, how joyfully* HWB #209
 * Benediction
 Postlude

* 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 a.m. Tuesday; salemzion@gwtc.net

TODAY

We are very near to Christ’s birth and we celebrate that God has come to us. What are we waiting for? When we cry out to God, God really does hear us and restores our soul. Today in our time of worship, may we all know that we are God’s children, called to belong and redeemed by grace. We are so glad that you have joined us.

Bulletin cover designed by Emmit Ortman. Thank you, Emmit!

Greeters: Hannah Miller and Rachel Miller; **Special Music:** Men’s Choir

9:15 a.m. – Sunday School
 10:10 a.m. – Fellowship Time
 10:30 a.m. – Worship Service
 12:30-2:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve rehearsal at South Church
 7:30 p.m. – Salem-Zion Christmas Choirs Program

TONIGHT

A program of **Lessons and Carols** will be given by our choirs this evening, Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m. Come join us in worship and fellowship as we commemorate the sacred celebration of Christ's birth this Christmas season.

THIS WEEK

Dec. 23 (Mon) 6:45 p.m. – Dress rehearsal for Christmas Eve program
 Dec. 24 (Tues) 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve program at the South Church
 Dec. 25 (Wed) 10:30 a.m. – Special Christmas morning worship service at Salem-Zion. There will be great music offerings, Christmas carol singing, scriptures proclaimed and praise offered. An offering will be received for “*The Banquet*” in Sioux Falls.

NEXT SUNDAY – Dec. 29

Next Sunday we will celebrate the Christmas season. The focus of the morning is “*Time to get a move on.*” The texts are Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10-18 and Matthew 2:13-23. Pastor Corey will be preaching and in addition to our regular offering, we will have an opportunity to give items for Infant kits that will be given to our friends in Flandreau. We will collect large bars of mild soap (leave in wrapper), pairs of socks, caps.

Greeters: Ellen Ortman & Dorothy Preheim; **Offering:** Turner County Food Pantry/Bethany Food Pantry; **Organist:** Ken Mannes; **Special Music:** Ensemble

COMING EVENTS

Jan. 2 – Outreach and Service Committee meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 5 – Epiphany Sunday and celebrating communion

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Virginia Graber was admitted to Sacred Heart Hospital last Tuesday for an infection. She was treated and able to come home on Thursday.
- New parents, Jeff Ellinger and Joanne Orfei, welcomed a son, Magnus Robert, on December 17. Ted and Diane Ellinger are the grandparents.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Cody Schrag.
- Virginia Graber as she recovers from her surgery.
- the directors, readers and musicians as they prepare for our worship service this evening.
- willing teachers to help our friends at Hutterthal Mennonite in their time of healing.
- Central Plains' Executive Conference Minister search process, for Spirit-led wisdom and discernment for both the search committee and potential candidates.

Remember to thank God for:

- the gift of Magnus Robert to Jeff & Joanne and their families.
- the eternal promise that God is with us, all throughout our lives.
- words and gestures of love that come to us in the form of cards, letters and songs in this season of Joy.

A card to sign is on the table in the narthex for the Ky Manivong family. The Manivong family lived in our community and attended Salem-Zion in the 1980's. Ky passed away this fall.

Office schedule: Lisa will not observe regular office hours this week. Bulletins will be printed on Tuesday morning.

Minutes from the September Deacon meeting are available on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Teacher Needs: Hutterthal Mennonite is working hard at healing from their recent conflicts and will be meeting in January to continue that intentional work. They have requested that we help teach their children's SS classes on Jan. 5 and Jan. 19th so all the adults can join in the healing process. Teachers need to be at Hutterthal at 10:45am. We need two teachers on Jan. 5th and two teachers for Jan. 19th. Please contact Polly or Corey if you are interested.

Coming in January: Feeding Our Faith! Right after the Christmas season, Salem-Zion will be gearing up for another January season of "Feeding Our Faith", a midweek soup and study time that will be for all ages. The supper will begin at 6:15pm and our study will begin at 7:00pm. We will meet on **January 8, 15, 22 and 29**. Pastor Corey will lead an adult Bible Study on I Peter, there will be programming for our younger and older children (up to 8th grade) and the youth will meet. More details are coming, but we look forward to gathering in community to grow in our faith.

Household Treasury Report 4th Sunday of month: Balance: \$1,484.26
The household treasury pays for salaries, electric/heating bills, Sunday school materials, The Mennonite and Upper Room, taxes, insurance, maintenance, dues and fees, office supplies, etc. The average monthly expenses for the Household Treasury are around \$15,000. We greatly appreciate your giving and generosity towards these needs to keep our Salem-Zion community functioning! Thank you so much!

Community Connections

Rural Revival will meet on December 30 at 8:00 p.m. in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome to attend. The education topic for this month will be presented by Myles Brockmueller. He will be discussing his experiences with no-till farming.

Swan Lake Christian Camp **2020 Winter Retreats** are just around the corner. Make plans now to attend. Family Camp is February 28-March 1. 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: 5th & 6th Grade Retreat January 10-12, Junior High Retreat January 17-19 and Senior High Retreat January 24-26. Sign up online at www.myslcc.com.

Thank you for your generous giving to Mennonite Central Committee in 2019. Your gifts help MCC continue work in 53 countries working on 648 projects and impacting countless people. If you're looking for a last

minute Christmas gift keep MCC Christmas giving projects in mind or collect school kit supplies with your family (mcc.org/kits)! Check out mcc.org/christmas for online giving options.

2020 is your year to go on an MCC Learning Tour! Travel to Haiti March 21-28 to learn about root causes of Haiti's reality and see MCC projects in person. Join MCC Bolivia in celebrating 60 years with two learning tours, May 2-9 will focus on Eastern Bolivia and Oct. 10-17 will focus on Western Bolivia. Finally, you're welcome to travel to Nicaragua, July 20-30, to celebrate the centennial of MCC, focusing on past and present MCC work in Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Contact jordanpenner@mcc.org and check mcc.org/events for more details.

God is with us in Christmas:

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us." - Saint Augustine

Pastor Corey Miller

Office Hours:

Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon
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Cell phone: 319-930-7320

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Church Admin. Assistant:

Lisa Kaufman

Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
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