



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

December 29, 2019

**Christmas Season: Time to get a move on!**

“...in his love and in his pity, he redeemed them.” - Isaiah 63:9

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *O Lord, how shall I meet Thee*

*How far is it to Bethlehem?*

Paul Manz

The Prophet Calls Isaiah 63:7-9

Gabriel Eisenbeis

Welcome and Call to Worship

Lacey Friesen

L: Oh God, our God, you cry out to us.

**P: Asking, when will you see that I love you,  
That I have shown you abundance, saved you with my presence,  
Freed you from the powers of brokenness?**

L: When will we see that when bad things happen, you remain?

**P: Will I no longer be afraid, but be restored?**

**ALL: God, what are we waiting for?**

Opening Prayer

## OFFERING OUR PRAISE

\* Hymn – *Good Christian friends, rejoice*

HWB #210

Lighting of Candles

Children’s Story

Elizabeth Janssen

*Come, Light of the world* SS #3

Special Music – *O Holy Night*

Ben Schwartz/Mory Ortman

Rejoicing with Psalmist

Psalms 148

Offering our gifts – Turner County Food Pantry/Bethany Food Pantry; large bars of mild soap (leave in wrapper), pairs of socks, caps

Offertory – *O Morning Star, how clear and bright* Michael Burkhardt

## PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Epistle

Hebrews 2:10-18

Song – *Carol of the Magi* - John Rutter

Ortman family

\* Hearing the Gospel

Matthew 2:13-23

Sermon – “Dreaming”

Corey Miller

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Song – *O little town of Bethlehem*

HWB #191

Announcements and Congregational Prayer

\* Sending Song – *Angels we have heard on high*

HWB #197

\* 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 are finally in the season of Christmas! All creation sings the praises of God and we also are invited to join our voices and rejoice, proclaiming the glory of our Savior! May the assurance of Emmanuel guide our visions and inspire our dreams. We are so glad that you have joined us.

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

**Greeters:** Ellen Ortman & Dorothy Preheim; **Organist:** Ken Mannes

9:15 a.m. – Sunday School

10:10 a.m. – Fellowship Time

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

### THIS WEEK

Jan. 2 (Thurs) 7:30 p.m. – Outreach and Service Committee meeting

### NEXT SUNDAY – Jan. 5

Next Sunday we will celebrate Epiphany and our focus of the morning is “*By Another Route.*” The texts are Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72, Ephesians 3:1-12 and Matthew 2:1-12. Pastor Corey will be preaching and we will celebrate the new year with communion.

**Greeters:** Elizabeth Janssen & LeAnn Kaufman; **Offering:** Household Treasury

### COMING EVENTS

**Jan. 5** – Epiphany Sunday and celebrating communion

**Jan. 8** – Feeding Our Faith. Supper begins at 6:15 p.m. and programming for all ages at 7:00 p.m.

## Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

### Happenings over the past week:

- many cards were shared, Christmas carols sung, food eaten, gifts offered and love experienced, thanks be to God.

### Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Sharon Schmidt.  
- families that are missing loved ones in this Christmas season.

- those who struggle with depression, addictions and mental health in this season. It can feel lonely for many.
- willing teachers to help our friends at Hutterthal Mennonite in their time of healing.
- places in the world that are experiencing conflict, violence, poverty and corruption. Pray for families that are on the run due to horrific living environments.

**Remember to thank God for:**

- the very moving worship service that our choir directors, singers, readers and accompanists offered last Sunday evening. Thanks be to God!
- the Sunday Evening Fellowship Social Committee and all the people who helped to host the refreshments following the choir program. Thank you so much for exhibiting joyful hospitality!
- the blessing of the Christmas Eve service last Tuesday evening that helped us enter into the story of Jesus' birth. Out of the mouths of children comes Good News!
- our brothers and sisters in Central Plains and for all the work of God that is being done through them in Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, and Colorado.

**Thank You:** We want to offer our heartfelt gratitude to the Salem-Zion congregation for all the cards, letters, food and gifts offered to us in this past month. We feel very cared for and blessed and are humbled by your generosity. Thank you again for showing your love in such tangible ways.

- Corey, Nancy, Hannah and Rachel Miller

**Thank you** to everyone who shared a poinsettia with the church during the Christmas season.

**Church Office:** Lisa will not be in the office on Tuesday, December 31. Bulletins will be printed as usual on Thursday.

**Teacher Needs at Hutterthal:** 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. 19<sup>th</sup> 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. 5<sup>th</sup> and two teachers for Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Polly or Corey if you are interested.

**Coming in January: Feeding Our Faith!** In a few weeks, 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 8<sup>th</sup> grade) and the youth will meet. We look forward to gathering in community to grow in our faith.

**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.

Freeman Academy constituents are invited to a **Town Hall meeting** in the Dining Hall on Saturday, Jan. 11 following FA basketball games (approximately 3:30 pm). Among the board's primary agenda as the new year begins are: 1) negotiating terms of a triple net lease with the museum, 2) continuing to incorporate restorative justice techniques to strengthen community within our constituency and within our classrooms, and 3) promoting our school through positive and consistent messaging. Board members and administration will be present to answer questions and hear feedback on these and any other topics of interest or concern to constituents. A soup supper to benefit the FA Chamber Choir will also be served from 12-3 p.m.

**God is with us in Christmas:** By the light of nature we see God as a God above us, by the light of the law we see Him as a God against us, but by the light of the gospel we see Him as Emmanuel, God with us.  
- Matthew Henry

**Pastor Corey Miller**  
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Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon  
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**Church Admin. Assistant:**  
Lisa Kaufman  
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