



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

December 9, 2018

*Waiting, Watching, Proclaiming*

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” – Luke 3:4b

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

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

Welcome and Announcements Paul Ortman

Preparing for Worship Sheila Epp

Choral Call to Worship – *O Come, O Come, Immanuel* Natalie Sleeth

Call to Worship

L: Prepare the way of the Lord, for things are about to change.

**P: Every valley shall be filled in and every mountain made low.**

L: As we await the coming of the Messiah, we are called to prepare our hearts for his coming.

**P: We are called to turn around, repent, and allow God to renew us and work within us.**

*ALL: Then we will see the salvation of our God!*

Opening Prayer

## PRAISING GOD

\* Gathering Song – *O come, O come, Emmanuel* MH #111

Children’s Story Elizabeth Janssen

Offering our gifts – Household Treasury; Infant Kits - 3 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves); 3 gowns/sleepers (flannel or similar soft material)

Offertory Prayer

Offertory

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Scriptures Jeremiah 33:14-16, Luke 21:25-36

Special Music – *We Wait for a Little Child* Kathy Lowe Hart

Scriptures Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 3:1-6

Sermon – “Waiting, Watching, Preparing” Corey Miller

Silence

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

\* Response Hymn – *Longing for light* SJ #54

Congregational Prayer

\* Sending Hymn – *Hark! the glad sound* HWB #184

\* 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 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 and Armando Miller, for designing the bulletin covers for this worship service.

**Greeters:** Yvonne Mast and Dorothy Preheim; **Special Music:** Children’s Choir

**The Outreach and Service Committee** will meet briefly to discuss the email sent out last Thursday. Please come to the large east side classroom.

9:15 a.m. – Sunday School

10:10 a.m. – Fellowship Time

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

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

7:00 p.m. – Men’s choir/Ladies choir rehearsal

7:15 p.m. – Chancel choir/Children’s choir rehearsal

7:30 p.m. – Christmas Choirs Program

### **“Celebrating Giving”**

This morning your gifts will be received for the household treasury. The gifts are used to support and expand the local ministry of Salem-Zion. Thank you for your prayers and support.

### THIS WEEK

Dec. 12 (Wed) 7:00 p.m. – Children’s choir rehearsal

7:30 p.m. – Ladies choir rehearsal

### NEXT SUNDAY – December 16

Next Sunday we continue our Advent theme, “*The Lord is our Righteousness.*” The focus of the morning is “*Rejoicing in God’s Justice*”, the texts are Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 3:7-18 and Stacey Waltner will be

preaching. We will be collecting “1 receiving blanket (lightweight fleece or flannel, minimum 30 in x 30 in, larger sizes preferred)” during our regular offering for MCC infant kits.

**Greeters:** Kerwin and Robin Graber; **Organist:** Ken Mannes; **Special Music:** Ladies Choir; **Offering:** Freeman Academy

### **COMING EVENTS**

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 at 10:30 a.m.

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

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

- Alice Graber had successful knee replacement surgery on Monday at Avera. She is hoping to return back on Thursday to Freeman where she'll recover in the hospital on swing bed.
- Burton Kaufman had successful knee replacement surgery on Tuesday at Specialty Hospital. He also was able to come home on Wednesday where he is recovering at home.
- Pastor Corey and Nancy traveled to Goshen on Thursday to hear Hannah sing and returned back home on Saturday.

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

- those who cannot be here today: Verda Schrag.
- Kris and Bill Waltner as they adjust to the difficult losses that come with Alzheimer's. Pray for God's love to hold and embrace Bill and Kris as they continue their journey together.
- Burton and Alice as they recover from their knee surgeries.
- those churches who are seeking pastors: First Mennonite (MN), Manson, West Union, Zion, White River Cheyenne, Shalom. Let us ask God to provide capable and gifted shepherds for these congregations.
- our choirs as they prepare to share music in our worship times.
- our graduate, college and high school students as they inch closer to the end of another busy semester.

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

- the men and women who continue to speak prophetically into our time, inviting us to live lives of justice and righteousness for God's Kingdom.

**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.

**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.

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

**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)

**Beginnings and Endings:** “A number of Sundays ago, Pastor Corey reminded us that there are ‘last times’ for all of us. As Kris’ health has declined, it has made it more difficult for us to participate in Sunday worship services at Salem Zion and her ‘last time’, more than likely, came several weeks ago. She has lost so much of what once was hers. However, one of the few things she has not lost is her need and her ability to feel loved and feel appreciated. To that end, your hugs and welcoming spirit every Sunday morning helped fill those needs. So, I thank you for your acts of kindness and for all your prayers and words of encouragement throughout our journey thus far. I would just ask that you continue to keep both of us in your thoughts and prayers. I look forward to worshipping with all of you at Salem Zion again someday.” – Bill Waltner

**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.

**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.

## Community Connections

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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!

**This Christmas, consider giving alternative gifts through Mennonite Central Committee!** With 25 ways to give, you can find something for everyone in your family! Give chickens, provide hope, education, tools and new skills to help build up communities. These are gifts that easily fit under the tree and can fit within any budget, but have the power to bring joy for years to come! Visit [mcc.org/christmas](http://mcc.org/christmas) or call our office for details, 316.283.2720.

**Looking for that next great adventure? MCC SALT positions now available!** Take chances. Make mistakes. Get messy. Be challenged. Learn some things. Teach some things. Spend a year living somewhere that you never dreamed you'd go... Serving and Learning Together (SALT) is a year-long, cross-cultural service experience. Through SALT, Christian young adults from Canada and the U.S. serve internationally in a wide variety of positions in fields like education, agriculture, health care, information technology, peace and more! Start now at [salt.mcc.org](http://salt.mcc.org) to find answers to frequently asked questions, assignment options, and to apply. Don't delay - the deadline to sign up is Feb. 15!

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

*Do not be dismayed by the brokenness in the world. All things break. And all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.*

- L.R. Knost

### **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

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### **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)

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