



Salina Mennonite Church

A Congregation of Mennonite Church USA

Salina Mennonite Church is a Christian community seeking to share God's love through celebration, nurture, service, and peacemaking.

We hold that every person is created in God's image. We embrace differences in race, gender, sexual orientation, ability or status.

November 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent

Christina Litwiller, Pastor
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Dare to Imagine God's Goodness!

Welcome

Gathering Music *Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets* Voices Together 276

Call to worship *(based on Psalm 25:1-10; Luke 21:25-36)*

Leader: We live in troubled times, waiting for God's burst of light into our dark world.

All: *Lift up your eyes! God's justice is on the way.*

Leader: Liberating God, sustain us and help us to walk in your ways.

All: *Free us from the chains of prejudice and the shackles of sin.*

Leader: This is the moment to wake from sleep. Be ready, Jesus is coming to set us free.

All: *Let us worship God, whose mercy promises us new life through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Hymn *Here I Am to Worship* Voices Together 227

Lighting a Candle of Hope

We light a candle of hope. And we imagine:

God's righteousness, God's steadfast love, God's justice.

We light the candle to see God's goodness in us, among us.

Imagine that ... we are God's wonders, blessed wonders.

Hymn *To Us a Child of Hope Is Born* Voices Together 259

Storytelling *Swords and Plows – Isaiah 2:1-5*
A Child's Garden: A Story of Hope by Michael Foreman

Hymn *He Came Down* Voices Together 239

Sermon *Embrace Hope*
Scriptures *Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36*

Hymn *Ososo (Come Now, O Prince of Peace)* Voices Together 391

Show and Tell/Joys and Concerns

Congregational Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Hymn *O Come, O Come Immanuel* Voices Together 210

Benediction

Stand up, raise your heads, reach toward the light, wait in growing hope.

Dare to imagine the goodness of our God.

Christian Education

For Children – *Meet Jesus, the Messiah – Advent and Christmas*

- Stories during Sunday morning worship; Activities to do at home

For Adults

- Bible Study – *Participating in God’s Reality* – 7:00 pm Wednesday at Zergers’
- The discussion on lectionary scriptures will resume after we are back in the building

Pastor Christina’s Office Hours

9:00-12:00 Tuesday – Friday

Available most of the time by text, phone, or email

Upcoming Events

Wednesday	Dec. 1	Worship Committee @ Lori Schmidt’s Home	7:00 pm
Sunday	Dec. 5	Worship (on Zoom?)	10:00 am
Sunday	Dec. 5	Congregational Meeting	11:15 am
TBD	TBD	Church Board @ Claassens’	TBD

Local Announcements

Sanctuary Renovation: We continue to wait for the carpet to be installed. We are exploring options for using the sanctuary before the project is complete.

Anabaptist World: Our budget includes a subscription to Anabaptist World for anyone in the congregation who wishes to receive this magazine. Let Pastor Christina know by November 28 if you would like to receive a copy in your home. If you are already part of the group subscription and want to discontinue it, let Pastor Christina know by November 28.

Congregational Meeting: Agenda for the December 5 Congregational Meeting includes activity reports and approval of the budget and committee assignments for 2022. A copy of the budget was emailed to you on Saturday, November 27. Activity reports and committee assignments will be sent this week.

Afghani Refugee Project: We are collecting money during Advent to support the work of Catholic Charities in Dodge City as they assist several refugee families. Write checks to Salina Mennonite Church and designate Afghani Refugee Project as the recipient.

Conferencewide Announcements & Prayer Requests

Western District Conference: Pray for pastors, musicians, worship leaders and teachers who guide WDC congregations in celebrating the upcoming Advent and Christmas season.

WDC Texas congregations are planning a joint worship service on Saturday, December 4th, at 6:30-8:00pm on Zoom and Facebook live. Worship will include Christmas music, updates from the congregations represented, and a chance to celebrate being together in Christ. The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81046316079?pwd=djZkUU56RTRDdUN3WnEwRHVGOU8zZz09>

This event can also be found on Facebook: <https://fb.me/e/WfpxUjTI>

Have yourself a honkin’ good holiday, December 17 from 4-6 p.m.! MCC is thrilled to host this drive-thru event again this year. Order your charcuterie box(es) today to enjoy in the comfort of your home, spread Christmas joy and order extra to give as gifts! Suggested donation per box is \$25. We’re also collecting items for [MCC hygiene kits](#) at this event. Place your order by 5 p.m. on December 9. [Details and order form are on mcc.org.](#) Questions? Please call 316.283.2720.

Western District Conference: Access announcements, news, resources and prayer requests at [Western District Conference - An area conference of Mennonite Church USA \(mennowdc.org\)](http://Western District Conference - An area conference of Mennonite Church USA (mennowdc.org))

Churchwide Announcements & Prayer Requests

Mennonite Mission Network: Alfonsina and José Oyanguren have walked alongside Toba-Qom churches in the Argentine Chaco since 2004, serving through a partnership that includes the Argentina Mennonite Church, Mennonite Mission Network and congregations in Ohio. Pray for them and their children as they build relationships and promote Indigenous languages and cultures.

Mennonite Mission Network: Access news and information at [Mennonite Mission Network Home](#)

Mennonite Education Agency: Join MEA in praying for the 30 schools affiliated with Mennonite Church USA. MEA's monthly prayer newsletter can be found at [Prayers for Mennonite Education](#).

Mennonite Church USA: Mennonite Church USA Women in Leadership has relaunched its "Holding It(,) Together" podcast. The podcast, made by women for women, emphasizes intersectionality and community, creating a space for women to hear other people's stories. This season's theme is "Bodies Holding It(,) Together." Learn more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/hit>.

Learn, Pray, Join: Cost of Poverty: Erick Josue Martinez is a student at Goshen College, who is studying to be a financial planner, so he can help people in low-income and immigrant communities. In his blog, "From my window," he shares how his upbringing in an impoverished immigrant community inspired him to help others. Read it here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/from-my-window>.

Learn, Pray, Join: Cost of Poverty: Redlining has been illegal in the United States for half a century, but its effects still have a lasting impact on Black, Latino/a, Asian, Indigenous and other people of color. Vice President of Community and Church Development for Everence Leonard Dow, in his blog, "Finding inspiration in history: Human-made solutions to human-made problems," shares what this impact looks like in Philadelphia, as well as practical steps that people can take to enact change. <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/human-made-solutions-problems>

Mennonite Church USA: Access news and information at [Home | Mennonite Church USA \(mennoniteusa.org\)](#)

Mennonite World Conference: The political situations of Hong Kong is getting worse and worse. Many church members and leaders have immigrated to other countries. Please pray for the political situation of Hong Kong, for wisdom for church leaders, and for the financial situations of churches.

—*Jeremiah Choi, regional representative, Northeast Asia*

Mennonite World Conference: Access news and information at [Mennonite World Conference | \(mwc-cmm.org\)](#)