



## 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.*

**December 5, 2021**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

Christina Litwiller, Pastor  
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### Dare to Imagine God's Embrace!

- Gathering Music**      *Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets*      Voices Together 276
- Welcome**
- Prelude**      *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*      Voices Together 218
- Call to worship**  
*In the quietness of our winter season, God breathes.  
God comes close, open-armed. We are held: tightly, gently, tenderly.  
God's embrace is wide.  
A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord," and God pulls us close.  
God is already here.*
- Hymn**      *Longing for Light*      Voices Together 715
- Lighting a Candle of Peace**  
*We light a candle of peace. And we imagine:  
God's tender mercy, God's compassion.  
We light the candle of peace to feel God's embrace, God's nearness, God's breath  
Imagine that ... we are God's wonders, blessed wonders.*
- Hymn**      *Confitemini Domino (Come and Fill Our Hearts)*      Voices Together 52
- Storytelling**      *What's His Name – Luke 1:5-25, 57-80*
- Hymn**      *Bless'd Be the God of Israel*      Voices Together 223
- Sermon**      *The Way of Peace*  
**Scriptures**      *Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6*
- Hymn**      *Comfort, Comfort, O My People*      Voices Together 212
- Show and Tell/Joys and Concerns**
- Congregational Prayer/The Lord's Prayer**
- Announcements**
- Hymn**      *Prepare the Way! The Prophet Called*      Voices Together 220
- Benediction**  
*The peace of Christ be with you. Go in Peace.*
- Postlude**      *The First Noel, the Angel Did Say*      Voices Together 250

## Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting follows worship on Sunday, December 5. The agenda includes activity reports and approval of the budget and committee assignments for 2022. Pertinent paperwork was emailed to you on Friday, December 3.

## 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 likely resume soon

## Pastor Christina’s Office Hours

9:00-12:00 Tuesday – Friday

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

## Upcoming Events

Sunday	Dec. 12	Worship	10:00 am
TBD	TBD	Church Board @ Claassens’	TBD
Friday	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service	7:00 pm
Wednesday	Jan. 5	Worship Committee @ Lois Newcomer’s Home	7:00 pm

## Worship Totals

2021	Attendance	Unified Budget	Other	Total
10/31	Zoom 25			
	In-Person 0			
	Total 25	\$300.00		\$300.00
11/7	Zoom 20			
	In-Person 0	Rent \$50.00		
	Total 25	\$1775.00	Special Needs Fund \$41.43	\$1866.43
11/14	Zoom 23			
	In-Person 0			
	Total 25	\$0.00		\$0.00
11/21	Zoom 30			
	In-Person 0			
	Total 25	\$1350.00	Building Fund \$50.00	\$1400.00
11/28	Zoom 27			
	In-Person 0			
	Total 25	\$850.00		\$850.00

## Local Announcements

**Sanctuary Renovation:** We are thrilled that Ritter Tile was able to move us up in their schedule and install most of the carpet this past week. They will complete the project soon. We return to in-person worship with a Zoom connection today, December 5.

**COVID Precautions:** We encourage you to continue to care for your own health and the health of others by taking reasonable precautions.

**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. A couple in their 30’s and their children ages 2 and 4 are arriving next week. Another young couple and their baby are arriving in two weeks. Write checks to Salina Mennonite Church and designate Afghani Refugee Project as the recipient.

**Membership News:** We plan to receive Kristin Van Tassel a member of Salina Mennonite Church on Sunday, December 19. The Church Board has approved her membership request. Please direct any questions to Pastor Christina.

## Conferencewide Announcements & Prayer Requests

**Western District Conference:** Pray for the WDC Church Planting Commission, as they envision new initiatives and partnerships for church planting in the coming year.

**The McPherson Community Brass Choir** under the direction of Jerry Toews will give their Christmas Brass Concert Sunday, Dec. 12 at 7:30pm in the Goessel HS gym in Goessel, KS. This event is sponsored by the Goessel Ministerial Alliance. Note the location change accommodating for social distancing. Come and enjoy a festive brass Christmas concert!

**December's WDC Resource Library Book Discussion** will be Thursday, December 16 at 7:00pm via Zoom. Join us to discuss Tongue-Tied: Learning the Lost Art of Talking about Faith by Sara Wenger Shenk. We welcome those who have read the book and those interested in the topic. Copies of the book available through the library. RSVP at [crlib@mennowdc.org](mailto:crlib@mennowdc.org)

**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.

**Christmas Concert:** Immerse yourself into the Christmas message with music and song Sunday December 19 at 4pm. Hopeful Blues, an eclectic instrumental group, is honored to host Doxology Ensemble, a 12-voice male ensemble from the Anabaptist community near Hutchinson. Jointly, they will present a concert of sacred music, joining two unique ensembles for an afternoon of Christmas music. The concert will be held at Hope Mennonite church, 868 N Maize Road, Wichita KS. Admission is free, donations are welcomed.

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

**Camp Mennoscah:** Access news and announcements at [Camp Mennoscah](#).

## Churchwide Announcements & Prayer Requests

**Mennonite Mission Network:** Delicia Bravo Aguilar and Peter Wigginton, of MMN, request prayer for the churches in Ecuador that have suffered the loss of many leaders and members, due to COVID-19. While they continue to lament their losses, pray for their strength and resilience, as new leaders come forward to continue the reconciling mission of Christ.

**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:** Your whole household can participate in Advent this year by using the Mennonite Church USA annual Advent at Home worship guide, "Dare to Imagine." The guide is now available as a printable booklet and in an online format. Find it here: [mennoniteusa.org/adventathome](https://mennoniteusa.org/adventathome)

**Menno Snapshots:** Talashia Keim Yoder, author of this year's MC USA's Advent at Home guide, reflects on her and her family's Advent traditions and how she has learned from her church family in her blog, "Dare to imagine the transformative power of Advent." [mennoniteusa.org/power-of-advent](https://mennoniteusa.org/power-of-advent).

**Learn, Pray, Join: Cost of Poverty:** Christina and Dustin Hite, Mennonite pastors, live in an intentional neighborhood in Austin, Texas, among people who have experienced chronic homelessness. Watch a short video by the Hites and read more about their ministry in their blog, “Broken systems and relational healing.” [mennoniteusa.org/broken-healing](http://mennoniteusa.org/broken-healing)

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

**Mennonite World Conference:** Youth in Zambia struggle to find employment and many families do not have enough food, says Kaumba Samwangala, from Choma, Zambia. Pray that God’s hand may supply the needs through local church and government.

—*Kaumba Samwangala, Batoka Primary School (BIC), Zambia*

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