



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 12, 2021
Third Sunday of Advent

Christina Litwiller, Pastor
600 State Street
Salina, KS 67401
785-825-2663

salinamennonite@hotmail.com
www.salinamennonite.org

Dare to Imagine God's Song!

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

Welcome

Prelude *The Father's Rose* arr. Mark Hayes

Call to worship (adapted from Zephaniah 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-7)

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say: Rejoice!

People: Shout for joy, rejoice with all your heart!

Leader: God sings over you. Fear not, for God is in your midst.

People: Shout for joy, rejoice with all your heart!

Leader: Sing praises to God – shout aloud and sing for joy.

People: God is in our midst.

Leader: We listen.

People: We strain to grasp the sound of God's song.

Hymn *Could It Be That God Is Singing* Voices Together 42

Lighting a Candle of Joy

We light a candle of joy. And we imagine:

Jubilation! Rejoicing! Do not fear!

We light the candle and join in God's song, singing loudly, singing fiercely, singing together.

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

Piano Solo *Joy to the World, vv. 1&2* Voices Together 240

Storytelling *Nothing Is Impossible – Luke 1:26-56*

Hymn *My Soul Cries Out* Voices Together 412

Scriptures *Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7*

Sermon *God Is Singing*

Hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Voices Together 218

Show and Tell

Time of Remembrance

Who are you remembering today?

What is causing you pain?

Where do you find joy during this season of Advent?

Congregational Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Hymn	<i>Sing a New World into Being</i>	Voices Together 809
Benediction	(adapted from Isaiah 55:12) <i>Go out with joy and be led forth with peace. God is with you.</i>	
Postlude	<i>Joy to the World</i>	arr. John Ness Beck

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 in 2022

Pastor Christina's Office Hours

9:00-12:00 Tuesday – Friday Available most of the time by text, phone, or email

Upcoming Events

Saturday	Dec. 18	Church Board @ Claassens'	5:30 pm
Sunday	Dec. 19	Worship	10:00 am
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
12/5	Zoom 12 In-Person 18 Total 30	\$5,665.00	Afghani Refugee Fund \$1,250.25	\$6,915.25

Local Announcements

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. Donate a minimum of \$50 and receive a pen made by John Zerger from wood from our old pews.

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 generous financial support for WDC and its congregations, to help meet ministry and budget goals for this year. (Access news and information [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)))

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

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.

Churchwide Announcements & Prayer Requests

Mennonite Mission Network: MMN requests prayer for the Orodara region, where many of Burkina Faso's Mennonites live. Foreign-sponsored guerilla fighters are making it difficult for people to go to work and for children to attend school. Pray for the Mennonites' peace witness, for the families of the more than 1,500 people who have died and for the more than 1.3 million displaced people. (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: Hear exciting first-hand accounts of peacemakers from across the denomination in Mennonite Church USA's Storyteller Series videos that premiered at #MennoCon21. View the whole series here: mennoniteusa.org/storyteller-series.

Menno Snapshots: Rev. Amy S. Zimelman and members of Mountain States Mennonite Conference attended a peace demonstration in late October. Read about why she finds this work to be important in her and her family's lives in her blog, "Demonstrating peace for my children and me." mennoniteusa.org/demonstrating-peace

Menno Snapshots: Anger. Lament. Hope. Rick Yoder, professor emeritus at Eastern Mennonite University, grieves the events that have been unfolding in Afghanistan over the past few months in his blog, "Anger, lament and hope." Read his poetic reflection on the roles we all have to play, here: mennoniteusa.org/anger-lament-hope.

Learn, Pray, Join: Cost of Poverty: How can Mennonites make a difference in the world around us? How can we effect change for the common good? Andre Gingerich Stoner writes about how Mennonites in St. Joseph County, Indiana, have begun to make a difference in the realm of public mental health services, in his blog, "A spirit of power, and of love and of hard work." Read it here: mennoniteusa.org/power-love-work.

Mennonite World Conference: Pray for MKC to continue engage in peacebuilding activities in Ethiopia; pray for the church to get resources to share with the most affected people in conflict areas and undertake more peace activities in conflict areas." —Desalegn Abebe, president, MKC