



## 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 19, 2021**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Christina Litwiller, Pastor  
600 State Street  
Salina, KS 67401  
785-825-2663  
[salinamennonite@hotmail.com](mailto:salinamennonite@hotmail.com)  
[www.salinamennonite.org](http://www.salinamennonite.org)

### Dare to Imagine God's Face!

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

**Welcome**

**Call to worship**

*Come. Come as you are. Come with your needs, your doubts, your dreams, your hopes.*

*Come, expecting God to meet us—here and in the innermost longing of our souls.*

*Watch. Wait. God is present in our worship!*

**Hymn**      *O Come, All Ye Faithful, vv. 1&2*      Voices Together 241

**Lighting a Candle of Love**

*We light a candle of love, and imagine the lowly lifted, fear met with love.*

*We light the candle and pray for God's face to shine on us, to save us, restore us.*

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

**Hymn**      *Love Came Down at Christmas*      Voices Together 255

**Storytelling**      *Shepherds, Songs, and a Stable – Luke 2:1-20*

**Hymn**      *He Came Down*      Voices Together 239

**Scripture**      *Psalms 80*

**Hymn/Scripture**      *My Soul Proclaims with Wonder – Luke 1:46-55*      Voices Together 222

**Sermon**      *Imagining God's Face*

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

**Reception into Membership – Kristin Van Tassel**

**Show and Tell**

**Sharing**

**Congregational Prayer/The Lord's Prayer**

**Announcements**

**Hymn**      *Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee*      Voices Together 215

**Benediction**      (a Celtic prayer)

*May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you on the road.*

*May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out your hands to serve.*

*May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open up your heart to love.*

*May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet and*

*may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you. Amen.*

**Postlude**      *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*      Voices Together 247

## 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

Friday	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service	7:00 pm
Sunday	Dec. 26	Worship	10:00 am
Friday	Dec. 31	New Year’s Eve Party	7:30-10:30 pm
Wednesday	Jan. 5	Worship Committee @ Lois Newcomer’s Home	7:00 pm

## Worship Totals

2021	Attendance	Unified Budget	Other	Total
12/12	Zoom 12 In-Person 26 Total 38	\$1,100.66	Afghani Refugee Fund \$175.00	\$1,275.66

## 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.

**Our Christmas Eve Service** is at 7:00 pm on Friday, December 24. Please bring a song, instrumental offering, or reading to share.

**New Years Eve Party:** Friday, December 31, 7:30-10:30 pm at the church. Bring games, food, and/or drink. Do your part to keep this a festive, healthy event.

## Conferencewide Announcements & Prayer Requests

**Western District Conference:** Give thanks for WDC congregations as a visible expression of God’s presence in local communities, now in this Christmas season and throughout the year. (Access news and information [Western District Conference - An area conference of Mennonite Church USA \(mennowdc.org\)](http://www.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:** Matthew and Toni Krabill, of MMN, are serving as co-directors for the Paris Mennonite Center in France. Pray for their health, creativity and joy, as they welcome researchers, share Anabaptist resources and develop online classes for French-speaking theology students throughout the world.

**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:** "The angel said to them, 'You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good news to you – news of a great joy to be shared by the whole people.'" (Luke 2:10) Mennonite Church USA Executive Board and staff hope that you and yours are blessed by the good news and transforming power of Christ this Christmas.

**Mennonite Church USA:** Mennonite Church USA awarded three Thrive Church Planting Grants this year, to Community of Hope in Bellingham, Washington, Summit Street Church in Beatrice, Nebraska, and Wild Church in Fresno, California. Read about the grant and these church plants here: [mennoniteusa.org/thrive-three-awards](http://mennoniteusa.org/thrive-three-awards).

**Mennonite Church USA:** In October, Mennonite Church USA Women in Leadership hosted a two-part seminar, titled "Women Write," in which panelists answered questions about Christian publishing and discussed how women authors of color are changing the publishing landscape. Watch recordings of these webinars at: [mennoniteusa.org/women-write](http://mennoniteusa.org/women-write)

**Menno Snapshots:** Have you ever wondered what a spiritual director does to prepare for a spiritual direction session? Read Ruben Chupp's poem, "Gathering silence (to meet with Charles)," to gain some insight into what his process looks like. [mennoniteusa.org/gathering-silence](http://mennoniteusa.org/gathering-silence)

**Learn, Pray, Join: Cost of Poverty:** As Edith Yoder of Bridge of Hope National can attest, community can make a great difference in a person's life. In her blog, "Anabaptist theology — and what compels me to create belonging for families facing homelessness," Yoder reflects on how her own experience could have been very different had she not had a good support system. Read her call to action here: [mennoniteusa.org/belonging-homelessness](http://mennoniteusa.org/belonging-homelessness).

**Mennonite World Conference:** Many congregations in Uganda meet under the trees or sit on dusty floors, says Simon Onyango Okoth, bishop of Uganda Mennonite Church. Praise God for the grateful, pioneering spirit of these church members. Pray for leadership development to lead to sustainability. Pray for a good rain in Malawi and that vulnerable people should be able to buy fertilizer for their maize fields. Pray that people will have food to eat during the growing season so that they will be able to take care of their fields.

*—Francis Kamoto, Mpingo Wa Abale Mwa Kristu (BIC) Malawi*