



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 11, 2022
Third Sunday of Advent

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Artwork by Michelle Burkholder
and worship resources by Joanna
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Welcome

Prelude *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

arr. John Carter

Lighting a Candle of Love

Based on 1 John 4:7-9

Leader: With Tamar, we light a candle of hope.
With Rahab, we light a candle of faith.
Beloved, we gather in love for God and love for each other.

ALL: *We gather to experience God's love for us.*

Leader: God's love is revealed in the stories we hear,

ALL: *in the songs we sing, in the prayers we offer,*

Leader: in the Spirit we feel moving within and among us.

God's love is revealed most deeply through Jesus,

ALL: *whose coming we anticipate and celebrate,
who was sent by God so that we might have life.*

Leader: Beloved, we gather together for worship.

As we light this candle of love, we proclaim our love for God and our love for each other.

We receive the abundant love God offers us through the coming of Jesus Christ.

Hymn *Gott ist die Liebe (I Know God Loves Me)*
(vv. 1&2 in German; vv. 3&4 in English)

Voices Together 158

Storytelling *Ancestor Story*

Scripture *Ruth 1:1-18*

Hymn *Bless the Arms That Comfort*

Voices Together 527

Sermon *Ruth: A Journey of Love*

Prayer of Confession

Leader: God of shadows and light, our thoughts are not your thoughts. Our ways are not your ways.

ALL: *Hear our confession. Heal our hearts. Forgive our sins.*
(silence)

Leader: In Jesus you reveal your love

ALL: *that we might love more fully and know how deeply we are loved.*
(silence)

Leader: In the light of the Christ child, in the shadow of the Most High,
we make our confession and receive your forgiveness.

ALL: *Amen.*

Hymn *We Come*

Voices Together 225

Show and Tell

Time of Remembrance

Who are you remembering? What is causing you pain? Where are you finding joy?

Congregational Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

Hymn *He Came Down* Voices Together 239

Offertory Prayer

Leader: Holy One, Emmanuel: as you have given yourself to us through the coming of the Christ child, we also give ourselves to you.

ALL: *Receive our offerings, given in love, that they may be part of your life in this world.*

Announcements

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

Benediction

For whatever journey lies ahead, may God grant you commitment and courage to choose the faithful path. And may God grant you love – love to give and to receive; love over and around and within you; love to guide each holy step.

Postlude *Still, Still, Still* arr. Mark Hayes

Christian Education

For Children – *The Upside-Down Kingdom: Advent and Christmas*

- Activities to do at home

For Adults – 9:00 a.m. Sunday

- Bible Study – *God’s Plan for Freedom and Justice* – In the basement
- Book Study – *Expecting Emmanuel* by Joanna Harader – In the fellowship room

Upcoming Events

Wednesday	Dec. 14	Worship Committee @ Newcomers’	7:00 pm
Sunday	Dec. 18	Worship	10:00 am
Sunday	Dec. 18	Third Sunday Potluck	11:30 am
Wednesday	Dec. 21	Church Board @ Kristin Van Tassel’s Home	6:30 pm
Saturday	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service	7:00 pm
Saturday	Dec. 31	New Year’s Eve Game Night	7:00 pm

Pastor Christina’s Office Hours

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

Worship Totals

2022	Attendance	Unified Budget	Other	Total
12/4	Zoom 10 In-Person 28 Total 38	\$4,611.00		\$4,611.00

Local Announcements

Our Christmas Eve Service is at 7:00 pm on Saturday, December 24. Please bring a song, instrumental offering, or reading to share during the service and Christmas goodies to share afterward.

New Year’s Eve Game Night: Saturday, December 31, at 7:00 pm. at the church. Bring games, food, and/or drink. Stay as long as you care to stay. Last one out can turn off the lights.

Conferencewide Announcements & Prayer Requests

Western District Conference: In this Advent season, give thanks for God’s gifts of justice, peace and restoration offered through ministries of WDC congregations.

Brass Christmas Concert: Everyone is invited to enjoy the McPherson Community Brass Choir at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church (1304 K-15 Hwy, Goessel, KS) on Sunday, December 11 at 7pm. A free will offering will support local ministries.

Ted&Co to Perform "Just Give 'em The News" in Hesston: In this original, delightfully askew, musical look at the first Christmas, Jeff Raught and Ted Swartz weave original songs, inspired piano playing and comedic theater around a new look at familiar Christmas stories. Finding the humor and humanity in biblical stories has long been a hallmark of Ted & Company. So what did Zechariah sound like before his temper rendered him mute? Did Gabriel ever tire of needing to tell people to "Fear not"? Did Mary ever..... Come and find out. December 11, 2022. 7:00pm, Whitestone Mennonite Church. Free will offering directed to Mennonite Central Committee in support of relief efforts in Ukraine.

During our Advent journey we are using Joanna Harader's Advent Devotional--*Expecting Emmanuel: Eight Women who Prepared the Way*. The WDC Resource Library will host a discussion over the first part of the book on Thursday, December 15 at 7:00pm via Zoom. Register for the conversation by emailing crlib@mennowdc.org or at <https://forms.gle/YfpckrftDiuJmk7A>

MCC Christmas Giving! Give gifts of comfort and joy and help meet the basic needs of our global neighbors this Christmas. Choose from unique gifts such as goats, bees, backpacks and more. Give at mcc.org/delight, call 888.563.4676 or visit the MCC Central States office in North Newton, KS at 121 E. 30th Street. With each gift you can get a card and insert explaining the project. These gifts (from \$10-\$4,000) make wonderful hostess/teacher gifts, stocking stuffers and are ideal for those on your Christmas list that are hard to shop for!

Churchwide Announcements & Prayer Requests

Mennonite Mission Network: Laura Schlabach, who is serving with MMN, asks for God's wisdom for the decision-makers at JCS International, a consortium of mission agencies in Mongolia. She also requests prayer for those who have been affected by the extreme winter air pollution that has caused respiratory illnesses in Ulaanbaatar, the country's capital, and other cities.

Mennonite Education Agency: Join MEA in praying for the 30 schools affiliated with MC USA. MEA's monthly prayer newsletter, with requests from the schools, is found at [Prayers for Mennonite Education](#).

Mennonite Church USA: MC USA has released the completed report from its denominational survey, "The Mennonite Experience: MC USA Membership Study 2021-22." The 85-page report revealed that members have deep commitments to their faith, a passion for peacebuilding, a heart for service and close congregational ties. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/denominational-survey

Learn, Pray, Join – Mass Incarceration: Human trafficking is a unique issue in today's society because everyone seems to be able to agree that it is wrong and should be stopped. But the underlying issues of its connection to mass incarceration is much more complex. Read a thought-provoking blog by Yvonne Zimmerman, a Christian ethics educator and member of Columbus (Ohio) Mennonite Church, here: mennoniteusa.org/human-trafficking-rescue-paradigm

Learn, Pray, Join – Welcoming Every Body: Disability is defined and understood in many different ways, and the experience of disability can vary widely. The way that is lived out has a lot to do with social location and surrounding infrastructure. Read more about this topic from Kathy Dickson, a volunteer field associate for the Anabaptist Disabilities Network, here: mennoniteusa.org/disability-social-model

Mennonite World Conference: We pray for the many suffering in the Middle East. We pray especially for safety and inspiring encounters for a Mennonite Central Committee learning tour to Lebanon.