



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 18, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

salinamennonite@hotmail.com
www.salinamennonite.org

Artwork by Michelle Burkholder
and worship resources by Joanna
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Welcome

Prelude *What Child Is This?*

arr. W. C. Dix

Lighting a Candle of Power

Based on Luke 1:30-35

Leader: With Tamar, we light a candle of hope.
With Rahab, we light a candle of faith.
With Ruth, we light a candle of love.
We gather in holy space to hear holy words:

ALL: Do not be afraid.

Leader: We gather in holy time to hear a holy promise:

ALL: Mary's son will reign forever.

Leader: We gather in this holy moment to sense the holy in our midst:

ALL: Let the Holy Spirit come upon us. Let the power of the Most High overshadow us.

Leader: Let us worship the Holy One with anticipation and joy.

As we light this candle of power, we contemplate the power of God that created the heavens and the earth, that has brought down the powerful from their thrones, that comes to us in the vulnerable Christ child.

Hymn *My Soul Proclaims with Wonder*

Voices Together 222

Storytelling *Ancestor Story*

Hymn *With Mary Sing Magnificat*

Voices Together 208

Sermon *Bathsheba: Considering Power*

Scripture *1 Kings 1:11-31*

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 power –

ALL: a power with and for the vulnerable; a power held in mercy and grace.

(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/Joys and Concerns

Congregational Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

Hymn *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Voices Together 216

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 power, that they may be part of your life in this world.*

Announcements

Hymn

Hark! The Glad Sound

Voices Together 217

Benediction

For each step you take in this blessed week, may the Holy Spirit be upon you and may the power of the Most High overshadow your life.

Third Sunday Potluck follows worship. Join the fellowship whether or not you brought food.

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. 21	Church Board @ Kristin Van Tassel’s Home	6:30 pm
Saturday	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service	7:00 pm
Sunday	Dec. 25	Christmas Worship	10:00 am
Saturday	Dec. 31	New Year’s Eve Game Night	7:00 pm
Wednesday	Jan. 11	Worship Committee @ Newcomers’	7:00 pm

Pastor Christina’s Office Hours

9:00-12:00 Tuesday – Friday This schedule may vary. Check first before stopping by.
Available most of the time by text, phone, or email

Worship Totals

2022	Attendance	Unified Budget	Other	Total
12/11	Zoom 9 In-Person 25 Total 34	Rent \$150.00 \$560.00		\$710.00

Local Announcements

Mattress Fund: We are collecting money on Sunday, December 18, to buy mattresses for a family of seven connected with Cottonwood School. Place donations in the basket on the back table. Write checks to Salina Mennonite Church.

Constitutional Amendments: 81.8% of the members voted and all voted “yes.” This means that the constitutional amendments have passed.

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 creativity and joy celebrated in the diverse cultural and ethnic traditions of congregations across WDC.

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!

Help Camp Mennoscah Plan for the Future! A seven-question survey will help us know how camp is used and what you would like to see in the future. [Click here to tell us what you think!](#)

Churchwide Announcements & Prayer Requests

From MCC: Since February, over 14 million Ukrainians have been forced to flee their homes and seek safety in areas within and outside Ukraine. At the same time, an ongoing humanitarian crisis has resulted in millions of Venezuelans leaving their home in pursuit of a safer future. For the first time in decades, the United States government has opened an avenue to allow private citizens and residents of the U.S. to respond to these crises by offering refuge to Venezuelans and Ukrainians through sponsorship.

On Tuesday, December 20 at 2:00 PM EST, join MCC and Church World Service to learn more from Dr. Katie Randall about these sponsorship programs, how they work, and how you can receive support as you welcome. Dr. Randall oversees the Church World Service Sponsor Group program for Venezuelans and Ukrainians. She provides training and technical assistance to sponsorship groups across the country as they welcome Ukrainian and Venezuelan newcomers.

If you would like to learn more about these programs or are already welcoming Ukrainians and Venezuelans and have questions, we encourage you to join us!

[Register for the webinar on welcoming Ukrainians and Venezuelans.](#)

Mennonite Mission Network: Matthew and Toni Krabill, who are serving with MMN, engage in ministries of relationship building and teaching in French-speaking countries around the world, through in-person and online classes, conferences, and seminars, from their base at the Paris (France) Mennonite Center. Pray for them as they encourage communication and understanding between Christians and Muslims.

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: The MC USA Executive Board has nominated Marty Lehman of Goshen, Indiana, as moderator-elect for the Delegate Assembly cycle beginning July 2023. Lehman is a former associate executive director for Churchwide Operations for MC USA and has a deep affiliation with and affection for the denomination. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/marty-lehman-moderator-elect

Mennonite Church USA: Representatives of MC USA's Constituency Leaders Council spoke about the joys they are experiencing, the challenges they are facing and their hopes for the future at their recent meeting on Oct. 21-22, 2022, via Zoom. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/clc-meets-22

#MennoCon23: MennoCon23, MC USA's largest faith formation gathering, will be held July 3-8, 2023, in Kansas City, Missouri. There will be programming for all ages, including a one-day Climate Summit for youth & young adults. See the tentative block schedule here: mennoniteusa.org/weenocon23-schedule

Menno Snapshots: The new documentary “A Creative God: The Visual Arts in Worship” was of great interest to Katie Graber, chair of the Intercultural Worship committee for the Voices Together project. She had an opportunity to interview Jerry Holsopple, professor of visual and communication arts at Eastern Mennonite University, about his involvement with the documentary project. Read the interview here: mennoniteusa.org/interview-jerry-holsopple

Learn, Pray, Join – Mass Incarceration: Prison and theater do not seem like two words that should go well together, but John McCabe-Juhnke, professor emeritus of communication arts at Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas, found a creative way to connect the two ideas. His venture, through Bethel College and Lansing (Kansas) Correctional Facility, provided him with the opportunity to develop a prison theater program. Read more about his experience here: mennoniteusa.org/inside-stories

Mennonite World Conference: We pray for the MC Canada congregations and pastors who are recovering from the pandemic. Attendance at worship has decreased and many pastors are feeling tired and uncertain about the future, yet we have hope that God is doing a new thing in this time. While new ways of being the church are beginning to emerge, many still grieve what was. Pray that we may have the to humility admit our longings to God the courage to follow Jesus to the place where the church in Canada will be renewed.

—submitted by Doug Klassen, executive minister, Mennonite Church Canada