



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 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

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

pastorsalinamennonite@gmail.com

Church: salinamennonite@gmail.com

www.salinamennonite.org

How Will We Know... How Long?

Lighting a Candle of Hope

Leader: We light a candle for hope: hope in our hearts,
hope in our homes, hope in our world.

All: *May the light of hope shine through our lives.*

Voices Together 916

Prelude

Advent Carol

arr. Glenda Austin

Call to Worship

Based on Isaiah 64:1-9

Leader: O God, tear open the heavens and come down
so that the mountains would quake at your presence!

High voices: No one has heard,

Low voices: no ear has perceived,

**People: no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for you.**

Leader: No one knows when the time will come.

People: How long must we wait?

(pause)

All: *Together we wait.*

Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Voices Together 218

Storytelling

Drama

Hymn

Sleepers, Wake

Voices Together 226

Sermon

How Long?

Hymn

Poor of the Earth

Voices Together 213

Community Life – Sharing & Prayer

Hymn

O Lord, Hear My Prayer (2 times)

Voices Together 685

Community Life – Announcements

Hymn *The Peace of the Earth Be with You*

Voices Together 838

The Lord’s Prayer

Lighting a Candle of Hope

Leader: Together we wait.

People: How long must we wait?

Leader: No one knows when the time will come.

So, go! Keep alert, strengthened by God’s faithfulness to you.

A Congregational Meeting follows worship: Agenda includes - Activity and financial reports, 2024 Committees, 2024 Budget, and Update on Pastoral Transition.

Christian Education

For Children – *Jesus Brings Good News*

- Activities to do at home.

For Adults – 9:00 a.m. Sunday

- Bible Study – *God Connections* – In the basement
- Bible Study – Reading the worship scripture – In the fellowship room

Upcoming Events

Wednesday	December 6	Worship Committee	7pm
Saturday	December 9	Messy Christmas	10am to 2pm
Sunday	December 10	Sunday Worship – Second Sunday of Advent	10am
Thursday	December 14	Church Board @Zerger’s	6pm
Sunday	December 17	Christina’s Farewell Sunday	10am
Sunday	December 17	Third Sunday Potluck & Sharing Time	11:30am
Sunday	December 24	Christmas Eve Service & Fellowship	7:00pm

Pastor Christina’s Office Hours

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

Worship Totals

2023	Attendance	Unified Budget	Other	Total
11/26	Zoom 9 Church 14 Total 23	\$250.00		\$250.00

Local Announcements

Messy Christmas: Do you know of a parent that needs a break from their kids? Salina Mennonite is hosting a Messy Christmas event for Pre-K (potty trained) through elementary. Invite kids you know to come for games, activities and crafts on Saturday, December 9th from 10am to 2pm. Lunch will be provided. Invites on the back table. Pre-registration is requested **by Sunday, December 3.**

FREE Books & Supplies: Christina is sorting the books on the shelves in the fellowship room and in her office. Books that are rarely used or she doesn't want to keep are on the tables at the west end of the fellowship room. There are also music books and office supplies. Please take any that you can use. Let her know if you see something you think the church should keep.

Farewell Sunday: Christina's last Sunday is December 17. Plan to come for worship, potluck, and a time of sharing stories after the meal.

Conferencewide Announcements & Prayer Requests

Pray for our sister church, Iglesia Camino de Santidad (Path of Holiness Church) in Liberal KS, Pastor Moises Romero and his wife Teresa.

Western District Conference: – Give thanks for the WDC Resource Library's creative resources and ideas for Advent and Christmas; and pray for congregational leaders who plan worship and special activities during this season.

Churchwide Announcements & Prayer Requests

Mennonite Education Agency is pleased to announce the 2023 Advent at Home worship guide, "How will we know?" is now available for free download in English and Spanish at <https://www.mennoniteeducation.org/resources/advent-at-home/>. The guide accompanies individuals and families through the days and weeks of Advent through Epiphany with scriptures, prayers, worship rituals, suggested activities, and contextual information. It is intended for all ages and life stages to deepen the experience of the season. MEA is grateful to writer Talashia Keim Yoder, artist and designer Erin Ramer, and translator Ubaldo Rodriguez.

Mennonite Mission Network: Pray for the participants in Mennonite Mission Network's Tucson, Arizona, Mennonite Voluntary Service unit — Nely Cotuc, Hannah Nuest, Ally Weaver, Magdalena Wenger and Deborah Yoder — as they help extend the ministries of their host congregation, Shalom Mennonite Fellowship, through welcoming immigrants, promoting literacy and working to protect the environment.

Mennonite Church USA: Mennonite Church USA issued a statement on the Israel-Hamas War on Nov. 15. The statement laments the loss of life and stands on our shared Anabaptist faith values in a call for a ceasefire. Read it here: mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/ceasefire/

Mennonite Church USA: Amy Yoder McGloughlin, pastor at Frazer Mennonite Church, shares how gun violence and the death of a young neighbor in a drive-by shooting created lasting trauma for her and her family. Read about how leaning into that pain helps her cope: mennoniteusa.org/lean-in

Mennonite World Conference: Pray for the churches in Northeast Asia: congregations in Japan and Hong Kong especially are aging. Pastors are retiring. Pray for a living spark to renew churches and to draw younger people to choose to follow Jesus in the fellowship of others.

Mennonite World Conference: Lord, have mercy on the Volta region of Ghana where river flooding has affected people in the Eastern region. Several farms, fish cages, properties were condemned and many people become homeless in Sogakope, Mepe, Akuse, Agave, Ziweonu, Galo, Sota, Gborgblenukpo, Hawui, Tademe, Sokpoe and many other areas, reports Francis Dzivor, Ghana Mennonite Church president and MWC General Council delegate. Mennointe congregations in Tademe and Dalive were affected.