



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 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

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Church: salinamennonite@gmail.com

www.salinamennonite.org

How Will We Know. . . Why me? Why *not* me?

Lighting a Candle of Love

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

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

Voices Together 916

Prelude

The Father's Rose

arr. Mark Hayes

Call to Worship

Based on Luke 1:26-38

Leader: God sent the angel Gabriel to a young woman in Nazareth named Mary.
He said to her, "Greetings, favored one! God is with you."

High voices: But Mary was perplexed by Gabriel's words,

Low voices: and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Leader: The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God."

People: **Like Mary, we're also ordinary, Will God really work through us?**

All: *Together we ponder.*

Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Voices Together 216

Storytelling

Drama

Based on Luke 1:30, 51-53

Hymn

Helpless and Hungry with What Child is This

Voices Together 268 & 267

Sermon

People Like Us

Kathy Neufeld Dunn

Hymn

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Voices Together 243

Community Life – Sharing & Prayer

Interlude

What Child is This?

arr. John Ness Beck

Community Life – Announcements

The Lord's Prayer

Lighting Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

(on back table)

Leader: Together we ponder.

Candlelighter: We're so ordinary. Will God really work through us?

Leader: Do not be afraid! Nothing is impossible with God.

Go, for the mighty one has done extraordinary things, and holy is God's name!

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

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

Sunday	December 24	Christmas Eve Service & Fellowship	7:00pm
Sunday	December 31	Sunday Worship – Sunday after Christmas	10am
Sunday	January 7	Sunday Worship – Epiphany	10am
Wednesday	January 10	Worship Committee	7pm
Sunday	January 14	Sunday Worship – Installation Service	10am
Thursday	January 17	Church Board	7pm

If you need ministry care during this time of transition, please reach out to the Church Board: Kristin VanTassel, Pete Smucker, or Tom Claassen.

Worship Totals

2023	Attendance	Unified Budget	Other	Total
12/17	Zoom 8 Church 61 Total 69	\$830.00		\$830.00

Local Announcements

Office Hours: Carolyn will have limited office hours during the holiday season. Normal office hours will be Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons after 1:30pm and Friday mornings after 9am. Please have any announcements for the bulletin submitted to salinamennonite@gmail.com by Thursday evening.

Free Dental Clinic: There will be a completely free dental clinic coming to Salina on January 12-13th, 2024 by Kansas Mission of Mercy Dental Services. Services provided include cleanings, fillings, and extractions for all ages. The event will be held at the Tony's Pizza Event Center. They do schedule the kids, so they aren't waiting as long but adults are completely walk-in. Doors open at 5:30a.m. Details can be found at <https://www.ksdentalfoundation.org/patients/>

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: – Rejoice in the gift of Emmanuel, God-with-us! Give thanks for the many ways that WDC congregations embody Jesus' presence in the world today.

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Churchwide Announcements & Prayer Requests

Register now for the MCC South Texas Learning Tour, February 4-9, 2024! This immigration-focused learning tour presents a unique opportunity to engage directly with organizations making a positive impact on our neighbors. You won't want to miss this opportunity. Details and online registration can be found at mcc.org/south-texas-lt. Deadline to sign up is Jan. 20. Please contact Abraham Diaz Alonso with questions, abrahamdiazalonso@mcc.org.

Mennonite Mission Network: Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for peace in the land where Jesus was born more than 2000 years ago. Pray, especially, for partners — Bethlehem Bible College, Nazareth Hospital and Nazareth Village — who faithfully work to peel away the layers of fear and hate that distort Jesus' message of peace, in a time of escalating violence in Israel-Palestine.

Mennonite Church USA: Mennonite Church USA's The Corinthian Plan is open for enrollment on Nov.1 through Dec. 31, 2023, for a Jan. 1, 2024 start date. The Corinthian Plan is a self-funded, health care plan for pastors and church workers, sponsored and owned by Mennonite Church USA. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/open-tcp24

Mennonite Church USA: Jon Carlson, moderator for Mennonite Church USA, reflects on how Mennonite Church USA is better together and how our collective participation in the church shapes us and reflects who we are as a body. Read his reflections here: mennoniteusa.org/where-mc-usa-going

Mennonite World Conference: Praise God for the peace process in Colombia, especially for the recent Roundtable in which Mennonite theologian Fernando Enns participated as a representative of the World Council of Churches. May the peace process lead to a just and lasting peace so Colombians can live in safety and hope for the future.