



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 31, 2023
Sunday after Christmas

Christina Litwiller, Pastor
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www.salinamennonite.org

Break Forth, O Beauteous Light!

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Lighting a Candle for Christ

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

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

Voices Together 916

Prelude

Joy to the World

arr. John Ness Beck

Call to Worship

Based on Luke 2:22-40

Leader: Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying,
"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

High voices: At that moment, Anna, a widow who worshiped at the temple with fasting and prayer night and day,

Low voices: began to praise God and to speak about the child to everyone who was looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Leader: The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

People: Our long wait is finally over!

All: *Together we rejoice.*

Lesson 1: The Light of the First Morning

Genesis 1:1-5

Creation Is a Song / Ho'è enemoehoe

Voices Together 181

Lesson 2: The Light Shines in the Darkness

Isaiah 9:2-7

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus, vv. 1&3

Voices Together 218

Lesson 3: The Light of Peace

Isaiah 11:1-9

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Voices Together 216

Lesson 4: The Light of the Word

John 1:1-14

Wisdom from on High Is Dawning

Voices Together 238

Lesson 5: The Light of Gabriel

Luke 1:26-38

To Us a Child of Hope Is Born

Voices Together 259

Lesson 6: The Light of New Life*Luke 2:1-7**O Little Town of Bethlehem, vv. 1-3*

Voices Together 245

Lesson 7: The Light of the Good Shepherd*Luke 2:8-20**Angels We Have Heard on High*

Voices Together 249

Lesson 8: The Light of Promise*Luke 2:21-40**Here I Am to Worship*

Voices Together 227

Lesson 9: The Light of the Star*Matthew 2:1-12**As with Gladness Men of Old*

Voices Together 277

Lesson 10: The Light of a New Heaven and a New Earth*Revelation 21:1-7**Break Forth, O Beauteous Light, vv. 1&3*

Voices Together 269

Community Life – Sharing & Prayer**Community Life – Announcements****Benediction**

Leader: Together we rejoice!

People: Our waiting is over!

Leader: We've seen the One, the light to all peoples, who grew in strength and is filled with wisdom. The favor of God is upon him! Go! Rejoice! God is here!

Postlude*Go Tell it on the Mountain.***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 31	New Year's Eve Game Night	7pm
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
Sunday	January 21	Sunday Worship	10am
Sunday	January 21	Third Sunday Potluck	11:30am

Worship Totals

2023	Attendance	Unified Budget	Other	Total
12/24	Zoom 2 Church 24 Total 26	\$100.00		\$100.00

From Pastor Christina Litwiller: Thank you for 14 years and 7 months of love and support. The farewell celebration was more than I could have ever asked for. I cherish the album you gave me. Thank you also for welcoming Aunt Lois Deter into your midst. She appreciates the friendship you offered her. May God bless you and keep you. May the very face of God shine on you and be gracious to you. May God's presence embrace you and give you peace.

Local Announcements

New Year's Eve Game Night: Sunday, 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.

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

Office Hours: Normal office hours for Carolyn 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.

Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus: In 2024, the Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus (KMMC) will be part of a year long celebration recognizing the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Mennonites to Kansas. Our concerts in April will include selections that recognize this important anniversary and our special guest performers will be the Newton Community Children's Choir. For more than 50 years, the KMMC has been sharing concerts that bring glory to God, joy to those who listen and global mission relief through the concert offerings. Men and boys are invited to join this tradition of worship through four-part choral music as members of KMMC. See the registration poster or contact man for your church. Our rehearsals begin January 28.

Western District Conference: – We lift up our church mission before God, seeking His divine intervention and guidance. We pray for the success of our church planting efforts, that hearts may be touched, and lives transformed by God's love. Bless our church planters, provide resources, and strengthen the commitment of all involved. May Your light shine through our mission, bringing hope and healing to those we serve. In Jesus' name, we present these requests. Amen. -WDC Church Planting Commission

Western District Conference: – Pray for the WDC Listening Process, as listening teams visit congregations in the New Year for conversation about what is most vital to congregations and their hopes for the future.

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: Although 2023 is ending with much suffering and violence around the world, join Mennonite Mission Network personnel in proclaiming our hope in Jesus, who has overcome evil and injustice. May each of us continue to “be the Gospel” wherever we find ourselves.

Mennonite Church USA: H.A Penner, war tax resister/redirector, explains the benefits of the Mennonite Church USA Church Peace Tax Fund, which offers an opportunity for Mennonites to redirect the portion of their taxes that would have otherwise supported war efforts toward peacebuilding efforts. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/war-tax-redirectation

Mennonite World Conference: Pray for the spread of the Word of God. Some regions lack Scripture in their language or do not have ready access to copies of the Bible. Pray for resourcing provision.

Mennonite World Conference: Pray for parts of East Africa affected by heavy rains and mudslides. Earlier in December, some 80 people were reported to have died in Tanzania after mudslides carried large rocks and uprooted trees, reaching depths of up to 8 metres. In the village of Hanang, Tanzania, the church remains standing but nearly all the houses were destroyed. Mennonite churches in Kisumu and Migori, Kenya, suffered excess rains. Flooding in Kenya continued to worsen throughout December with many deaths reported in northern Kenya.