



# Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

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December 21, 2025

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## I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

### Prelude

**Choral Call to Worship**      *“Savior of the Nations, Come”* – arr.Moklebust

### Call to Worship (Isaiah 62:10-11)

Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people;

**build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones;**

**lift up a signal over the peoples.**

Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth,

Say to the daughter of Zion,

**“Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.”**

### Invocation

### Opening Hymn

*“O Come All Ye Faithful”* – HWB # 212

### Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*“Advent’s Holy Light”* – Raney  
Chancel Choir and Congregation

### Confession of Sin

O God, you so loved the world as to give your only begotten Son in human flesh, that whosoever believes on him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**Grant to us the precious gift of faith, that we may know that the Son of God is come, and have power in your Spirit to overcome the world and gain a blessed life in your eternal fellowship.**

**Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation,**

**that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming,**

**may find in us a home prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Anthem

“Wexford Carol” – arr. Hagenberg

## II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 7:10-17; Hebrews 1:1-5; Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

“Just Joseph”

## III. RECEIVING THE SPIRIT, JOINED IN CHRIST’S BODY

Hymn of Response

“To Us a Child of Hope is Born” – HWB #189

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today’s Worship offering:** Freeman Regional Assisted Living
- **Today’s Sunday school offering:** AMBS/EMBS
- **Children’s Offering:** Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

## IV. RETURNING TO GOD’S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn

“Silent Night” – HWB # 189

Benediction

Jesus, Immanuel, goes with us. Go in heavenly peace.

Postlude

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” – arr. Taylor

**Speaker:** Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** LaVonne Brockmueller; **Greeters:** Linda Graber and Monte Waltner; **Musicians:** Barb Yoder (pianist); Chancel Choir (special music) Marilyn Brockmueller & Cheryle Gering (handbells); Brittney Kempf (trumpet); Brooklyn Ries (drum); Sonja Waltner (finger cymbals); Alison Neufeld (guitar); **Candle Lighters:** Loren & Carolyn and Drew, Elizabeth & Zelda Waltner; **Coffee:** Conference Room Sunday school class

## THE CHURCH AT WORK

### TODAY

**We welcome all** who are worshipping with us this morning! Coffee is available following the worship service in the Fellowship Hall.

### THIS WEEK

**Sunday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.** – Salem-Zion Church Choirs Program

**Wednesday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.** – Christmas Eve Service

Sunday School Children and Church Choirs

**Thursday, December 25, 10:00 a.m.** – Christmas Day Joint Service here w/North

## **NEXT SUNDAY, December 28, 2025**

**Speaker:** Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Peggy Waltner; **Greeters:** Linda Graber and Vernetta Waltner; **Musicians:** Sharla Unruh (organist); **Coffee:** Conference Room Sunday School class

**Worship Offering:** General Fund

**Sunday School Offering:** Freeman Ministerial

**Children's Offering:** Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

## **COMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, January 4, 12:00 noon** – Parsonage Open House

**Tuesday, January 6, 7:30 p.m.** – Prayer & Fasting

## **COMMUNITY & BEYOND**

**All are invited** to celebrate Christmas with the Salem-Zion (North) church choirs on **Sunday evening, Dec. 21 at 7:00 p.m.** The program will include children, men's, ladies and mixed voices. Refreshments will be served following the program.

**Rural Revival will meet Tuesday, December 30 at 8:00 p.m.** at the Freeman library. All are welcome to attend.

**Etcetera Shoppe Needs:** Are you a person who would enjoy doing a simple sewing task, in your own home, to benefit the work of Mennonite Central Committee? Et Cetera Shoppe has the perfect opportunity for you! We are seeking more volunteers to sew rug strips together, for our weavers to make into rugs. It's a very simple process that is quite similar to preparing a quilt binding. This can be done on your own time, however it fits into your own schedule - and provides the perfect opportunity to enjoy an audiobook, podcast, or movie in the background! If this sounds like something you'd be willing to try in 2026, please call the shop at 925-7098, or stop in, and talk to Kris or Anita.

**Swan Lake Christian Camp 2026 Winter Retreats** are just around the corner. Make plans now to attend. Dates are as follows 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat/January 16-18, 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat/January 9-11. Sign up online at [www.myslcc.com](http://www.myslcc.com)

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Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30am/Sunday School – Following Worship  
Vernetta Waltner, Administrative Assistant ([southchurch@goldenwest.net](mailto:southchurch@goldenwest.net)) 925-4553  
Spencer Bradford, Pastor 919-808-2024/[spencerbradford42@gmail.com](mailto:spencerbradford42@gmail.com)

**Poinsettias were given:**

In memory of Irene Gross from Jake Gross

In memory of Dr. Ernest & Elsie Hofer and Gloria & Merle Miller from Dawn Stahl

In memory of Ryan Graber and Jerry Graber, and in honor of Rachel Graber from their family

In memory of our Parents and Sisters from Kevin and Amy Waltner

In memory of Charlie & Celia Fliginger, Melvin & Betty Schmeichel, and Johnny H. & Mabel Waltner from Rodney and Vernetta Waltner

In honor of Barb & Maynard Yoder's children, Hannah and Noah, from Barb Yoder

In honor of Samuel and Lila Mae Janzen from Lois and Lyle Preheim

In memory of Clarence & Gertie Graber, Ray & Rosie Hofer, and Jackson Vetch from David & Cindy Graber family

In loving memory of Calvin & Shirley Waltner from their children