



# Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

28103 443rd Ave  
Freeman, SD 57029-5840

(605) 925-4553  
southchurch@goldenwest.net  
southchurchsd.org

---

**December 8, 2019**

*Advent Two: Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace*

---

## **I. WAITING FOR GOD**

- Prelude** "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" – arr. J.S. Bach  
"O Come, All Ye Faithful" – arr. Larson
- Choral Call to Worship** "Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts"  
– from Saint-Saëns' *Oratorio de Noël* (1858)
- Welcome & Call to Worship** blue HWB #714
- Candle Lighting** "What are you waiting for?"
- Children's Focus**
- Letters from Bethlehem** angel messenger
- Carol** "Joy to the World" blue HWB #318

## **II. RECEIVING GOD'S WORD**

- Hearing Scripture Spoken** **Isaiah 9:1-7**
- Hearing Scripture Sung** "For unto us a child is born"  
– from G.F. Handel's *Messiah* (1741),  
Part 1 Scene 3: The prophecy of Christ's birth
- Sermon** "Extravagant Expectations"

## **III. RESPONDING TO CHRIST'S COMING**

- Singing the Nativity Story** "Shepherd's Pipe Carol" – Rutter
- Congregational Sharing & Prayers**

- ❖ We give God thanks for **the faithful service of so many South Churchers serving** one another and the community in 2019; may tonight's Annual Meeting remind us of the faithfulness of Christ, our "Wonderful Counselor," and excite our vision for the year ahead.

- ❖ We pray the hymn, “Comfort, Comfort Now My People” **for Ashley (Graber) Julius & Dillon** as they grieve the death of Dillon’s mother, **LouAnn Julius (59)**; may LouAnn’s husband Robert and the rest of the family experience resilient hope following yesterday’s memorial.
- ❖ We pray for **perseverance and protection for Christians, their neighbors, and other minority religious groups in war-torn or conflicted places** in the news like Syria, Ukraine, Hong Kong, China, Venezuela, Bolivia, Colombia and Chile; may the reign of Jesus, Prince of Peace come with haste to people who suffer.

**Offering**

Swan Lake Christian Camp (SLCC)  
 “Comfort, Comfort Now My People” – arr. Leavitt

**IV. SENT WITH THE PRINCE’S PEACE**

**Sending Hymn**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” blue HWB 178

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

“Savior of the Nations, Come” – arr. Manz

---

**Greeters:** Bob & Cheryl Wollmann; **Musicians:** Debra Schmeichel (organ), Ladies’ Ensemble; **Worship Leader:** Lee Brockmueller; **Candle Lighters:** Jarrod, MeKayla & Casen Preheim, Nick & Erika Detweiler-Stoddard Family; **Speaker:** Pastor Nick; **Nursery:** Cheryle Gering; **Coffee:** Conf. Room Class

**SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING**

Adult S.S. Offering Today  
 Offering Next Sunday  
 Children’s S.S. Offering

Members in Mission  
 AMBS/EMS  
 Community Gardens

**THE CHURCH AT WORK**

**TODAY**

**We welcome all** who have come to worship with us this morning! Please take time to greet others, invite them to Sunday school, and grab some coffee.

**There will be Sunday School opening** after the service for the two younger Sunday School classes upstairs in the chapel.

**12:30-2:00** –Christmas Eve program practice for children in grades 2-8.

**Carols at Oakview this afternoon Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** – South Church will lead the Oakview Terrace chapel service at 2:30. It will be a half-hour of “Lessons & Carols” (nativity story scriptures and singing) with residents. All people interested in being part of our caroling group may join us there!

**TONIGHT @ 5:30pm – Annual Meeting** will follow light potluck of finger food.

## **THIS WEEK**

**Wed. (11<sup>th</sup>), 6:15 p.m.** – Handbells

**7:15 p.m.** – Chancel

**8:30 p.m.** – Men's Choir, Ladies' Ensemble

## **NEXT SUNDAY, December 15**

**Speaker:** Pastor Bob; **Worship Leader:** Peggy Waltner; **Musicians:** Brad Anderson (piano), Chancel Choir; **Greeters:** Bob & Cheryl Wollmann; **Offering:** Ecuador Partnership; **Nursery:** Amy Waltner; **Coffee:** Conf. Room Class

**7:30 p.m.** – South Church Choirs Program

## **COMING EVENTS**

**December 18** – Youth Supper & Christmas Activity

## **SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES**

**Please contact the church office** if you would like a phone call when church services are cancelled.

**Please take some time to sign** the Christmas cards in the fellowship hall.

**I would like to extend a sincere thank you** to the women of our congregation who constructed a quilt made especially for me. I was humbled and brought to tears by such a generous and thoughtful gift, which has given me comfort and hope. I also wish to thank Pastor Nick for his visit, and also thank the many members of our church and community who have sent cards and prayers my way. Finally, I wish to share the scripture printed on my special quilt - "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord.....Plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11. Linda Graber

**Choir members:** Christmas concert fellowship food assignments for December 15 are as follows: Each family involved in Chancel Choir bring 1½ dozen bars or cookies, Ladies' Ensemble and Handbell choir members bring 10 pieces of fruit and 1 box of crackers, and men involved only in Men's Choir bring 2 boxes of crackers. Please bring food items to the kitchen on Sunday morning if possible.

**Local Christmas Giving opportunity from Mission & Service Team** - This year we have heard of a need to help families pay school lunch and breakfast bills at Freeman Public School. Donating cash to this will help the families free up money to pay for other needs, especially heating bills in the winter months. This will be done anonymously from South Church. Make checks out to the church and earmark in the memo line Mission & Service Project. We can open our hearts to the people right here in our community with basic needs. Thank you for your generosity and compassion; we are so blessed in many ways.

**Your Help With a Tasty Christmas Surprise** – Anna Waltner requests your help in restoring a beloved recipe collection for Collin that was accidentally thrown away by a young member of the household! Collin was devastated that his 20-year collection of recipes from every place he has lived is gone. It also had hand written recipes from his grandma, Martha Waltner. Anna asks if South Church would help lessen the blow by writing their favorite recipe(s) on a 4x6 index card, putting them in Anna and Collin's church mailbox by 12/22.

**Sunday School Openings** will take place in the chapel upstairs at the beginning of Sunday School EVERY Sunday morning until Christmas for the two younger Sunday School classes. This will provide time for practicing songs for the Christmas Eve program.

**All children in grades 2-8 are invited to participate** in the musical that will be presented here at South Church on Christmas Eve. Once again, we'll be collaborating with the North Church for this annual celebration. We'll rehearse each Sunday until Christmas from 12:30-2:00 PM here at South Church. Please bring a sack lunch to eat here at church before we rehearse. An additional rehearsal will take place on Monday, December 23; the time is yet to be determined. If needed, it's possible that a Wednesday rehearsal would be added, as well. If you know of friends or neighbors who might be interested, please welcome them to join us!

**Our group subscription to *The Mennonite*** is now due. Please contact Amy by December 11 if you want to be included.

**If you would like to donate** a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one during this holiday season, please contact Cheryl at 925-4204.











---

Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30am/ Sunday School – Following Worship  
Office Hours – Wednesday – Friday 9:30-12:30; bulletin deadline – 9:30 a.m. Friday  
Amy Waltner, Administrative Assistant (southchurch@goldenwest.net) 925-4553  
Nick Stoddard, Pastor (nick.southchurch@goldenwest.net) 925-7106/940-7212  
Bob Engbrecht, Pastor 648-3017/659-4331

## DECEMBER'S MONTHLY PRAYERS

At the beginning of each month over the past couple of years a small, dedicated South Church gathering has met to pray for our congregation, community and world. All are invited to join the evening of prayers or the day of fasting. If not attending, the congregation is asked to continue to carry these prayers through the month.

The following are some items from the Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> prayer gathering. We want your help in continuing to lift prayers this month for:

-  God's vision ahead and reflection back during **our annual meeting** and the Spirit's blessing on **those who will be assuming new roles** in our church or continuing in current ministries.
-  Mission and Service team as they discern **how to be of good help to families in need** in our community during this holiday season.
-  Christian Formation department leaders as they continue to call for additional **teachers for the children's Sunday School classes** and as they train teachers in the materials being used.
-  **Musical Christmas programs, both adult and children's**, being shared as expressions of our love for Jesus.
-  Praise for **Salem's generous givers** resulting in ending the year with money resources beyond our expenses.
-  **Families who have experienced recent deaths or health concerns**, remembering especially Joe and Betty Brockmueller and family around this first anniversary of Bill's death.
-  **Local farmers** still needing to finish harvest and those facing challenging decisions for the next years ahead.
-  Central Plains Mennonite Conference's search committee as they seek God's calling for a **new Executive Conference Minister**.
-  **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary** in a season of leadership transition, also remembering the life of **former faculty member, Willard Swartley** following his sudden death.
-  **Anabaptist-Mennonite church schools**, both local and beyond, many of them facing fiscal struggles as well as other challenges while still doing quality education ministry to form disciples.

## WEEKLY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

### *“What are we waiting for?”*

Advent means “coming or arrival.” It is a season of waiting for an arrival. It begins four Sundays before Christmas. During Advent we focus our attention on two different periods of time—waiting for the Christ child, the Messiah to be born; and waiting for Jesus Christ to come again in glory.

The first period was the time of the Hebrew prophets who announced the restoration of Israel with the arrival of a Messiah. The Jews waited 400 years from the last prophecy until the birth of Jesus. Those who don’t believe Jesus is the promised Messiah are still waiting. Christians believe Jesus is the fulfillment of that period.

The second period began with the ascension of the resurrected Jesus into heaven and the promise of His return. We Christians live in the time between the advents of Jesus: Christmas and the Second Coming. Our celebration of Advent and the Christmas birth of Jesus is focused knowledge in the Easter joy of Christ’ Resurrection. We celebrate God who has already come into the world. Emmanuel (God with us) has shown us God’s Love and God’s Power of victory over evil and death. What are we waiting for? We have work to do. We have been given the assignment of the Great Commission to go out into all the world to share the Gospel. We “wait” in confidence of Jesus return. As we prepare for Christmas, in the security of God’s love, may we have renewed energy and be empowered to live, to love, to work for God’s kingdom sharing the “Good news”, our assignment.

*~contributed by Dawn Stahl*