



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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southchurchsd.org

January 8, 2023 – Epiphany

I. GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

- <https://zoom.us/j/278905019>
- Or phone call-in # (312) 626-6799 and Meeting ID: 278 905 019
- One-Tab Mobile (iPhone) +16699009128,,278905019#

Prelude Variation on “Forest Green” – arr. Manz
“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” – arr. Burkhardt

Leader: In crimson clothing you came,
bringing the day of vengeance, the year of redemption.

People: **God has not forgotten you, O Jerusalem.**

Leader: O Lord, your compassion and kindness are for us,
even in our distress.

People: **Even in suffering we remember your love.**

Leader: You have become fully human; you call us brothers and sisters.
You, Lord, will gather your people again
for the day of redemption.

All: *Let our repentance give you glory.
Let our praises give you joy, until you come again.*

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn “Worship the Lord” – HWB #220

Welcome & Greeting One Another

Children’s Time

II. HEARING GOD’S WORD

Scripture John 13:31-37

Sermon “Loving the Lord”

Hymn “Love Came Down at Christmas” – HWB #208

III. RESPONDING TO JESUS CHRIST

Announcements & Offerings

- Today's **Worship offering** is for Salem Mennonite Home
- Today's **Sunday school offering** is Camper Scholarships
- **Children's Offering** is for Oyate Concern Christian School

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

IV. SENT WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Closing Hymn

"My Jesus, I Love Thee" – HWB #522

Spoken Benediction

Postlude

"Lo Decembre Congelat (Catalonian Carol)" – arr. Busarow

Greeters: Peg Waltner and Monte Waltner; **Musicians:** Debra Schmeichel (organist); **Worship Leader:** Everett Waltner; **Children's Time:** Brent Brockmueller; **Speaker:** Pastor Gene Miller; **Coffee:** Class #10

THE CHURCH AT WORK

TODAY

We welcome all who are worshiping with us this morning! Coffee is available in the fellowship hall following the worship service.

We welcome Pastor Gene Miller to the pulpit today. Gene is from Henderson, NE and has agreed to be our interim pastor for six months. He has most recently been interim pastor at Bethel Mennonite Church in Mt. Lake MN and before that served at Hutterthal Mennonite Church. He was the Superintendent at a Mennonite school in Sarasota Florida for over 20 years before moving to Henderson. The last six years he has been serving as a transitional interim pastor for churches in Central Plains Mennonite Conference. We are looking forward to his ministry with us here at Salem. The deacons and the interim pastor search committee are grateful that he has accepted our call. Please take some time to say hello and introduce yourself.

4:30 p.m. – The Mission and Service Team invites you to participate in a monthly conversation and prayer time with our Ecuador Mission Partners, the Ross Richers. You can join by entering the Waterford Mennonite Church website, waterfordchurch.org. Then click on Worship, then Online Prayers, then scroll to Ecuador Prayers and click on video or dial in. Or in your Zoom app put in the Meeting ID: 853 3848 4428 and Passcode: 274788.

THIS WEEK

Wed. (11th), 6:30 p.m. – Youth Group

Thurs. (12th), 7:00 p.m. – Deacon Board Meeting

Sat. (14th), 9:00 a.m. – Mission & Service Workday (**see NEWS & NOTES**)

NEXT SUNDAY, January 15

Speaker: Pastor Gene Miller; **Worship Leader:** Crystal Nelson; **Musicians:** Sharla Unruh (organist); **Greeters:** Peg Waltner and Monte Waltner; **Coffee:** Class #10

Worship offering is for AMBS/EMS

Sunday school offering is for Freeman Academy

Children's Offering is for Oyate Concern Christian School

COMING EVENTS

January 19 – Mission & Service Meeting

January 28 – Fellowship Hall Reserved (late afternoon-evening)

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

Please pray for Don & Sonja Waltner, Kieran, Kristen, Brennan & Stephan and Rolf Olson & Anne Waltner, Margreta, Alice & Lydia as they grieve the loss of their father and grandfather David Olson.

Salem Mennonite: For a few years I used to sign these Christmas cards and now to receive one from my congregation is indeed humbling & heart-warming to be at the receiving end. May God continue to work here in our church family. Florence Miller

To the South Church Congregation: Thank you for thinking of me with the Christmas card you sent. It sure was appreciated! May God bless you! Lucille Graber

On Saturday, January 14, the Mission & Service team will be hosting a workday to cut and sew cloth bags for the various MCC kits. We plan to start at 9 a.m., and a light lunch will be served. If you are able to help cut the fabric, sew the bags, or add the ties to the completed bags, please join us! Come for a couple of hours or stay for the duration! There is a sign-up sheet on the narthex table to let us know if you can bring a sewing machine, cutting tools, and/or fabric for the bags. Many hands make light work!

Information for the 2023 Yearbook needs to be given to Rachel Waltner by Sunday, January 29 or BEFORE would be lovely! This includes all department appointments, Sunday school teachers, etc. Thanks for your attention to these details!

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
Gene Miller, Interim Pastor, 330-749-1290
Bob Engbrecht, Pastor 648-3017/659-4331

From Lanna & Karl Lebkuchner:

Our News: Thank you for all your prayers for us and Karl's brother, Mark during this last month. Unfortunately, Mark died on December 7. Sadly, we arrived back in Rhode Island on December 8.

How are we doing? We swing back and forth between grieving and busyness. As you know, when we returned to Central Asia on November 7, Mark was stable, and we were planning to stay till December 18 to allow Janet and Karl to finish the second quarter of the school year. Upon returning to Central Asia, Lanna, Janet, and Mae got sick which kept us all from doing much with others for almost a month and kept Janet home for a week or so. Janet was able to get back to school in time to prepare for the Christmas musical on December 2. That same morning, Karl and his family were told by Mark's doctor that Mark was not recovering, and that his kidneys were failing. The family made the decision to put him into hospice.

December 3 and 4, Lanna got our tickets changed from December 18, to December 8. We quickly packed up our stuff in Central Asia and moved it to Khat friend's houses. December 5 and 6 Janet and Karl had our last two days at school saying quick "Goodbyes" to many friends. December 6 our car broke down and Karl got it towed to a neighbor's house to be repaired. December 7, we packed the last of our things into suitcases to bring to the USA and cleaned up the rented house a bit. That night Karl got the message that Mark had died. At midnight we got in a taxi to the airport to begin our long journey back to USA.

December 9, Karl met with his dad. Stepmom and sister to plan Mark's funeral. That day, Karl tested positive for COVID, thankfully he had a mild case, no one else caught it, and he was finished with isolation in time for Mark's funeral on December 17th.

These last few months have been hard, stressful, confusing, sad, and disappointing at times. Your prayers have sustained us. Amid the difficulties we have experienced a lot of God grace and seen His care for us through His people on both sides of the Ocean. Local friends offering to keep our things, (and helping us get them moved). People providing meals for us, neighbors providing a car when ours broke down. His church giving special gifts to make this hard Christmas a little brighter for our family. Getting comfort from sisters and brothers in Christ at Mark's funeral. As well as in countless other ways.

Prayer List for January

Framing Scripture: II Timothy 1:6: *I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of hands; for God did not give us a spirit of fear but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.* (NRSV; older translations say “sound mind” instead of “self-discipline”).

A point to ponder as we pray: How is a **sound mind** synonymous with **self-discipline**?

Thanksgivings

- safe holiday travel for family members
- Amy Waltner’s faithfulness and flexibility in her administrative tasks through multiple pastoral changes and weather events
- warm and safe shelter during storms
- for the beauty of fresh fallen snow, and gratitude for all those who clear roads and clear parking lots after a snow storm. We know big snows cause a lot of additional work.
- that we are a congregation that wants to care for one another, and we are grateful for all the care that is given to one another
- that God is great, loving, and wants a good future for all of us

Requests

- Pastor Gene beginning an interim ministry; may his time with us be a help to us and encourage his faith
- for the Ross Richers as they leave for Ecuador; may their time there be fruitful and an encouragement to them after the pandemic interrupted so much
- for our church departments as they re-organize and discern the best way to function
- for our congregation’s future: willingness to change what needs to change; hold fast to what is good; be good listeners, leaders, and followers
- for the search committee’s discernment of a future permanent pastor and for the preparation of that person
- for comfort for families who lost loved ones over the holidays: Sonja Waltner and Rolf Olson in the loss of their father, Dave Olson; Lois’s nephew’s wife Ashley lost her mother.
- for the hip replacement surgeries and recovery of Lyle Preheim and Janver Stucky
- that we all go forward into another year with faith, hope, and love for God growing deeper and wider.

---Duane Ries and Lois Janzen Preheim

The Ten Commandments on How to Get Along With Other People

(from Mom's stash)

1. Keep skid chains on your tongue; always say less than you think. Cultivate a low, persuasive voice. How you say it often counts more than what you say.
2. Make promises sparingly, and keep them faithfully, no matter what it costs.
3. Never let an opportunity pass to say a kind and encouraging word to or about somebody. Praise good work, regardless of who did it. If criticism is needed, criticize helpfully, never spitefully.
4. Be interested in others, their pursuits, their work, their homes and families. Make merry with those who rejoice; with those who weep, mourn. Let everyone you meet, however humble, feel that you regard him as a person of importance.
5. Be cheerful. Don't burden or depress those around you by dwelling on your minor aches and pains and small disappointments. Remember, everyone is carrying some kind of a load.
6. Keep an open mind. Discuss but don't argue. It is a mark of a superior mind to be able to disagree without being disagreeable.
7. Let your virtues, if you have any, speak for themselves. Refuse to talk of another's vices. Discourage gossip. It is a waste of valuable time and can be extremely destructive.
8. Be careful of another's feelings. Wit and humor at the other person's expense are rarely worth it and may hurt when least expected.
9. Pay no attention to ill-natured remarks about you. Remember, the person who carried the message may not be the most accurate reporter in the world. Simply live so that nobody will believe them. Disordered nerves and bad digestion are a common cause of back-biting.
10. Don't be too anxious about the credit due you. Do your best, and be patient. Forget about yourself, and let others "remember." Success is much sweeter that way.