



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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December 14, 2025

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

“Christmas Prelude” – Becker

Call to Worship

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!

Let your gentleness be known to all, for the Lord is near at hand.

There is none like you, O LORD, and there is no God besides you,

You have redeemed your people Israel,

making yourself a name for great and awesome works,

And you, O Lord, became our God,

and your name will be established and magnified forever, saying,

‘The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, is our God,’

and the house of your servant David will be established before you.

O LORD, you are God, and you have been pleased to bless the house of your servant David, that it may continue forever before you, for it is you, O LORD, who have blessed, and it is blessed forever.

Invocation

Opening Hymn

“Angel We Have Heard on High” – HWB # 197

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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

Confession of Sin

STS #127

Anthem

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”- MacGimsey/Raney

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings

1 Chronicles 17:1-15(ESV); Isaiah 10:33-11:10(ESV)
Matthew 1:1-17(ESV)

III. RECEIVING THE SPIRIT, JOINED IN CHRIST'S BODY

Hymn of Response

"Lo How a Rose" – HWB #211

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** Wellspring Wholistic Care Center
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Oyate Hope Academy
- **Children's Offering:** Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

IV. RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" – HWB # 201

Benediction

Go with the Spirit of the Lord, to bear fruit as branches rooted in Jesus, the shoot from Jesse, And let your delight and joy be in the knowledge and reverence of the Lord. Amen.

Postlude

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" – Lenel

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Stewart Hofer; **Greeters:** Linda Graber and Vernetta Waltner; **Musicians:** Heather Haggerty (organist); Men's Choir (special music); **Candle Lighters:** Curt & Erin Hobson & family; **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.

Annual Business Meeting following a noon potluck meal.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, December 17, 6:30 p.m. – Handbells

7:30 p.m. – Chancel Choir

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

NEXT SUNDAY, Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2025

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** LaVonne Brockmueller; **Greeters:** Linda Graber and Monte Waltner; **Musicians:** Barb Yoder (pianist); Chancel Choir & Handbells (special music); **Candle Lighters:** Loren & Carolyn and Drew, Elizabeth & Zelda Waltner; **Coffee:** Conference Room Sunday School class

Worship Offering: Freeman Regional Assisted Living

Sunday School Offering: AMBS/EMBS

Children's Offering: Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

COMING EVENTS

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

with Salem-Zion as our guests

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

Thank you South Church for your prayers, cards, and words of encouragement.

The surgery went well with no further treatment needed. Thanks also for the Poinsettia which will brighten our home this Christmas. Your support means a lot. Lee Brockmueller

Thank you for everything that you've done for me during my recent illness. I appreciate the prayers, calls, cards and poinsettia that came from the church. I am grateful for your support during this time. Lisa Brockmueller

A variety of new Advent Devotional Books are available to check out from the library carousel in the narthex. There are also new books for children and adults!

Church Photo Directory – Thanks to all of the folks who have sent in photos or taken photos on Sunday mornings. We will continue to receive photos during the month of December. If you are not tech savvy, have a family member who is take your photo during the upcoming holidays and have them send it to Vernetta in the office. We will coordinate a photo op with Jeremy for those who signed up for November 30 (which didn't happen☺).

Poinsettias – If you would like to donate a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one to share with the congregation during the Advent season, please contact Cheryl at Fensels Greenhouse and they will deliver it to the church.

The annual Senior Giving Tree is set up in our narthex. Cards and instructions will also be available at Norm's Thrifty-White, Jamboree Foods and Salem Mennonite Church. The deadline for returning gifts is December 15. Thank you in advance for bringing joy to the residents of the Freeman Nursing Home and Assisted Living! -- SMC Mission and Service Team

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

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

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

Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30am/Sunday School – Following Worship
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