

For the Record

Attendance Dec. 3 2023:

In person: 63

Zoom: 10 devices (est. 16 people)

General Offering received:

December 3 \$ 5,507

Month to date \$5,507

Total monthly requirement \$15,9331

Nurturing Church Family

Birthdays This Week:

Joyce Yoder, Glenna Penner,
Carol Kauffman, Norm Lind

Anniversaries this Week:

Gabino & Karen Perez

Pick up a basket today for the Community Center

Today is your last chance to take a basket to be given to a family at the December 22 Community Center Christmas party. Baskets may be filled with new or gently used items such as small toys, games, books, socks, household items, non-perishable food or other items families might enjoy. Please return filled baskets and donated items for the Church at the Park barrel next Sunday, December 17. Thank you.

Chrismon Meanings

As we enjoy the wooden chrismons hanging in the sanctuary during the advent and Christmas season, let us reflect on the meaning of these symbols:

- **Star:** representing the star of Bethlehem.
- **Cross:** representing Jesus' sacrifice
- **Dove:** symbol of the Holy Spirit
- **Angel:** messenger of God
- **Fish:** symbol of followers of Christ
- **Candle:** light of the world
- **Bell:** announcing the birth of Jesus

Lord's Prayer

(from Voices Together 989A)

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.



Salem Mennonite Church

Interim Pastor: **Marlene Bogard**, pastor@salemmennonitechurch.org

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Education Hour: Sundays at 9:30 am • Worship: Sundays at 10:45 am

Salem Mennonite invites all to join us for worship and fellowship. Our prayer is that everyone who enters here may be received as Christ. We celebrate the image of God in all people and publicly affirm that persons of every gender identity and sexual orientation are welcome to participate in our life and ministry.

Mission Statement: Salem Mennonite Church commits to hear and live God's call to be followers of Jesus Christ and to grow as a worshipping community of faith and reconciliation, where peace, joy and healing are experienced in the church and shared with others.

Salem Mennonite Church Worship Service December 10, 2023 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

We Gather

Prelude -Julie Graber
Hymns **VT 213** "Bless'd Be the God of Israel" -Jennifer Gingerich
VT 213 "Poor of the Earth"
Call to Worship and Invocation -Mitchell Daily
Advent Candle Lighting -The Kropf Family
Hymn **VT 220** "Prepare the Way! the Prophet Called" -Jennifer Gingerich

We Hear God's Word

Message for Children **VT 511** "Come on Children" -Pat Harms
Scripture Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8 -Mitchell Daily
Message *Where the Wild Things Are* -Eric Massanari

We Respond

Congregational Response at the Manger -Marlene Bogard
Hymn of Response **VT 209** "We Dream of a Turning" -Jennifer Gingerich
Offering /My Coins Count -Julie Graber
Sharing and Prayer Ending with Lord's Prayer (Lord's Prayer **VT 989 A**)

We Go Forth

Closing Hymn **VT 228** "Wait for the Lord"
Sending Words

Call to Worship Responsive Reading

Leader: Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with God one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

Right Side: God is not slow, as some think of slowness, but is patient with us.

Left Side: God is not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

Leader: The word of our God will stand forever.

All: How shall we live while we wait for salvation?

(pause)

All: Together we wait.

Today we welcome our Executive Conference Minister, Eric Massanari to the pulpit. Eric and his spouse, Yoldanda Kauffman, live in Bellingham, Washington. Eric has served as Executive Conference Minister for the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference since November, 2022.

Coming Up

This Week: December 10-16, 2023

Mon 2:00pm Book Club at Margaret A.
Tues 6:00 pm Elders Meeting
Wed 9:00 am Quilting/MCC Projects in Fellowship Hall
Wed 12:00 pm Kawandi Workshop in Fellowship Hall
Thurs 9:30 am Women's Bible Study (Zoom)
Fri 6:00 pm Community Center Family Night
Sat 6:00pm Christmas Potluck - bring your favorite festive foods

Sunday, December 17, 2023

9:30 am Sunday School for children, youth (no adult class until Jan.)
10:45 am Worship Service, message by Marlene Bogard

Sunday, December 24

no morning worship service
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Full calendar of events at www.salemmennonitechurch.org

Ushers today: Charles & Jennie Kauffman Sound/Zoom Tech: Jason Sell
Nursery Volunteer Today: Lori Christy

Isaiah 40:1-11 (NRSV)

God's People are Comforted

- ¹ Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she
has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
³ A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill
be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and
the rough places a plain.
⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field.
⁷ The grass withers; the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass.
⁸ The grass withers; the flower fades, but the word of
our God will stand forever.
⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"
¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him and his recompense before him.
¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his
arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

Mark 1:1-8 (NRSV)

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

- ¹ The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.
² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way,
³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight,'"
⁴ so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a
baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And the whole
Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out
to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing
their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather
belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He
proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after
me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his
sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit."