



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

January 10, 2021

The Baptism of Jesus

“You are my Son, the beloved.” – Mark 1:11

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

- Prelude Sheila Epp
- Choral Call – *Come, Light of the world* (SS #3)
Choristers: LeRoy, Nathan, Connor Epp
- Welcome and Call to Worship Tim Graber
 - L: The Lord be with you.
 - P: And also with you.**
 - L: Lift up your hearts.
 - P: We lift them up to the Lord.**
 - L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 - P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- Opening Prayer
- Opening Hymn – *I sing the mighty power of God* (HWB #46)
- Celebrating God’s Mission – Central Plains Mennonite Conference
- Children’s Story Lacey Friesen

HEARING GOD’S WORD

- Hearing the Scriptures Genesis 1:1-5, Acts 19:1-7
- Instrumental – *As I went down to the river* (SJ #79)
- * Hearing the Gospel Mark 1:1-11
- Sermon – “You are my Beloved” Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

- Testifying
- Congregational Prayer Gwen Ortman
- Sending Song – *Water has held us* (SJ #82)
- Benediction
- Postlude

Church Calendar

Deadline for bulletin submissions is 8:30 p.m. Wednesday; salemzion@gwtc.net

TODAY

We are all yearning for Good News in the midst of a divided nation that is weary from a pandemic that has taken so much. Mark’s Gospel proclaims “Good News” to a people who were also waiting. As we enter into the story of Jesus’ baptism, perhaps the best news is that God calls Jesus “beloved.” Can you hear this as well?

The offering that we are celebrating today is for *Central Plains Mennonite Conference*.

Today (Sun) – Catechism at 4:00 p.m. at the church

THIS WEEK

Jan. 11 (Mon) - Administrative Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 13 (Wed) - ZOOM Bible Study from Mark 2-3: “Ministry and Conflicts” at 10 a.m.

- Faith from the Heart on Wednesdays (Jr. Sunday school department) led by Malynda Penner at 6:45 p.m.

- Bible Study led by Roy Kaufman in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY – January 17

Next Sunday we continue celebrating the Epiphany season. The theme is “Called” and the texts are 1 Sam 3:1-10, 11-20; Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Cor. 6:12-20; Jn 1:43-51. Pastor Corey will be preaching.

Offering next Sunday will be for *Mennonite Church USA*.

COMING EVENTS

Jan-Feb Wed. nights – Faith from the Heart on Wednesdays (Jr. SS Dept.)

Jan-Mar Wed. mornings – Zoom Bible study from Mark at 10:00 a.m.

Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3 – Feeding Our Faith at 7:00 p.m.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- On Wednesday morning, Lynelle and Josh Hofer welcomed Magdalena (Lena, lee-na) Rose Yoder Hofer into the family. Magdalena weighed 7 lbs 10 ounces, and was 20 inches. Everyone is doing well and we are grateful! The rose on the organ this morning is in celebration of Magdalena’s new life.
- On January 1, Randall Koehler began as pastor at Hutterthal Mennonite Church. We pray for God’s blessing as Randall begins his ministry at Hutterthal.
- The attack, violence and loss of life that happened on the United States Capitol has left us deeply saddened and even angered. Glen Guyton, executive director of MC USA has written a letter to our denomination with words of counsel and encouragement (copies are available in the narthex and

the letter is attached to the e-mailed bulletin). Above all, Glen invites us to pray.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Hilda Kaufman.
- those who continue to recover from the coronavirus and for those who continue to work tirelessly to keep people safe. We pray especially for those working at Salem Home, Tieszen Home, Oakview Terrace and our Freeman hospital. Lord, give strength and protection as people offer their best.
- healing and peace for our country. May we all somehow see everyone else as God's "beloved."
- those who are most vulnerable in our communities in this strange time, as in all times. May God open our eyes to the possibilities for love and for protection of the least of these among us.

Remember to thank God for:

- the gift of Magdalena, born to Josh and Lynelle Yoder Hofer and brother Gideon.
- the indescribable gift of being called "beloved" by our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer God!

Coming this Week - Feeding Our Faith: This Wednesday, **January 13th**, Roy Kaufman will begin a series of 4 Bible Study lessons based on his new book, *"The Drama of a Rural Community's Life Cycle."* A worksheet with guided questions is available to all and you do not have to purchase the book in order to participate. Books are available for purchase at the museum and Roy will have some as well. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall where we can social distance and masks are required for attendees. Our study begins at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study – Mark – "On the Way."

Last summer, a small group gathered via ZOOM to read over our top 14 scripture passages. In this new year, we will be reading through Mark's Gospel, culminating in the Easter story right at Easter time. Lisa will provide the ZOOM link and the study will take place at 10:00am each Wednesday. Join us if you can as we study God's Word together.

Looking for Testimonials: Last Sunday, Pastor Corey shared an idea of gathering reflections from every household in how they have dealt with, responded to, or even endured life over these past 10 months or so. What stories, words, pictures or thoughts became clear in your mind, your heart or your life during this time. I am inviting every household to write down those thoughts and perspectives, send them to Pastor Corey and I'm asking for permission to share your insights in our public worship times. These would be considered "testimonials" that are offered in worship, much like an

offering. They can be anonymous or you can write your name down. The purpose is to glorify God in these testimonials and to be an encouragement to all the rest of us trying to follow Jesus in this time. You can send your thoughts to Corey via email, text or through the mail at church. I look forward to hearing from you.

I have put your **donation receipts** for the year 2020 in your mailboxes at church if you have one there. If you don't have a box I have mailed it. If you are not going to be coming out to church to check your mailbox, let me know and I will mail the receipt to you. Thanks so much. Lacey Friesen, treasurer

2021 church **yearbooks** are available in the narthex for you to pick up today.

December Offerings and Gifts: Household Treasury - \$15,920.00; Deacon Sharing Fund - \$1,482.00; Bearcat Avenue - \$225.00; Service & Mission Fund - \$100.00.

December Household Treasury Report – Income: \$15,920.63; Expenses: \$11,956.69; Balance: \$17,797.59.

Christian Peacemaker Teams say "Thank You": On behalf of CPT, I want to express our deep gratitude and appreciation for Salem-Zion's support for CPT in 2020! Your support and partnership with us is welcome and essential to continue CPT's work for peace on our teams. We cannot do it without you. Please share our gratitude with your congregation! We pray that your congregation enjoyed a sacred Christmas and that 2021 carries us beyond the pandemic. Blessings and peace be with you all! - Weldon D. Nisley

We all have a story to tell. Learn how to tell yours well by attending a **series of webinars** called "Remembering your story: creating your own spiritual autobiography," starting January 12 at 7:00pm. For more information about this and other upcoming webinars (and the Zoom link), visit our website, centralplainsmc.org.

Community Connections

Freeman Academy Open Houses: Parents of future Kindergarten through grade 11 students are invited to open houses at Freeman Academy on Jan. 15 or Feb. 5 from 2:00-4:00 pm. Families have two flexible visit options. One: drop in, visit with Enrollment Director Lynnelle Allison, and get grade-specific information. Two: Contact Lynnelle (lallison@FreemanAcademy.org) three days prior to the open house to arrange a tour and schedule visits with specific teachers. All guests must wear masks. For more information call 605-925-4237.

The South Church deacon board has invited us to participate in "Take Them A Meal" for **Kaye and Terry Waltner** during the month of January; she had surgery recently. Sign up at www.TakeThemAMeal.com/EFJM1254; contact Peggy Waltner (pdjwltner1982@gmail.com) with questions. Thank you.

Seeking God's Peace:

Dear God, Grant us your peace this day.

Help us to be effective instruments of your peace as we live out our call.

Help us to love our neighbor and trust in your transforming power.

Grant us wisdom in conversations. Let us appreciate each and every one of your creations.

Watch over us and protect us in this time of uncertainty.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

-Glen Guyton, Executive Director of MC USA

Pastor Corey Miller

Office Hours:

Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon

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Office hours: Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and by appointment as requested

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