



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

“Baptism of Jesus”
January 14, 2024

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude Lisa Kaufman
Choral Call to Worship – *Esto les Digo* (Lange) FA Chamber Choir
Welcome Lacey Friesen

Beginning our Praise (Psalm 29)

L: Ascribe to GOD glory and strength. God’s name is glorified!

P: Worship GOD in the beauty of holiness.

L: The voice of GOD is upon the waters; GOD is upon the mighty waters.

P: The voice of GOD is a powerful voice, full of splendor.

L: The voice of GOD breaks the cedar trees, splits the flames of fire, shakes the wilderness.

P: In the temple of God, all are crying, “Glory!”

ALL: GOD shall give strength to GOD’s people and the blessing of peace.

Opening Prayer

* Hymn – *We Praise Thee, O God* VT #91

* Greeting each other

Children’s Story Polly Waltner

Sharing our Offerings – Central Plains Mennonite Conference
Offertory

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Scriptures Genesis 1:1-5, Acts 19:1-7

Special Music – *Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella* (Charpentier, arr. Chatman)
Freeman Academy Chamber Choir

* Hearing the Gospel Mark 1:4-11

Sermon – “God’s Beloved” Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD

Hymn – *Crashing Waters at Creation* VT #441

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Closing Song – *I Got Shoes* (Traditional Spiritual, arr. Parker/Shaw)

* Benediction

Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

As we celebrate Jesus’ baptism and God’s voice offering blessing, we remember our own baptisms and the faith formational event they were for us. As we worship God together, may we hear God’s voice calling us “beloved.” We are glad you are here!

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

9:30am – Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

THIS WEEK

Jan. 17 (Wed) – Children’s Choir practice, 6:00-6:30pm

Jan. 17 (Wed) – **Feeding Our Faith** kickoff with pizza and an intergenerational prayer walk experience, 6:15pm

Jan. 18 (Thurs) – **Worship Committee** meeting at 7:00pm

Jan. 19 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

Jan. 20 (Sat) – “Painting Day” at church, starting around 8:30 to 9:00am

NEXT SUNDAY – Jan. 21

Next Sunday is Anabaptist Sunday, the time when we remember the formation of the Anabaptist Church. The texts will be Dt. 34:1-12, I Thess. 2:1-8, and Mt. 22:34-46. Pastor Corey will be preaching.

The offering will be for Mennonite Church USA.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- The Ad Board meeting was canceled last Monday due to the weather. Our next meeting will be in March, but if there are any items that need to be brought to the Ad Board, let moderator Mark Ortman know.

Remember to praise God for:

- warm homes, food to eat, and clothes to wear.
- God’s voice that calls each of us “Beloved.”

We pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Cody Schrag.
- the Mennonite delegation who will travel to Washington, D.C. on Tuesday who will share their request for peace.

- all the places that will honor the life and public witness of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. May we grow as peacemakers in all places of violence.
- all those who are deeply affected by the extreme cold temperatures. For our farmers and their livestock, for our young children and older adults, we pray for protection and mercy.
- our brothers and sisters in Central Plains and for all the work of God that is being done through them in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, South Dakota, Montana, and Nebraska.

Feeding Our Faith (FOF): Our FOF will begin Wednesday night with a special pizza and salad supper along with an introduction of our programming and staff for the next two months. Culminating our time will be an **intergenerational prayer walk** throughout the church, so make plans to come out and enjoy food, fellowship, and feeding our faith. A free-will donation basket will help offset the cost of the pizza. We hope to see you all come out! And if you are needing childcare (infant-kindergarten) during FOF from 7:15-8:00 in the following weeks, please let Sheila know.

New Membership Class: The new membership class will begin on January 14th during the SS hour. Currently, we have 7 people signed up and the class will run for 4 weeks. If you are interested, talk to Pastor Corey.

The trustees are planning on having a "painting day" at the church on Sat. Jan. 20. We will try to paint three Sunday School rooms in the west wing and also numerous door frames elsewhere in the church. We would greatly appreciate help with this project. We will be painting the walls with rollers, but will need to use finish brushes for the door frames. If you would like to help it would be good if you could bring some of your own supplies. We will start around 8:30 to 9:00.

A thank-you letter from **Lame Deer Mennonite Church** for Salem-Zion's gift of \$3,100 for a new furnace in their church building has been posted in the narthex.

Mennonite Action is a group of Mennonites in Canada and the U.S. concerned about the violent events occurring in Israel and Palestine. On December 19, more than 1800 Mennonites were involved in 42 actions across the US and Canada at the offices of elected officials. The requests were primarily 1. A permanent ceasefire in Palestine and 2. Release of all hostages. An online petition has been created for you to add your name to the list of those who are praying and acting for peace. A group of Mennonites will be going to Washington DC on January 16th and will bring all the signed petitions with them. If you would like to sign the petition, you can do this online: <http://www.mennoniteaction.org/us-petition>

A thank-you card from **Mennonite Mission Network** for Salem-Zion's support of the Ross Richer ministry has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Praying God's Peace in Epiphany: "That's love, you see. It is redemptive, and this is why Jesus says love. There's something about love that builds up and is creative. There is something about hate that tears down and is destructive. So love your enemies." - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Loving Your Enemies, 1957

Pastor Corey Miller
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