



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

“God’s Creative and Playful Spirit”

October 13, 2024

10:30am

“The LORD your God...will rejoice over with you with gladness...”  
- Zephaniah 3:17a

## GATHERING TO PRAISE

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Prelude  | Maria Paff        |
| Welcome  | Clara Beseman     |
| Call to Worship (Psalm 100)  | VT #20            |
| Opening Prayer   |                   |
| * Singing our Praise – <i>Come, Now Is the Time to Worship For the Beauty of the Earth</i> | VT #29<br>VT #120 |
| * Greeting each other  |                   |
| Children’s Story   | Diane Ellinger    |
| Lighting the Peace Lamp  |                   |
| Offering – Mennonite Church USA  |                   |
| Offertory  |                   |

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Healing in the Old Testament                | Zephaniah 3:17-20   |
| Song – <i>The Lord Your God Is with You</i> | VT #173             |
| * Hearing the Gospel                        | Matthew 19:13-15    |
| Sermon – “God’s Joyous Creativity”          | Pastor Corey Miller |

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Song – <i>Child of Blessing, Child of Promise</i> | VT #508 |
| Sharing and Congregational Prayer                 |         |

## SENT OUT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| * Song – <i>You Shall Go Out with Joy</i> | VT #847 |
| * Benediction                             |         |
| Postlude                                  |         |

## Church Calendar

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

### TODAY

Beginning with Creation, God’s creativity was on full display! God’s creative spirit continued on throughout the OT and into the joy-filled birth of Jesus. Do we have eyes to see God’s creative play at work around us and throughout the world? A sense of deep joy awaits those who know Jesus’ playful ways. Welcome to our worship!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Mennonite Church USA**.

9:30am – Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

Everyone is invited to a **Fall Gathering** at Salem-Zion today from 5:00-7:00pm. A light supper with hotdogs for roasting and s’mores will be provided. You are welcome to bring a side dish. Activities will include soccer and lawn games. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy a fun time of fellowship!

### THIS WEEK

**Oct. 16 (Wed)** – Children’s Choir, 6:00-6:30pm

**Oct. 16 (Wed)** – Youth Group supper and meeting at Corey and Nancy’s home at 6:30pm

**Oct. 16 (Wed)** – Board of Education meeting at 7:00pm

**Oct. 18 (Fri)** – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

### NEXT SUNDAY – Oct. 20

Next Sunday the theme is “*A God Who Looks Like Jesus: Saving.*” The scripture texts are from Numbers 21:4-9 and Matthew 19:13-15. Kate Friesen will be preaching. The offering will be for Freeman Academy.

### COMING EVENTS

**October 24** – Deacons’ meeting at 7:30pm

**October 27** – Harvest Mission Festival at Salem Mennonite. Worship at 9:30am, Additional Presentation at 10:30am. Noon meal hosted by South Church will follow.

**November 5** – End-of-year reports due to the church office

## Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

### Happenings over the past week:

- The memorial service for John Schwartz was held at Salem-Zion last Monday. The floral arrangement is in memory of John.
- Reed Schrag was able to return home on Wednesday!
- Thanks to Cadence and Reeslyn Hofer for donating pumpkins, gourds and other fall visuals that provide a lovely and welcoming presence to the entrance of our church.

**Remember to praise God for:**

- the dry and pleasant weather for our farmers to gather up the crops.
- the connectedness we feel as the Body of Christ here at Salem-Zion Mennonite.
- the gift of creativity, humor, and play that remind us all of our Creator!

**Remember to pray for:**

- those who cannot be here today: Eva Goosen.
- Nathan Paff as he undergoes surgery on Monday, October 14.
- those living in Florida in the aftermath of another devastating hurricane.
- all those in Israel and Gaza who are grieving the loss of loved ones on this one-year anniversary of violence.
- the selection process as we continue to prayerfully consider who would be willing to serve in the various roles in our church.
- our sister churches in the Quad Cities area cluster: Casa de Oracion Emanuel, Iglesia Cristiana El Balsamo, Iglesia Menonita Centro Cristiano, Iglesia Torre Fuerte, Templo Alabanza and the El Buen Pastor church plant.

The church furnace is currently in need of repair, and during this season of **fluctuating temperatures**, please dress accordingly if you might get cold under these circumstances.

**Freeman Academy's annual fall church drive** will begin Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. Students will share music and Board President, Brian Paff, will provide a school update during your worship service that Sunday. During this harvest season, we are grateful to the alumni and friends of Freeman Academy and ask you to consider making a gift to the school's general fund. Committee members will be available at a table on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> to receive your donations. If you are not in church those Sundays and would like to participate, self-addressed envelopes will be available on a table for your convenience, or you can make your donation online at [freemanacademy.org](http://freemanacademy.org).

**Selection ballots** were distributed last Sunday; extra copies are available in the narthex. Please return your ballot to the box in the narthex by October 21.

**Summary minutes** from the last deacons' meeting have been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

The South Church Mission & Service team is inviting our church for this year's combined **Harvest Mission Sunday** on October 27. Steve and Kristi Martin (brother and sister-in-law to Angie and Brent Brockmueller) will be sharing about their ministry, Anistemi (ah-nest-amy,) meaning "to raise up". The Martins started this ministry in 2018. It is a registered 501c3 private charity based out of Hesston, Kan. This ministry partners with three communities in

Africa (Nairobi, Kenya; Kumel, Uganda; and Uvira, Congo) to raise people up and out of poverty by providing access to resources like education, vocational training and small business loans. 99.2% of the proceeds go directly to the communities they serve. Steve and Kristi will share during the worship service at 9:30 and again with the adults and children during Sunday school time. An offering will be taken to support the work of Anistemi. We are welcome to stay for the noon fellowship meal provided by the South Church.

**Coming in 2025 – 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Anabaptism:** January 2025 (in four months) will mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginnings of the Anabaptist movement. In addition to receiving the long-awaited version of Anabaptist Community Bible, there are several other events planned for this amazing milestone. If you are interested in purchasing an Anabaptist Community Bible, you can still get an introductory offer until October 15<sup>th</sup>. Much more will be coming, so stay tuned!

**Community Connections**

Freeman Academy will be hosting a special **Indigenous Peoples' Day** event on Wednesday, October 16, 9:00-10:30am in Sterling Hall. We will be welcoming South Dakota Secretary of Tribal Relations Dave Flute to speak and will also enjoy performances of native songs and dances from the Dakota Dance Club. We are inviting members of the Freeman community as well as students from surrounding districts to attend this event. This event is sponsored by Dr. Rolf Olson and Dr. Anne Waltner, as well as Shane Vetch with Modern Woodmen, and is free to attendees.

Join the **Freeman Regional Health Services Auxiliary** for soup, sandwiches and pie on October 25 from 10:30am – 1:30pm at the Senior Citizen Center in Freeman. While you're there, be sure to take home some delicious homemade goodies from the bake sale as well! The proceeds from this year's event will go towards updating surgical equipment at Freeman Regional. If you would like to donate baked goods, please deliver them to the Senior Citizen Center between 8:30-10:30am, the day of the event. Thank you!

**God's Playfulness brings peace:** *"One mark of anxiety is the absence of playfulness. And I think we know this intuitively. It's why humor disarms and lowers the temperature. Play is a sign of peace. Imagine the implications, then, if your perception of God is devoid of humor or mirth."* – Sharon Hodde Miller

**Pastor Corey Miller**  
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