



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

## “Receiving and Offering Hospitality” October 15, 2023

### GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *Come, Christians Join to Sing* (arr. Hayes) Mavis Ortman

Welcome and Lighting the Peace Lamp John Epp

Call to Worship

L: Welcome to a time of wonder and music that calls us home.

**P: We are ready to hear God’s words that inspire and challenge**

L: and reminders that we are offered holy hospitality -

**P: Hospitality that teaches us how to open our lives to others**

L: leading us to fully live open minds, open hearts, open doors.

**P: God welcomes us all to this place of worship!**

Opening Prayer

\* Hymn – *Summoned by the God Who Made Us* VT #1

\* Greeting each other

Children’s Story Acts 16:25-34 Lynelle Hofer

Sharing our Offerings – Freeman Academy  
Offertory – *Calm and Lovely* (Shubert)

### HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Old Testament Deuteronomy 10:12-13, 17-21

Song – *I Bind My Heart This Tide* VT #556

\* Hearing the Gospel Luke 19:1-10

Sermon – “I must stay at your house today” Corey Miller

### RESPONDING TO GOD

Song – *Draw the Circle* VT #802

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

\* Sending Song – *Go Now in Peace, Worship Continues* VT #829

\* Benediction

Postlude

## Church Calendar

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

### TODAY

The Bible consistently reminds us to treat foreigners and strangers with respect and love. Jesus had no reservations about receiving hospitality from the risky people of society. How do we receive and extend hospitality to those around us as we try to emulate Jesus’ example? We are so blessed that you are here to worship God and seek God’s truth together. Welcome!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Freeman Academy**.

9:00am – Coffee/Fellowship time

9:30am – Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

**Join us today, Sunday, October 15 for a Fall Gathering at Salem-Zion - "Harvesting our Faith", 4-6 pm:** Activities include a fun run/walk around the church grounds, pumpkin painting, apple bobbing, lawn games, soccer and fellowship. We will be roasting hot dogs for a light supper starting at 5:00. You are welcome to bring a side dish. Bring your own lawn chair. We look forward to sharing this time with you! If you have questions, ask Sheila or Charity.

### THIS WEEK

**Oct. 16 (Mon)** – Fall Selection ballots are due

**Oct. 18 (Wed)** – Children's Choir rehearsal, 6:00-6:30pm

**Oct. 18 (Wed)** – Youth Group at 6:30pm

**Oct. 18 (Wed)** – Worship Committee meeting at 7:00pm

**Oct. 20 (Fri)** – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

### NEXT SUNDAY – October 22

Next Sunday we continue our Fall series “*God’s Faithful Community*,” and the focus of the morning will be “*Practicing Peacemaking*.” The texts will be Genesis 1:26-31, Romans 8:18-25, and Luke 4:16-19. Pastor Corey will be preaching and the Freeman Academy students will provide music.

Next week the offering is for **Mennonite Mission Network**.

### COMING EVENTS

**October** – Pastor Appreciation Month

**Oct. 25** – Board of Education meeting at 7pm, Deacons meeting at 7:30pm

## Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

### **Happenings over the past week:**

- Diane Ellinger had a long, but successful back surgery on Tuesday at Avera. She is hoping to be home by this weekend. Pray for healing and patient endurance for the road to recovery for Diane and Ted.

### **Remember to praise God for:**

- good harvesting weather. Even the rain provides additional rest for weary harvesters. Christ in everything!
- all the ways that people have shown us healing, hope, and hospitality to nurture our lives and our faith.
- the continuing witness of our church, Salem-Zion, as it engages in spiritual practices for God's Reign.

### **Remember to pray for:**

- those who cannot be here today: Connor Epp.
- Diane Ellinger as she recovers from her surgery and slowly regains strength.
- Since the October 7 Hamas attack near the Gaza Strip and Israel's crushing military reaction, violence and destruction have escalated in the land we often call "Holy." As we lament the carnage among Israelis and Palestinians, let us also pray for those working for a future that ends the deep and longstanding injustices that lie at the root of the crisis.
- Rachel Miller, as she continues to serve with Mennonite Voluntary Service in San Francisco. Pray for compassionate responses to the young women that she is serving in the city.
- our sister churches in Nebraska: Beemer, Bellwood, Bethesda, First Mennonite of Lincoln, Milford, Salem in Shickley, Wood River, and the Omaha Chin Christian Church.

## **Community Connections**

Come join us for **Bearcats Kids Club** at Freeman Academy! Our next gathering is on Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 5:45-7:15pm in the Link at Sterling Hall on the FA campus. All children, ages 4-4<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us for an evening of games and activities, including reading and dramatizing a book that celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month. Please RSVP to Jason at [jmehlhaf@freemanacademy.org](mailto:jmehlhaf@freemanacademy.org) so we can plan accordingly. Hope to see you there!

Join the **Freeman Regional Health Services Auxiliary for soup, sandwiches and pie** on October 27 from 10:30am – 1:30pm at the Senior Citizen Center in Freeman. Details are posted on the bulletin board.

**Seeking God's Peace:** "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." - Martin Luther King Jr., A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches

### **Pastor Corey Miller**

Office Hours:  
Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon  
[corey.miller@gwtc.net](mailto:corey.miller@gwtc.net)  
Cell phone: 319-930-7320

3

### **Church Admin. Assistant:**

Lisa Kaufman  
(605) 951-1871 ~ [salemzion@gwtc.net](mailto:salemzion@gwtc.net)  
Office hours: Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and by appointment as requested

## **Prayer of lament and intercession for Palestine and Israel**

God of love and justice, our hearts are perplexed, paralyzed and broken at the recent carnage in Palestine and Israel. We lament the loss of life and the suffering of so many innocent people on both sides. We are shocked at the inhumanity of soldiers and militants, especially when they act in the name of God.

We lament that our prayers for peace seem to go unanswered. We wish you would intervene. We cling to your promise of a different world, but we see so few signs of its fulfillment. Why?

### **In our feeble faith, we declare your desire for life and for peace.**

Holy Spirit, strengthen our resolve to advocate for peace, justice, equality, and compassion for all. Don't let us turn our face away.

### **Comfort all who are overwhelmed with loss—loss of life, loss of homes, loss of safety and security.**

God of the vulnerable and the oppressed, neutralize the power of tyrants in their thirst for domination and control. Renew the strength and resolve of leaders committed to nonviolent resistance and change.

Remember the Christian communities in the land where Jesus walked and where the church was born. May their witness to your love remain bright among their Muslim and Jewish neighbors. May they recognize your hand in their lives, even amidst the suffering.

God of all nations, guide our own government in responding in ways that support the legitimate rights of all, especially those who are most vulnerable, those who continue to suffer after decades of occupation, dispossession, and denial of basic human rights.

**May your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Yours is the kingdom, the power, the glory, now and forever. Amen**