



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

November 1, 2020
“Seek the Peace”

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (arr. Timothy Albrecht) Mory Ortman

Call to Worship Polly Waltner

L: Sovereign Creator of earth and sky, Savior always with us, Spirit sweeping over the waters,

P: Renew our hearts today, surround us with grace, fill us with wonder and awe,

*ALL: So we may honor you with our gifts of love and praise
And worship you with our whole life. AMEN.*

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn – *Let the whole creation cry* (HWB #51)

Chorister: Mory Ortman

Celebrating God’s Mission – Household Treasury

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Old Testament Jeremiah 29:4-7, 11-14

* Hearing the Gospel John 9:1-7

Sermon – “Seek the peace” Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

Song – *Peace before us* (SS #16)

Remembering those who died in the past year

Leora Ortman

Allen Schmidt

Maxine Ortman

Joyce Schrag

Nearer, My God, to Thee (arr. Dan Forrest)

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Sending Song – *God of the Bible* (SJ #27)

Benediction

Postlude – *For All the Saints* (arr. Drummond Wolff)

Sending Song Outside – *Praise God from whom*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above ye heav’nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Praise God
from whom all blessings flow; in heav’n above and earth below; one God three
persons we adore. To God be praise forevermore.*

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Through Jeremiah, God invited Judah to “*seek the peace*” where they lived, even when that included exile. With Jeremiah, we contemplate what it means to seek God’s peace in the days and the times in which we are living. With all the unsettledness in so many places, it is good to gather in the strong name of Jesus to worship God. We are so glad you are here to worship!

All Saints Day: As we have done over the past several years on the first Sunday of November, today we recognize loved ones from our congregation who died over this past year. The four candles on the table symbolize the lives and the light that so richly blessed our church for many years. Today, we remember with thanksgiving Leora Ortman, Allen Schmidt, Maxine Ortman and Joyce Schrag. May God’s comforting love hold their families and us all as we remember these faithful servants.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for the **Household Treasury**. A portion of what you contribute today helps to pay for the books and resources that our five catechism students are using to explore their faith. Praise God for all the ways that Salem-Zion provides to help nurture and grow the faith in all of us.

TODAY – Catechism and *Christ in Crisis* study at 9:30 a.m.

THIS WEEK

Nov. 5 (Thurs) – Information for the annual business meeting is due

NEXT SUNDAY – November 8

Next Sunday we will return to our focus of “**Road Signs & Guideposts**” through the prophet Jeremiah. The theme of the morning will be “*Shaped by the Potter*” and the text will be Jeremiah 18:1-11. Pastor Corey will be preaching.

Offering next Sunday will be for **Central Plains Mennonite Conference**.

COMING EVENTS

Nov. 22 – Annual Congregational Business Meeting at 4:00 in the sanctuary

Nov. 26 – Thanksgiving Worship Service at South Church. You will be able to worship in person with social distancing as well as tune into the service through ZOOM. More details to come.

Dec. 1 – Yearbook deadline

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Ken Mannes was finally able to return home last Wednesday from the Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls. It has been a long road and Ken and Mary are very glad to be at home.
- On Wednesday, Beth Bontrager found out that her son Kevin died by suicide that morning. He was 27 years old and had struggled recently with depression. Oh Lord, have mercy. Please pray for Beth and Tim and their families in this indescribable loss.
- The funeral service for Joyce Schrag happened last Thursday at the United Methodist Church in Parker.
- A family burial for Allen Schmidt happened on Saturday at the Schartner cemetery with Allen's immediate family. A public memorial service is being planned for next summer.
- The family of Maxine Ortman has decided to wait until next summer to have a memorial service to celebrate Maxine's faithful life.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Cody Schrag.
- all who are grieving the loss of loved ones: Mary Schmidt, Delmar Ortman and Joyce Schrag's family.
- Ken Mannes as his heart settles into a good rhythm at home.
- Marlyce Miller's son, Mark Miller, as he strives to get well from Covid.
- Grace, Wisdom, and Calm in this election season. May we find centered love in Christ above all else.
- Stewart, Cole and Krista Graber will be moving to Sioux Falls this week to their new home. Pray for safe packing and travels and then for a smooth season of settling in.
- Robert Brown as he is installed for ministry at Cedar Falls Mennonite Church, Cedar Falls, IA. We ask that God would bless his ministry at and with Cedar Falls MC.

Remember to thank God for:

- warming days to help our farmers finish up this year's harvest.
- dedicated doctors and nurses, hospital and nursing home administration, and others who continue to offer Christ's care to people who are suffering and sick with Covid-19 and with other health issues.

Because of the pandemic we have changed the time for our **annual congregational business meeting** to 4:00 PM on November 22. We will meet in the sanctuary and maintain social distance as much as possible. Because of the interactive nature of questions and answers with people attending the business meeting in person we are not planning to use

Zoom nor are we planning to stream this event. Per the constitution, one of the items on the agenda will be a vote of affirmation for Pastor Corey's continued ministry with our congregation. In hindsight this could have and probably should have been a question asked on the review which you just recently turned in. Unfortunately, it wasn't, and we therefore want your feedback on this specific question. The same people that received a congregational/pastor review will receive a brief email asking for your response. If you plan to attend the annual meeting we invite you to bring your response with you. If you do not plan to attend, we would appreciate it if you would send your response back to the church office via email. All responses will be kept confidential.

The Junior Sunday School Department is getting ready to launch "**Faith from the HEART on Wednesdays**". There will be no in person Sunday school and no Zoom classes on Sunday mornings through the month of November.

Preschoolers - 3rd graders will meet 6:45-7:15

4th graders - 8th graders will meet from 7:15-7:45

Here is a list of what we have for November:

*November 4 - Pastor Corey will lead a class on Peace/Anabaptist Faith

*November 11 - Malynda will lead a lesson with the Shine Curriculum

*November 25 - Sheila will be sharing an activity and a Thanksgiving Story

We do want to encourage families to use the following facebook link to share lessons from the Shine Curriculum which we use for Sunday School classes at church. We will put the leaflets and classroom books in your family's mailbox at church so you can use them as well with your children.

<https://www.facebook.com/shinecurriculum/>

The **November newsletter** was sent as an attachment with this week's e-mailed bulletin. Hard copies are available in the narthex for anyone who would like one.

Copies of the 2019-2020 financial report for the **Minn-Kota MCC Relief Sale** are available in the narthex. Thank you for all the efforts extended in raising funds throughout Mennonite Central Committee's centennial year!

October Offerings and Gifts: Household Treasury - \$7,046.00; Student Tuition Sharing Fund - \$805.00; Deacon Sharing Fund - \$500.00; Mennonite Women - \$80.00; Outreach & Service Fund - \$20.00; Marcia Schrock - \$1,275.00; Dennis Schrock - FA memorial - \$1,180.00.

October Household Treasury Report – Income: \$7,056.03; Expenses: \$9,527.76; Balance: \$2,253.73.

S. Roy Kaufman publishes a book! Roy Kaufman's book, *The Drama of a Rural Community's Life Cycle: Its Prehistory, Birth, Growth, Maturity, Decline, and Rebirth*, has now been published, and is available for sale. Heritage Hall Museum and Archives is the primary distributor of the book locally, and the book can be purchased at the museum, which is open every afternoon Monday through Friday, noon to 4 pm. The book tells the history of the three Anabaptist sub-cultures—Low German Mennonite, Hutterian *Prairieleut*, and Swiss Volhynian Amish—that came to the Freeman area along with several Reformed and Lutheran Russian-German groups in the 1870s. The book is also an exploration of agrarian history, practice, and theology, with the story of the Freeman community being the illustration for this.

Church office: Lisa will be in the church office on Thursday mornings and by appointment as requested. Feel free to reach her by cell phone or e-mail throughout the rest of the week.

Community Connections

A key mission of **Rural Revival**, the grassroots rural advocacy group of Freeman, is to encourage our farmers both young and old to continue learning about new, innovative, and holistic ways of farming. We are excited to now be offering scholarships for select regional agriculture conferences, such as the MOSES Organic Farming Conference, Acres U.S.A Eco-Ag Conference, and Northern Plains Sustainable Ag Food & Farming Conference, among others. Rural Revival will contribute up to \$150 to cover registration costs. Visit ruralrevival.org to see a complete list of eligible conferences and fill out an application.

Praying for God's wisdom in this election season:

"We vote every day for companies, for people, and we put money toward 'campaigns.' Who are the masters and Caesars that we pledge allegiance to by the way we live and through the things we put our trust in? We vote every day with our feet, our hands, our lips, and our wallets. We are the vote for the poor. We are to vote for the peacemakers. We are to vote for the marginalized, the oppressed, the most vulnerable of our society. **These are the ones Jesus voted for**, those whom every empire had left behind..."

- Shane Claiborne, *Jesus for President: Politics for Ordinary Radicals*

Faithful practices during an election season:

- claim space for a daily spiritual practice: prayer, meditation, silence, breathing, walking, sacred reading
- get outside, walk among the trees, take in the sun, enjoy a crisp wind and tend to your wonder and gratitude
- claim unplugged times in your day when you turn off every screen and news source
- connect with the communities that nurture you: faith communities, activist communities, friend communities, neighborhood communities;
- remember life is larger than yourself and your immediate family
- be faithful to joy: there is room for joy even in seasons of grief and lament, a joy that runs deeper
- be encouraged: organizing for justice is happening everywhere.

- Author unknown

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