



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

November 22, 2020  
"Written on our Heart"

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude	Lisa Kaufman
Welcome and Call to Worship	Tim Graber
Opening Prayer	
Opening Hymn – <i>Here in this place</i> (HWB #6)	
Choristers: Andre Eisenbeis & Tim Eisenbeis	
Celebrating God’s Mission – Deacon Sharing Fund	
Children’s Story	Elizabeth Janssen

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

* Hearing the Gospel	Luke 6:43-45
Music – <i>For me to live is Christ</i> (SS #111)	
Hearing the Old Testament	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Sermon – “Hearts for God”	Corey Miller

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

Song – *Heart with loving heart united* (HWB #420)

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Sending Song – *Jesus, you have called us* (SJ #70)

Benediction

Postlude

## Church Calendar

Deadline for bulletin submissions is 8:00 a.m. Wednesday; salemzion@gwtc.net

### TODAY

Over the past several months we have been listening to the prophet Jeremiah. With Judah and Israel, we have been invited to pay attention to the “*road signs for the journey*” of following Jesus in our time and place. Today, we conclude our series with the promise of a bright future where all will know God. How do we know God intimately? We welcome you and are so glad that you have joined us for worship!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for the **Deacon Sharing Fund**. This fund is set up to assist those who have experienced financial surprise and hardship, in some cases partnering with Everence to assist families and others in difficult times. This past year the sharing fund has assisted more than 15 families that have experienced unexpected difficulties along the way. Thank you for supporting this valuable ministry!

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

– Annual Congregational Business Meeting at 4:00pm in the sanctuary. The agenda (copies available in the narthex) will include a vote on next year’s budget, a vote for another term of service for Corey Miller as pastor at Salem-Zion, and a conversation on the invitation to be a partnering church with the Ross Richer family with Mennonite Mission Network. God’s work is life-giving!

### THIS WEEK

**Nov. 26 – Thanksgiving Worship Service at South Church.** Pastor Corey will be preaching. You can worship in person or via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/278905019>  
Or phone call-in # (312) 626-6799 and Meeting ID: 278 905 019  
One-Tab Mobile (IPhone) +16699009128,,278905019#

Worship begins at 10:30am. **Thank you for making out offering checks to “Salem Mennonite Church.”** The South Church mission treasurer will then pass on your gifts to the Bethany & Turner County Food Pantries and split the offering records 50/50 with Salem-Zion’s treasurer. You can put your offering in the offering plates in the narthex, or mail them to Salem Mennonite Church.

### NEXT SUNDAY – November 29

Next Sunday we will begin the season of Advent with the theme: “**On the Road.**” The theme of the morning will be “*On the road to readiness*” and the texts will be Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, I Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37. Pastor Corey will be preaching.

Offering next Sunday will be for **Mennonite Central Committee**.

## **Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News**

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

- Rita Graber has tested positive for Covid-19. In spite of a little cough, she has managed fairly well this week.
- Mark Miller has had up and down days while still being hospitalized at Sanford. He remains in ICU but has been off the ventilator for over a week. Pray for consistent oxygen levels for Mark.

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

- those who cannot be here today: Duane & LaVonne Schrag.
- Rita Graber and all others who are dealing with the reality of Covid-19.
- our schools, nursing homes, and health care workers in hospitals. Each of them is stressed more these days.
- every family that will be making important decisions regarding having Thanksgiving gatherings. We pray for wisdom, creativity and safety.
- Tim Detweiler (former Conference Minister) as he begins treatment for reoccurring cancer. The lung cancer has metastasized to a number of lymph nodes. Tim appreciates your ongoing prayer support.
- those in our conference who are taking classes in seminary and/or exploring calls to ministry. We give thanks for the nudgings of the Spirit, and pray for fortitude and courage for those who are studying, praying, and discerning the ministries to which God has called them.

### **Remember to thank God for:**

- all the ways that God's law has been written on our hearts.
- those who have accepted ministry roles in our church. For willing helpers, we praise God!
- the season of Thanksgiving that invites us to thank God for blessings that we experience, large and small.

**A Message from our Covid Task Team:** The Covid task team met last Wednesday to process and discern about our gathering in public worship in the midst of increasing cases of covid in South Dakota. We decided at this time that we will still meet for worship in person and stress that if anyone doesn't feel comfortable, they are free to not attend. In order to keep our space safe, we will continue to ask that everyone wear a mask for the duration of the service and practice social distancing. We will have two "pulpits", one for the worship leader and one for the preacher. We will not pass a microphone around during sharing time, but will have one up front for any announcements that need to be made. We realize that there are varying opinions on public worship at this time and we are doing our best to navigate

through these challenging times and ask for diligence in following our guidelines. If you can't be physically present in our worship, we hope that everyone can participate through our live-streaming services that continue to connect people to our worship and ministry at Salem-Zion. – the Covid Task Team

**Many thanks** for the supporting thoughts, prayers, cards and calls before and after my heart surgery--I am really feeling quite good! We also praise God for the abilities of modern medicine and the amazing healing that has taken place. - Ken Mannes

Much as our bodies need food and exercise on a daily basis, our spirits need frequent nourishment and a regular workout. This can take many forms and hopefully many of you have a personal or family routine which fills this need. As Anabaptists, we understand that there is great value in doing this with other Christians, therefore the practices of joint Bible study, fellowship and Sunday School. Now while COVID-19 concerns make gathering in-person unwise, **we still need this "continuing education" but must become creative and proactive.** We are not planning for an in-person adult Sunday School class for the next month or two but you are welcome to join the existing Salt & Light study via ZOOM or start your own class by ZOOM, perhaps with other material. Another option is to launch into a daily or weekly study at home, alone or with immediate or extended family members. Resources available include the Rejoice booklet and Salt & Light quarterly booklet which has daily readings recommended as background for the Sunday lesson; both of these are available at the church. Another option may be to adopt some material specific to the Advent season just ahead. If you need any assistance with ZOOM or finding material, please ask someone. Let nothing separate us from cultivating that limitless love of Christ!

Please see the bulletin board in the narthex for a thank-you card from **Don & Sonja Waltner**. Also posted is a letter from **Nathan Luitjens**, CPMC Executive Conference Minister.

From **Marcia Schrock**: "Deacons & congregation, Thank you for the gift of money. Your kindness and your thoughtfulness has blessed me more than you'll ever know! God is Good!"

**Household Treasury Report** – Balance: \$15,238.82

The household treasury pays for salaries, electric/heating bills, Sunday school materials, office supplies, etc. The average monthly expenses for the Household Treasury are around \$15,000. We greatly appreciate your giving and generosity towards these needs to keep our Salem-Zion community functioning! Thank you so much!

The Junior Sunday School Department has launched "**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 what is scheduled for the remainder of November:

\*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/>

**Early Bulletin Deadline:** The church office will be closed on Thursday for Thanksgiving; please submit bulletin announcements by 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 25.

### Community Connections

Calling singers and instrumentalists of CPMC! Join a **virtual Christmas hymn-sing** in Spanish and English with the Ecuador Partnership! If interested, email [yoderholly@gmail.com](mailto:yoderholly@gmail.com) for instructions.

**A memorable, meaningful and unique MCC gift to give this Christmas!** Grab a piece of MCC history to use in a modern day Mennonite feeding station - your home! Get a tray for yourself and order more for family and friends. Hang it on the wall in your kitchen or dining room, display it on a shelf or use it as a serving tray! Remember the kitchen at your church, too. Each tray was uniquely handcrafted by an artisan in Siberia using Siberian hardwood. The tray is 16" in diameter and 2" deep. Suggested donation per tray is \$150. Full details and pictures are available at <https://mcc.org/feeding-station-tray>.

The November edition of **On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service at <https://conta.cc/3kKTYRo>. In our current issue, you can read why we are suspending projects because of COVID spikes in local communities, learn how MDS volunteers are helping to save a Colorado forest, and an MDS volunteer and author offers a unique approach to support MDS.

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) is seeking a part time **Administrative Assistant** that will provide administrative support to the leadership of MDS Region 3 and its units (Central States – west of the Mississippi). The position is home-based within Region 3. Applicants must be active in an Anabaptist

church and committed to the Anabaptist faith and peace position. See the full job description at [mds.mennonite.net/about-us/employment](https://mds.mennonite.net/about-us/employment). Resumes may be sent to [jobs@mds.mennonite.net](mailto:jobs@mds.mennonite.net). Review of resumes begins immediately. Recruitment continues until the position is filled.

**MCC asks for support for Central American hurricane recovery.** Not one, but two hurricanes within two weeks have caused extensive flooding in Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Hurricanes Eta and Iota have destroyed crops and forced people from their homes. MCC is working with churches and community organizations to provide emergency food, hygiene supplies and cleanup support. Join us as we help these communities recover. You can donate online [mcc.org/eta-iota-relief](https://mcc.org/eta-iota-relief), by phone (888) 563-4676 or by mail at MCC, 21 S. 12<sup>th</sup> St., PO Box 500, Akron PA 17501.

Join MCC for a series of "**MCC and me**" webinars to hear more about service opportunities. MCC is working to adapt our programming as the situation with COVID-19 develops. All sessions relate to anticipated service needs, though timing and some other details may be subject to change.

- December 9 at 7 p.m. EST: Serving and Learning Together (SALT)
- January 13 at 3 p.m. EST: Summer Service leadership program
- February 25 at 10 a.m. EST: Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) summer staff
- February 25 at 8 p.m. EST: International service worker
- March 6 at 12 p.m. EST: International service worker
- March TBD: Mobile Meat Canner

For more information and to register: [mcc.org/mcc-me-webinar-series-service-opportunities](https://mcc.org/mcc-me-webinar-series-service-opportunities).

#### Praying with a Mask:

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing this cloth. Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors, as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and may each breath that it holds, be filled with Your love. In Your name and in that love, I pray. Amen.

- Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator Presbyterian Church of Canada

#### 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

#### Church Admin. Assistant:

Lisa Kaufman  
(605) 951-1871 ~ [salemzion@gwtc.net](mailto:salemzion@gwtc.net)

