



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

“Christ in our Homes”
November 26, 2023

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

- Prelude – *Adagio* (Cesar Franck) Ken Mannes
- Choral Call to Worship – *We Praise Thee O God* (arr. Kliewer) Men’s Choir
- Welcome and Lighting the Peace Lamp Sheila Epp
- Opening Prayer
- * Hymn – *Christ is King! Let Earthly Powers* VT #410
- * Greeting each other
- Children’s Story Lacey Friesen
- Presentation of Bible to Trevor Paff Sheila Epp
- Worship Music – *I’m Pressing on the Upward Way* (Gabriel) Men’s Choir
- Sharing our Offerings – Bethany Food Pantry and Northern Turner County Food Pantry
- Offertory – *Adoration* (Jacque Lemmens)

HEARING GOD’S WORD

- Hearing the New Testament Colossians 3:18-4:6
- Sermon – “Christ guiding relationships” Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD

- Song of Response – *Joys Are Flowing like a River* VT #375
- Sharing and Congregational Prayer
- * Benediction
- * Choral Benediction – *The Blessing of Aaron* (arr. Rodby)
- Postlude – *Improvised*

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

New life in Christ finds expression in day-to-day relationships. At the end of Colossians 3, Paul offers counsel for our marriages, our parenting, and our relating to others. Welcome to our time of worship! We are delighted that you have joined us.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for our **Bethany Food Pantry and Northern Turner County Food Pantry.**

9:30am – Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

THIS WEEK

Nov. 29 (Wed) – Children's Choir rehearsal, 6:00-6:30pm

Nov. 29 (Wed) – Youth Group at 6:30pm

Nov. 29 (Wed) – Men’s choir rehearsal at 7:30pm

Dec. 1 (Fri) – Yearbook deadline; Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

Dec. 2 (Sat) – Ladies’ gathering at 9am for Advent scripture reading

NEXT SUNDAY – Dec. 3

Next Sunday begins the season of Advent. The theme is “*How will we know....How long?*” The texts will be Isaiah 64:1-9, Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19, 1 Cor. 1:3-9, and Mark 13:24-37. Pastor Corey will be preaching and we will be receiving 1 adult-sized toothbrush (in manufacturer’s packaging) for MCC Health Kits (see the insert for the list and schedule).

Next week the offering is for the Household Treasury.

COMING EVENTS

Dec. 3 – First Sunday of Advent

Dec. 3 and 10 – Chancel and children's choirs will practice for Christmas after church. Practice will start immediately following lunch and will conclude by 2 pm. We will enjoy a simple meal of soup and bread each week.

Dec. 10 – Open House at the Miller’s with Christmas goodies and music! **3:30pm–5:30pm.** Children of all ages can take pictures by the Nativity Set in the barn.

Dec. 17 – Choirs Christmas program

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- We received word from Mennonite Mission Network that our dear friends and mission partners, Jerrell and Jane Ross Richer, have discerned that they

will not continue for another term with their work in Ecuador because of safety issues. The full letter from MMN is posted on the bulletin board.

Remember to praise God:

- Last Sunday at our annual business meeting, we gave thanks to God for all the blessings that happened last year in our congregation. We also approved a budget for 2024 and had a great discussion about the worship stage renovation project. God is moving in our midst!

- for the Thanksgiving season and the ways we are able to connect with family near and far.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Ardelle Schrag.

- those who feel lonely during the holiday season.

- those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and other illnesses that stifle the mind, body, and spirit.

Pastor/Congregational Review Response: Together with the deacons, I have heard the responses that the Salem-Zion Mennonite church has given regarding my responsibilities as pastor of this congregation. I am so grateful to feel strong affirmation for my ministry and I celebrate the shared joy that many feel in our ministry together. I also want to let you know that I am committed to continue growing in areas where my ministry can be improved. I want to thank the Review Committee for their hard work and for each one who took the time to fill these evaluations out. Christ is with us as we continue our journey of joyfully following Jesus. - Pastor Corey

Attention ladies: We would like to invite you to join us to read the Advent scriptures, reflect and pray. Starting Saturday, Dec. 2 at 9am and meeting from Advent to Epiphany. Take a look at the first Advent scriptures (Isaiah 64:1-9, Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19, 1 Cor. 1:3-9, and Mark 13:24-37) prior to Dec. 2.

Due to the lack of a director, the ladies choir will not be a part of the December 17 Choir's Christmas program. We would **welcome any size group of women to be part of the program** if someone is willing to organize it. - Kerwin Graber, Music Committee

Calling for Ceasefire in the Middle East: Mennonite Church USA issued a statement that calls for ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas War in the Middle East. You can read about the statement, which includes a lament, scriptures, a petition, and an invitation to make our voices heard about stopping the violence. I would encourage us all to read this and consider signing it.

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/uncategorized/ceasefire/>

Copies of *Scattered Seeds* are available in the narthex.

Those who attend Salem-Zion are invited to receive *Anabaptist World*. The household treasury pays for a group subscription, and the subscription list is updated each year. Please contact the church office by November 30 if you'd like to be added or removed from the subscription list for 2024, or if you'd like any further information.

Under the umbrella of Wellspring, counselors from The Changing Behavioral Group have been seeing clients at Freeman Regional, providing **mental health support**. Realizing the importance of this service, Salem-Zion has funds available for its members, including children, adolescents and adults. Make an appointment by calling the Freeman Clinic, mentioning you are a Salem-Zion member. If you have questions, please call the Group office at 605-201-0104.

Community Connections

Rural Revival will meet on November 27 at 8:00 p.m. at the Freeman library. All are welcome to attend.

Swan Lake Christian Camp's **Piano Night fundraiser** will be held December 3 at 6:00pm. To RSVP, email campoffice@myslcc.com or call 605-326-5690.

Heritage Hall Museum & Archives invites the public to a Christmas Carol Sing-Along at the Bethel Church on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 2 starting at 2 p.m. The church, which is decorated for the season, will be open, free to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. that day. Light refreshments will be served. "Christmas at the Bethel Church" will be held the full month of December. The historical church, located on the museum grounds has invited businesses, churches, families and organizations to sponsor and bring decorated Christmas trees to the church. The trees will remain in the church through all of December and will be available to anyone touring the museum during the museum's regular and holiday hours. In addition to the Dec. 2 event, the museum is also extending its regular hours – noon to 4 weekdays – to include Saturdays, December 9 and 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., to give additional opportunity to tour the museum (and the Bethel Church) and explore the HHM&A Mercantile, which features items created by local artisans. For more information, stop in at the museum, call 605-925-7545 or email info@heritagehallmuseum.com.

Looking for a gift for someone who doesn't need anything? Consider purchasing an **MCC Thrift Christmas Giving ornament**, available at the front of Et Cetera Shoppe. For \$10, you can purchase a lovely handmade paper ornament that will provide families in need of nutrition and income, with the gift of a fruit tree! Your \$10 will provide a banana, passionfruit, papaya, mango, lemon, guava or pomegranate tree to a family in countries like Haiti, Mexico, Lebanon, Kenya, Bangladesh, and India. These fruit trees not only provide a new source of nutrition to families, but an opportunity for income, with fruit to sell. The

extra fun detail? The paper ornaments are infused with seeds, so your gift recipient can plant the ornament and watch it grow into a bouquet of wildflowers! Go to <https://mccthrift.com/christmas-giving> to learn more about the fruit tree project, and stop in at the shop to pick up this meaningful gift option.

Knowing God's Peace: "Those who are not grateful soon begin to complain of everything." - Thomas Merton, Thoughts in Solitude

Mennonite Central Committee Hygiene Kits during Advent at Salem-Zion Mennonite

Keeping clean to remain healthy

As Mennonite Central Committee works to promote health and well-being for people who have been displaced, a **hygiene kit** is a great place to start. Below is a list of items to include in a hygiene kit, along with a helpful instructional video you can see on the website.

The children will help collect the items during our worship time along with our regular offerings. Please make plans to participate in this.

Last year, MCC shipped 52,280 hygiene kits to Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Malawi, Ukraine, Zambia and the U.S., including Puerto Rico.

Contents (NEW items only) and Dates of Receiving items

Dec. 3 - 1 adult-sized toothbrush (in manufacturer's packaging)

Dec. 10 - 1 large bar bath soap (in original wrapper)

Dec. 17 - 1 nail clipper (good quality)

Dec. 24 - 1 hand towel (medium weight, dark or bright colors preferred); approx. 40 cm x 65 cm (16 in x 26 in)

Dec. 31 - 1 wide-toothed comb; 15-20 cm (6-8 in)

Due to strict regulations in some countries on the expiration date of toothpaste, MCC no longer asks for toothpaste to be donated with the kit. Instead, we will provide toothpaste with the kits when they ship from our warehouse.

On Epiphany Sunday, January 7th, we will dedicate these items to the homes and people they will go to.

Pastor Corey Miller
Office Hours:
Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon
corey.miller@gwtc.net
Cell phone: 319-930-7320

5

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

6