



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

December 23, 2018

Blessing and Restoration

“The Mighty One has done great things for me...” – Luke 1:49

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Gathering Song– *Come, thou long-expected Jesus* (insert in back of hymn book)

Welcome and Announcements Lacey Friesen

Preparing for Worship – *People, Look East* arr. Hobby

Choral Call to Worship – *Praise Ye the Lord* arr. Wilson/Ehret

Call to Worship

L: Mary is with child! God’s long-awaited promise is being fulfilled.

P: Rejoice in his name! Emmanuel, God be with us!

L: The little baby in his mother’s womb, he will be the Savior of this hurting world.

P: Bringing us new life, filled with joy and peace, calling us to faith and action.

ALL: Praise be to God! Alleluia! Amen!

Opening Prayer

PRAISING GOD

* Gathering Song – *Blessed Savior, we adore thee* HWB #107

Children’s Story Elizabeth Janssen

Offering our gifts – Central Plains Mennonite Conference; Infant Kits –
4 large, heavy-duty safety pins, 1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper)

Offertory Prayer

Offertory – *Away in a Manger* arr. Burkhardt

Special Music – *The Star and the Wise Men* Charles H. Gabriel

Solo: Judy Graber

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Gospel Reading Luke 1:39-55

Song – *My soul is filled with joy* SJ #13

Old Testament Scripture Micah 5:2-5

Sermon – “Leaping, Singing and Rejoicing” Corey Miller

Silence

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

* Response Hymn – *Oh, how joyfully* HWB #209

Congregational Prayer Lori Ortman

* Sending Hymn – *O come, all ye faithful* HWB #212

* Benediction

Postlude – *The King Shall Come* arr. Johnson

* Congregation please stand. If standing is difficult, please remain seated.

The peace lamp is lit weekly as a reminder that there is violence and suffering in the world. We as a faith community pray for peace for all people and look for ways to be active in peacemaking and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

On this final Sunday of Advent, we delight with Mary and Elizabeth in the blessing bestowed on all God’s people through the gift of Christ. In preparation for Christmas Day, we rejoice that Jesus came into the world to be our light, our peace and our example. We are glad you are here to worship with us.

Thank you, Alea Miller, for designing the bulletin covers for this worship service.

Greeters: John & Beth Epp family; **Organist:** Ruby Waltner; **Special Music:** Men’s Choir

9:15 a.m. – Sunday School

10:10 a.m. – Fellowship Time

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

12:00-12:15 p.m. – Christmas Eve practice for Preschool-2nd graders

12:15-2:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve program practice at Salem-Zion (gr. 3-8)

“Celebrating Giving”

This morning we receive an offering for Central Plains Mennonite Conference. Salem-Zion is one of the churches in the upper midwest that are a part of the CPMC family. This offering will help to further the ministry of CPMC. Thank you for your prayers and support of this ministry.

THIS WEEK

Dec. 24 (Mon) 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve program at Salem-Zion

Dec. 25 (Tues) 10:30 a.m. – Christmas Day worship at South Church

NEXT SUNDAY – December 30

Next Sunday we continue our Christmas theme, “*The Lord is our Righteousness.*” The focus of the morning is “**Love Revealed**”, the texts are I Samuel 2:18-20, Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-17 and Luke 2:8-20. Our college students will be involved in the service and Corey will be preaching. We will be collecting “1 pair of socks; 1 cap” during our regular offering for MCC infant kits.

Greeters: Jim and Teresa Dick; **Organist:** Ken Mannes; **Special Music:** Hannah & Rachel Miller; **Offering:** Mennonite Church USA

COMING EVENTS

- Jan. 2 – *Feeding Our Faith* kickoff with a pizza party at 6:00 p.m., followed by activities for all ages
- Jan. 3 – Outreach and Service Committee at 7:00 p.m.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Dennis Herlyn had open heart surgery on Tuesday at Sanford Heart Hospital. He is recovering well.
- Marian Brundage's (Gwen's mother) health declined on Tuesday and died rather suddenly on Wednesday evening at Oakview Terrace in Freeman. Funeral services are pending.
- LeRoy Epp had a pacemaker procedure on Thursday at Sanford Hospital.
- Anette Eisenbeis spent three days at Avera following a recent fall. She was transferred to Oakview Terrace on Thursday where she will receive physical therapy.
- Eva Goosen recently moved to Oakview Terrace, Room 330, as she gets physical therapy.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Nita Engbrecht.
- Gwen Ortman and her family, in the loss of her mother Marian.
- Dennis and LeRoy as their hearts heal.
- Anette and Eva as they receive care at Oakview Terrace.
- the Quito Mennonite Church and their refugee ministry. Give thanks and pray for strength for the small team of two staff and three volunteers who ministered to 7,800 refugees this year.

Remember to thank God for:

- The Good News of Jesus' birth that is promised to all people.

Drivers Needed: The Transit System that has transported our older church members to church from Freeman is looking for volunteer drivers to continue to allow this service to bless our church. The transit rides will continue until the end of the year, but they have said that we can use their vehicle to transport our people ourselves. If you are interested in being a driver, please talk to Jay Kaylor (605) 692-5416 or to Pastor Corey.

Feeding Our Faith – January 2: The Feeding Our Faith January series will have a kickoff on **January 2nd** at Salem-Zion. We will have a pizza and salad supper (donations accepted for pizza) and we invite you to bring any left-over Christmas goodies for dessert. The supper will begin at **6:00pm** and following the meal, the FOF team will share about the studies that will be offered to all ages during January on Wednesday nights. We will also have a TALENT SHOW, so if you have a song, a poem, a special trick or even a joke to tell, start practicing because this is how we will ring in the new year! No charades, I promise! ☺

We thank Lois Kaufman for her eight years of service as librarian at Salem-Zion. Lois will be stepping down from this position at the end of the year. Please contact Polly Waltner, chair of the Board of Education, if you are interested in the **librarian position** or would like further information (pollyswaltner@gmail.com, 925-7284).

The bulletin deadline will stay the same this week, but Lisa's **office hours will be variable** throughout the week. She can be reached by phone or e-mail as usual.

Community Connections

FJC/FA Alumni, Family and Friends Gathering: Thursday, December 27 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Sterling Hall/The Link. Come out for fellowship, pick-up basketball/volleyball, let the kids run off some energy and enjoy a light lunch grilled by Head of School, Nathan Epp.

BOARD GAME NIGHT! Please consider attending this event hosted by **Wellspring Wholistic Care Center** from 7 to 10pm on Friday, December 28 at Delicious Flavor Bakery on Main Street Freeman. The bakery will have some treats for sale and Wellspring will provide some drinks. Please feel free to bring along your favorite games, and the Wellspring board will also have many games available. Hope to see you there!

Practicing the Peace of Christ:

"Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present." - Edward Hays, A Pilgrim's Almanac

Pastor Corey Miller

Office Hours:
Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon
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Cell phone: 319-930-7320

Church Admin. Assistant:

Lisa Kaufman
Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
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