



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

“Transfiguration of Jesus”

February 11, 2024

GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude – *The Day Thou Gavest* (arr. Philip Sparke) Anne Waltner

Choral Call to Worship – *Alleluia* (Anonymous) Children’s Choir

Welcome and Call to Worship Jon Graber

L: It is easy to stand here in the valley of our comfort.

P: We know what to expect and what is expected of us.

L: But Christ calls us to the mountain top to receive a new vision.

P: We are not sure we are ready for that.

L: Place your hope and trust in Christ, for He is your guide.

P: Let us open our hearts to Christ, ready for the vision he places

before us. AMEN.

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Opening Prayer

* Hymn of Praise – *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* VT #5

* Greeting each other

Children’s Story Sheila Epp

Offering – Central Plains Mennonite Conference
Offertory – Improvisation on *Mountain Peak* (Bradley Lehman)

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Old Testament Scripture Reading II Kings 2:1-12

Special Music – *With One Heart* (Mark Patterson) Children’s Choir
Maria Paff, flute; Anne Waltner, piano

* Gospel Reading Mark 9:2-9

Sermon – “It is good for us to be here” Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Song – *Jesus on the Mountain Peak* VT #301

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

SENDING

Song – *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* VT #536

Blessing

Postlude – *The Lord's My Shepherd* (arr. Philip Sparke)

Trumpet: Rolf Olson

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Jesus was transfigured up on the mountain, along with a few disciples and some friends from the past. How do we experience Christ’s glory in our daily lives, whether we are on the mountaintop or in the valley? What a blessing that we can gather to experience God’s presence with us in this place. Welcome.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Central Plains Mennonite Conference**.

9:30am – Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

THIS WEEK

Feb. 14 (Wed) – Children’s Choir practice, 6:00-6:30pm

Feb. 14 (Wed) – Celebrating Love (Feeding Our Faith)

– **Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30pm**

Feb. 16 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – Feb. 18

Next Sunday is our first Sunday in the Lenten season. The theme is “*Christ among Us, Repent and Believe*.” The texts are Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, Mark 1:9-15, and I Peter 3:18-22. Consider reading and praying over these texts throughout the week as preparation for worship. Pastor Corey will be preaching.

The offering will be for the Deacon Sharing Fund.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Remember to praise God for:

- those moments when we’ve heard and felt God’s love in tangible and transformational ways.
- our church that is committed to following Jesus in our daily lives and for God’s grace that is abundant to us.
- the new member’s class that continues to meet and share faith stories that represent God’s holy work.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Marian Gering.
- our wonderful deacon Gwen Ortman will be having knee replacement surgery on Tuesday, February 13th.
- the good and peace-filled work of the Agape Peace Center and the Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute, both in Minnesota.

Feeding Our Faith (FOF): Our FOF will have a special night planned next Wednesday. After a lovely supper, children and adults will enjoy an entertaining event called **The Newlywed Game**. Three couples will provide our entertainment for the evening and there will be door prizes for your Valentine! Following our activities in the Fellowship Hall, we will transition to the sanctuary for a brief Ash Wednesday service to prepare ourselves for the Lenten season. Young children's choir is at 6:00pm, supper begins at 6:15pm, and programming for all ages at 7:00pm. Make plans to join us!

The 150th Anniversary of the Swiss-Volhynian Mennonites in South Dakota – September 7-8, 2024: Save the date! Share your stories! The 150th Anniversary committee (Corey Miller, Marnette Hofer, Polly Waltner, Gwen Ortman, Everett Waltner, Rudy Brockmueller) is very excited about this upcoming commemoration! We will be filling you in on our many ideas and plans as the year progresses. One thing that we would like from you right now is your family stories—stories of your grandparents and great grandparents—people who shaped our church and community. We are looking for short stories that could be shared as children's stories, in Sunday School classes, in newsletters, and possibly a booklet that we hope to compile. We are looking for stories of adventure, of hard times, of celebrations, and especially stories of faith. Please give or send your written stories to Gwen Ortman or Marnette Hofer. Thank you!

Stage expansion project: Starting the week of February 19, two to three people are needed to help with the stage expansion project. Contact Lindy Graber if you are interested or if you have any questions.

January Offerings & Gifts: Household Treasury - \$18,827.16; Deacon Sharing Fund - \$1,740.00. A copy of the Household Treasury **monthly report** has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

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.

Mark your calendars! This year **North Church is hosting Vacation Bible School on June 3-7**. We will be sending out more information as VBS gets closer, but if you want to volunteer early or have any questions, contact Kelsey Pidde or Lacey Friesen. Leaders from South Church are Bailey Carlson and Libby Miller.

The below **responses to the summer Sunday school June session on Creation Care** were written anonymously during the culminating potluck:

- I would like to see a rural/urban cooperative preferably congregationally based for the processing/marketing of food to help farmers move from commodity production to food production.
 - Geothermal: This investment will pay for itself in the long run.
 - Geothermal heating, and solar panels for electricity.
 - Change some lawn into prairie or pollinator habitat.
 - First Step: Form a task force/committee to think about how to incorporate sustainability into church life.
 - At our former church we had people sew cloth napkins to use at meals, fellowship, etc. Someone needs to offer to wash them, of course, but it was fun to use the scraps of clothing to make something new and repurposed.
- Submitted by Charity Ortman

Community Connections

Drivers for Meals on Wheels Needed: There is need for **drivers** for meals on wheels in the Freeman community. If you call 605-925-4000, you will talk to Mary and you can ask for Rick to share your interest in helping out.

The **Freeman Network for Justice and Peace** will meet Wednesday, February 14, 11:30 A.M. in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome.

Cheese Pocket Making Days Planned for Schmeckfest: Cheese pockets for the 2024 Schmeckfest Country Kitchen will be made on Friday afternoon and Saturday, Feb. 16 & 17, and Feb. 23 & 24, in the Pioneer Hall Dining Room. Plans are to begin at 3:30 pm on Fridays and 9:00 am on Saturdays. Please bring a sack lunch on Saturdays. Join the volunteer crew for a great time of work and fellowship and learn how this ethnic favorite is made. Watch the *Courier* or Freeman Academy websites for weather cancellation.

Dr. Sheila Klassen-Wiebe will present the 36th Annual Mennonite Bible Study Series in Mountain Lake on February 23-25, 2024, on the theme of "**Lived Faith: Discipleship and the Letter of James.**" For details, see the flier in the narthex.

God's Peace Transfigured: God places us in the world as his fellow workers-agents of transfiguration. We work with God so that injustice is transfigured into justice, so there will be more compassion and caring, that there will be more laughter and joy, that there will be more togetherness in God's world. - Desmond Tutu

Pastor Corey Miller

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