



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

“Refresh My Heart”
February 12, 2023

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *from Chorale #3* (Cesar Franck) Ken Mannes

Welcome Nathan Epp

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Call to Worship (from Philemon)

L: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

P: We gather to worship God, love one another and be refreshed in our hearts.

L: We welcome God’s transforming Spirit to move in our midst.

P: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with our spirit. Amen.

Prayer of Invocation

* Hymn – *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* VT #28

Celebrating the Light Philemon vv. 4-7 Central Plains Mennonite Conference

Offering – Central Plains Mennonite Conference

Offertory – *If you but suffer God to guide you* (Paul Manz)

Children’s Story Beth Bontrager

HEARING GOD’S WORD

New Testament Scripture Philemon vv. 8-21

Special Music – *No Longer Slaves to Fear* (VT #195)

Sermon – “Persuasive Love” Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD

Song – *O Christ, Impart Your Teaching True* VT #583

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

* Sending Song – *Go Now in Peace, Worship Continues* VT #829

* Benediction

Postlude – *Improvised*

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

“*Refresh my heart*” is the message that Paul gives his friend Philemon. Today, we ponder the words and the message of Philemon, one of the shortest books in the Bible. As we worship God, may all our hearts be refreshed by God’s Spirit. Welcome to our time of worship! We are so glad that you are here.

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

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

2:00 p.m. – Fuente de Vida church service

THIS WEEK

Feb. 15 (Wed) – *Feeding Our Faith*. Supper at 6:15pm and study and children’s programming for all ages at 7:00pm. We are continuing our study on understanding how Jesus responded to diversity. On our last night of these sessions, we will explore various texts from Acts to see how the early church responded to differences and challenges. We will end this study with us looking forward as a church and imagining our future together.

Feb. 17 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – Feb. 19

Next Sunday the theme is “*Contend for the Faith*” and we will be looking at the book of **Jude**. Everyone is invited to read over this short letter in the Bible before our worship time. Pastor Corey will be preaching.

Next week the offering is for the **Deacon Sharing Fund**.

COMING EVENTS

Feb. 22 – Ash Wednesday service at Salem-Zion

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- We grieve the loss of lives and the utter destruction left by the earthquake in Syria and Turkey. We can respond to this current tragedy by contributing to **Mennonite Central Committee**, who will be involved in whatever helpful ways they can in that area.

Remember to praise God for:

- the moisture from melting snow that has been giving refreshing drink to our dry land.

- the gift of human love that sustains us, inspires us, and empowers us to share love with others.

- Jesus who, by the power of the Holy Spirit, continues to guide and lead us to be his faithful church.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Ardelle Schrag.
- the thousands of people and families that have been affected by the devastating earthquake. Lord, have mercy.
- those who might feel lonely on Valentine's Day because of society's pressure to be with someone special. Pray for single people, widowed people, and people who are recovering from broken relationships.
- our sister churches in South Dakota: Sermon on the Mount in Sioux Falls and Bethany, Hutterthal, Salem, and the House Church in Freeman.

Salem-Zion's Outreach & Service Committee is designating the January installment from Endowment Fund earnings to the **Center for New Americans** (part of Lutheran Social Services) to aid in the resettlement of refugees here in Sioux Falls. They also need donations of winter clothing & gear (gloves, boots, etc.), especially for men. A collection date will be held in the near future. In addition, they need more volunteers to assist English language teachers.

There is a sign-up sheet for **Schmeckfest workers and food donations** in the narthex. We appreciate your willingness to help! If you have any questions, please contact Polly Waltner with food questions and Sheila Epp with worker questions.

January Mission Fund Offerings & Gifts: Feeding South Dakota - \$50.00; NTC & Bethany Food Pantry - \$351.00; CPMC - \$1,905.00; MCC Meat Canning - \$2,403.00; MC USA - \$2,596.00.

Another **Saturday morning women's study** will begin on February 25 at 9:30am. We will be reading "Tongue-Tied" by Sara Wenger Shenk. For a synopsis of the book, go to <https://heraldpress.com/9781513807782/tongue-tied/>.

Mark your calendars now - **SD MCC Relief Sale, July 22.**

Feeding South Dakota: Feeding South Dakota is the state's largest hunger-relief organization, with a mission to end hunger in South Dakota. Through our programs and agency partners we are providing food in all 66 counties of our state and fighting hunger in rural communities, metro areas and Native American Reservations. Our vision is a state where no one person's health, well-being, or potential is hindered by the availability of nutritious food. Together, with the support of our incredible volunteers and South Dakota communities, we are impacting food insecurity rates by filling the tables of our neighbors

facing hunger. Because our worship was canceled on January 31st, we missed the opportunity to give to this important ministry. The **main offering basket in the foyer** is for **Feeding South Dakota**, so you can contribute in this way. Make your checks out to Salem-Zion and earmark "Feeding South Dakota."

Community Connections

Freeman Academy invites interested families to **Discovery Day** on Feb. 20 beginning at 9:50am. Guests will experience chapel, classroom activities, and a free lunch while getting to know teachers and students. Parents and their children ages 4 through current juniors are welcome to attend. Please register at FreemanAcademy.org or by contacting Enrollment@freemanacademy.org by noon on Feb. 16.

Cheese Pocket Making Days Planned for Schmeckfest: Cheese pockets for the 2023 Schmeckfest Country Kitchen will be made on Friday afternoon and Saturday, February 17 & 18 and February 24 & 25, in the Pioneer Hall Dining Room. Plans are to begin at 3:30 p.m. on Fridays and at 9:00 a.m. 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.

Sponsored by South Dakota Arts Council and Dr. Donald Schenk, join Freeman Academy for **Maggie in the Meantime** on Sunday, February 26th at 2PM at Salem-Zion Mennonite Church. Founded in September of 2009 in Sioux Falls, SD and inspired by Celtic and folk forms both old and new, Maggie In the Meantime is a blend of ballad, folk and storytelling that gives these master-level musicians a broad appeal. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$15. Kids 10 and under are free. Funds raised will benefit Freeman Academy.

Living God's Peace: People are unreasonable, illogical and self-centered. *Love them anyway.* If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish motives. *Do good anyway.* The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. *Do good anyway.* Honesty and transparency make you vulnerable. *Be honest and transparent anyway.* What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. *Build anyway.* People who really want help may attack you if you help them. *Help them anyway.* Give the world the best you have and you may get hurt. *Give the world your best anyway.* - *Anyway*, a poem by Mother Teresa

Pastor Corey Miller

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