



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

February 20, 2022

**God is Greater**

*“The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”*

- I John 4:3

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – Voices Together: 402, 813, 802 (sing along on 802 if you wish)

Ken Mannes

Welcome and Call to Worship (from Psalm 145)

Gwen Ortman

L: Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised!

**P: God’s greatness is unsearchable.**

L: We will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty.

**P: We will praise you for Your wondrous works.**

L: We proclaim Your awesome deeds and declare your greatness!

**ALL: We will celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,  
and sing aloud of your righteousness!**

Opening Prayer

\* Hymn – *You Are Exalted*

VT #86

Greeting Each Other and “Passing the Peace”

*“The Peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.”*

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Celebrating our Mission with Deacon Sharing Fund

Children’s Story

Lillie Eisenbeis

## PROCLAIMING

\* Hearing the Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

Hearing the New Testament

I John 2:18-26

Song – *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

#421

Hearing the New Testament

I John 4:1-6

Sermon – “Test the spirits”

Corey Miller

Song – *Ask the Complicated Questions*

#440

## RESPONDING

Sharing

Congregational Prayer

\* Sending Song – *Open My Eyes That I May See*

#738

Blessing

Postlude – VT #793: *Siyahamba: We are marching in the light of God*

(South African traditional folk song)

**Quartet:** Hannah Miller, Sonja Schrag, Kerwin Graber, Paul Ortman

## Church Calendar

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

### TODAY

“Test the spirits,” John counsels the early church as they strived to be faithful. Jesus was also tested in the wilderness as he listened to God’s voice. How do we “test the spirits” within a diverse community of faith? Worshiping together is a great place to start. Welcome to our worship!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for the **Deacon Sharing Fund**.

9:00 a.m. – Zoom Adult Sunday School

9:30-10:15 a.m. – Jr. Dept. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for adults

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

### THIS WEEK

**Feb. 23 (Wed) – Feeding Our Faith (FOF)** with supper and activities planned for all ages. The adult study will focus on the last part of our mission, “**Study**.” Supper at 6:00pm and activities will follow for the children as we conclude our reflections on our mission statement.

**Feb. 26 (Sat) – Finances God’s Way** workshops at Freeman Academy 9:00-11:30am. Sponsored by Everence.

### NEXT SUNDAY – February 27

Next Sunday we will conclude our series on I John. We invite you to read over this letter prayerfully and to bring your Bibles to worship as we learn and grow together. Our theme is “*God is Victorious*.” The scriptures are Psalm 20, Matthew 20:20-28 and I John 5:1-12 and Roy Kaufman will be preaching.

Next week the offering is for **Bienvenidos Ministry**.

### COMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, March 2** – Ash Wednesday Service in Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm

**Saturday, March 5** – Ad Board Envisioning Retreat at Salem-Zion at 8:30am

**Sunday, March 20** – Ross Richers sharing in worship at Salem-Zion

## Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

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

- Governor Kristi Noem recently signed a bill into law that includes Juneteenth as a legal state holiday in South Dakota. Though South Dakota was the last state to name June 19<sup>th</sup> as a state holiday, this move symbolizes freedom, the end of slavery and “a weight off the shoulders” of those who were unjustly enslaved, and the generations that have followed. May we all continue to pray and act for peace.

### Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Bernie Koller.
- our Ad Board as it prepares to meet for a morning of envisioning and imaginative planning. Pray that God's Spirit would inspire us and energize us in this important work.
- those who feel the winter blues, and for those who feel depressed, and for those who feel exhausted. Lord, breathe upon us your Spirit of Life.
- our college aged students. Recently eight of our young people received care packages in the mail. May God guide them in their studies, in their work, in their faith formation, and in their life.
- the staff of Swan Lake Christian Camp (SD) and Crooked Creek Christian Camp (IA) as they begin to prepare for the summer camping season.

**Thank you** for your prayers, cards, gifts, visits, and phone calls while I was in the hospital and nursing home. Also, a special thanks to Pastor Corey for his regular visits and prayers. We want to thank the church for everything they did for us. - Elmer Gross

**Copies of the book** "*No Cure For Being Human*" by Kate Bowler are available for pickup on the table in the narthex. Please place a check mark by your name so we know who still needs a book. The book "*Healing Haunted Memories*" by Meyers and Enns has been ordered and may not be here by Feb. 27. Participants will be notified as soon as they arrive. - Marlan Kaufman, SS Superintendent

**Minutes** from the November deacon meeting are available in the narthex.

**Learning about Resolutions to be voted on in Kansas City in May:** MC USA will be holding a Special Session of the Delegate Assembly in Kansas City from May 27-30, 2022. At this gathering, the delegates will vote on a resolution to retire the Membership Guidelines as the active polity in MC USA. Resources for this resolution (and others that will be considered) can be found at <http://www.centralplainsmc.org/mc-usa-delegate-resources.html>. This is very helpful in understanding what this resolution says, some of the myths floating in the air, and how this affects area conferences/congregations. **Salem-Zion is seeking delegates for this Special Session.** Pastor Corey is not able to attend because of a previous commitment, so please talk to one of the deacons if you are interested or have further questions.

**Free Covid Tests:** There are free covid tests in the narthex. The SD Department of Health provided them to Norm's Thrifty White Pharmacy and Norm wanted to make them available to our congregation. Please limit yourself to 4 per household. Thank you.

Praying our Mission: "As followers of Jesus Christ, our purpose is to live and share the good news of Christ's kingdom, welcoming all as we worship, study, fellowship, and serve others together."

### Community Connections

**Noodles** will be made for the Schmeckfest Country Kitchen on Saturday, March 5 beginning at 9 a.m. in the Freeman Academy dining hall. Your help would be appreciated for the day or an hour or two. Please bring a sack lunch. Masks are optional.

The February edition of **On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service at <https://conta.cc/3s2ViGd>. In our current issue: Meet two sisters who carry on the family tradition of MDS service, learn how Mennonites and Catholics are working together to reunite a family, check out MDS employment opportunities to join our team, and relive the excitement and memorable stories from the MDS Annual Celebration in Sarasota last month.

**The Voices of Conscience exhibit** at Heritage Hall Museum & Archives is open to museum visitors through Sunday, April 24. This traveling exhibit created by the Kauffman Museum in North Newton, Kan., remembers the witness of peace-minded people against the First World War 1914-1918. Admission to the exhibit is included with the regular museum admission fee of \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$4 for students (grades 1-12). A program coinciding with the exhibit will be held at Pioneer Hall on March 25 & 26 starting at 7:30 each evening. It will focus on one of the stories in the display, the experience of Hutterites from this community including brothers Joseph and Michael Hofer, who died from mistreatment while imprisoned by the United States military system. Watch for more details next month.

The **annual meeting** of Swan Lake Christian Camp will be held March 13, 2022 at 4:00 pm. Diane Gubbles, a quilter from Coleridge, NE, will be sharing "Stories of Inspiration." As her beautiful quilts unfold, so do the stories that lead to their creation. As a talented designer and applique artist, Diane allows her creative spirit to speak through her quilts. Following the presentation will be the camp business meeting and supper. Please RSVP to [campoffice@myslcc.com](mailto:campoffice@myslcc.com) or 605-326-5690 by March 10.

**Your 2022 Peace Mug Nominations:** Know someone who has exemplified Jesus's way of peacemaking? Nominate them for the annual *Peace Mug Award* to be given at Central Plains Mennonite Conference's Annual Meeting! Send your nomination to Peace & Justice Task Group via [wilmajane17@gmail.com](mailto:wilmajane17@gmail.com)

by Wednesday, March 16. Please include their name and contact information. Include a simple description of why you're nominating them.

**God's Peace at Work:** "Prayer is listening for the still small voice of God. Listening with the 'ear of our hearts.'" – Richard Foster

**Zoom Adult Sunday School**

<https://zoom.us/j/97667382194?pwd=NHNieHZ6a29ZMGpZSHJpczlibUxtdz09>; Meeting ID: 976 6738 2194; Passcode: 523139

**Livestream link for Sunday morning worship**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX8KyFIZChK0Ef-rlBAaS3A>

**Pastor Corey Miller**

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

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**Church Admin. Assistant:**

Lisa Kaufman  
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Office hours: Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and by appointment as requested

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