



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

February 21, 2021

Called to Deep Relationship

“He (Jesus) was in the wilderness forty days..” - Mark 1:13

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *O darkest woe*

In the cross of Christ I glory (Wilbur Held)

Ken Mannes

Welcome and Call to Worship

Lacey Friesen

Lighting the Peace Lamp instrumentation of *All Who Are Thirsty* (VT #49)

Opening Prayer

* Opening Hymn – *Water has held us* (SJ #82)

Chorister: Josh Hofer

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Scriptures Genesis 9:8-17 and I Peter 3:18-22

Song – *Your Love Is Washing Over Me* (VT #166)

* Hearing the Gospel

Mark 1:9-15

Sermon – “40 days in the deep”

Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

Confession

L: Deep calls to deep. We call to you from the depths of our hearts.

P: We confess when we have stayed too close to the surface, avoiding you, avoiding our neighbors.

P: We confess when we have felt in over our heads. We need You and our neighbors.

Silence

L: Deep calls to deep. You call to us from the depth of your love.

P: Calling us to deep relationship. We come to you, God.

Testimony

Diane Ellinger

Celebrating our Mission – Deacon Sharing Fund

Congregational Prayer

* Sending Song – *My Shepherd will supply my need* (HWB #589)

Benediction

Postlude – *Rejoice, rejoice, believers* (Paul Manz)

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

As we begin the season of Lent, the voice of God pierces the deep, calling us to deep relationship. With the floodwaters behind us and the waters of baptism holding us, our relationship with God establishes our identity with other people and the world we live in. We are so glad you are here with us to go deeper with God.

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

THIS WEEK

Feb. 24 (Wed) - Zoom Bible Study from Mark 10 – “*Teaching and Preparing*” at 10 a.m.

- Faith From the Heart (Zoom) led by Rosemary Kaufman at 6:45 p.m.

Feb. 25 (Thurs) – Outreach & Service Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY – February 28

Next Sunday we continue our Lent series “Deep Calls to Deep” and the focus of the morning is “**Called to deep commitment.**” The Biblical texts are Genesis 17:1-7, Romans 4:13-25 and Mark 8:31-38. Pastor Corey will be preaching.

Offering next Sunday will be for “**Bienvenidos**”, the ministry with our friends from Flandreau.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Andre Eisenbeis, head trustee, installed two railings in our sanctuary on the west and east side of the platform. They look great! Thanks, Andre, for your good work!

- Love is in the air! Several couples in our church community have gotten engaged recently and we celebrate!

- Rachel Kaufman and Connor McLane got engaged around Christmas and are planning for an August wedding.

- Karina Ortman and Joel Boettger got engaged a few weeks ago.

- William Janssen and Katie Magera got engaged just last weekend.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Virginia Graber.

- all the people in Texas who are struggling because of power outage and water shortage. Pray for daily bread to come to the people of the deep South.

- the couples who recently got engaged and for their preparations for marriage.

MC USA’s annual Lent at Home guide is now available for download at: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/resource/lent-at-home/>.

A Lenten Practice: During these 40 days of Lent, I would encourage everyone to reflect on and write about your faith formation during these days (and all of last year). Even if it is never shared publicly, I would urge you to write something as a kind of faith practice. If you are willing to share this, I'm more than ready to share it in worship on your behalf. I look forward to hearing from you. – Pastor Corey

Hopefully you read the February Newsletter regarding the upcoming disbursement from the **Endowment Fund**. Please share your suggestions with any member of the Outreach and Service Committee. Our next meeting is February 25 at 7:00 pm. Thank you!

Are you yearning for some in-person study and fellowship? Eager to gather somewhat before the worship service for Sunday School? For those who are tired of ZOOM or don't use it, for those who are comfortable coming and those who want to join others in a mutually nurturing time, **we will begin an in-person class for adults of all ages, beginning on March 7**. We will meet (9:30 – 10:20) in Fellowship Hall with plenty of distance between us and masks required. Salt & Light quarterlies for the Spring quarter are available near the inner doors. Everyone is welcome!

Household Treasury Report 3rd Sunday of month Balance: \$21,205.59
The household treasury pays for salaries, electric/heating bills, Sunday school materials, office supplies, etc. The average monthly expenses for the Household Treasury are around \$15,000. We greatly appreciate your giving and generosity towards these needs to keep our Salem-Zion community functioning! Thank you so much!

"Doing better together." We believe in the power of working together to help each other succeed on our journeys. One way we accomplish this is through our grants, scholarships, and award programs. In this new year, I'm drawing your attention to a special opportunity. Full time undergraduate students are eligible to apply for **Everence college scholarships** if they or their parents are Everence members. For more information contact Dave Janssen, Salem-Zion's Everence Advocate. Scholarship applications will be accepted now through March 10.

Know someone who has exemplified Christ's way of peacemaking? Nominate them for the annual **Peace Mug Award** at Central Plains Mennonite Conference's Annual Meeting! Each year someone receives this award. Send your nomination to the Peace & Justice Task Group via wilmajane17@gmail.com by Friday, March 5th. Please include their name, contact information, and a simple description why you're nominating them.

COVID Relief Fund – Central Plains Mennonite Conference has set up a fund where people can donate their excess stimulus money and CPMC will work with our churches to get that money in the hands of congregations and individuals who have been hit hard by the pandemic. Checks can be earmarked, *COVID Relief Fund*, and mailed to the CPMC office (PO Box 101, Freeman, SD 57029-0101) or donations can be made online using the DONATE button on the bottom right of our webpage: www.centralplainsmc.org (be sure to include a special instruction on the PayPal page that directs the money to the COVID Relief Fund). A quick link to the application form for accessing this money is on the CPMC homepage at www.centralplainsmc.org.

Rather than giving something up for Lent, how about adding a spiritual practice instead? Join Stan Harder as he teaches and gives opportunities to try a new spiritual practice each week during Lent. Starting Tuesday, February 23, 7:00pm and continuing on Tuesdays throughout Lent. Join when you can. For more information about the upcoming **Lenten Spiritual Practices webinars**, visit our website, centralplainsmc.org.

Community Connections

Rural Revival will meet at 8:00 p.m. on February 22 in the Upper Meeting Room of the Et Cetera Shoppe in Freeman. All are welcome to attend.

The **Et Cetera Shoppe** is in need of a new volunteer to steam wrinkled clothing before it is put out for sale. This is a GREAT position for someone who needs lots of flexibility. This person would come to the shop only one week a month – two or three times that week, for around 2 hours each time. If this is something you could consider, please call the shop at 925-7098 and let Kris or Anita know of your interest.

Bakers needed for Schmeckfest drive-thru: Many of us are spending more time at home these days, so why not spend it in the kitchen and do some baking for the Schmeckfest drive-thru sale! The FA Auxiliary event will be held two weekends, March 19-20 and 26-27. Homemade ethnic food items would be appreciated for the sale and include the following popular items: fruit pockets, cheese pockets, poppy seed rolls, pumpkin rolls, summer savory and horseradish. Anyone willing to donate is asked to contact Sheila Epp, 605-951-2327, Skyla Dowden, 925-4191 or Deb Schmeichel, 648-3430. Watch for more information on the event in the coming weeks.

Cheese pocket work days Feb. 26-27: The Freeman Academy Auxiliary will be making cheese pockets for the upcoming Schmeckfest drive-thru on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 26-27 in the FA dining hall. Volunteers are needed to help with prep work on Friday, Feb. 26 after 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27 will be full

day, starting at 9 a.m. Workers would be greatly appreciated and bring a friend. Whether you are a pro or someone new, come and learn how to make cheese pockets and enjoy a time of fellowship. To be responsible in keeping people safe, masks will be required. We ask that you bring your own snacks and sack lunch. If you are a person who is at risk or isn't feeling well, be safe and stay at home. Anyone who would prefer to make cheese pockets at home is encouraged to do so. Contact Kathy Kleinsasser, 925-7952 for more information.

Join Mennonite Mission Network on February 23 at 7:30 p.m. Eastern time to hear about **Mennonite Mission Network's service programs!** Drop in and learn about Service Adventure, Youth Venture, Mennonite Voluntary Service, SOOP, and international service opportunities. Find the program that works for you! Contact EricFM@MMNWorld.net to register.

MCC Webinar: International service worker *Are you ready to step out and into service? To gain new skills and experiences while working for relief, development and peace in the name of Christ?* Join MCC on **February 25, 7:00 p.m. CST** for a 30-minute information session to learn about MCC's long-term service opportunities in relief, development and peace work. This webinar will include a short presentation and time for Q&A. Register today! More information can be found at <https://mcc.org/mcc-me-webinar-series-service-opportunities>.

Praying for Deepening Peace in Lent:

“I discovered a version of the sinner's prayer that increased my faith far more than the one that I had said years earlier...In this version, there were no formulas, no set phrases that promised us safe passage across the abyss. There was only our tattered trust that the Spirit who had given us life would not leave us in the wilderness without offering us life again.”

- Barbara Brown Taylor

Pastor Corey Miller

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