



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

“Love and grief, glory and belief”

February 22, 2026

GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude – *Song Without Words op. 30, no. 1* (Mendelssohn) Anne Waltner

Choral Call to Worship – *Could It Be That God Is Singing* Chancel Choir

Welcome and Call to Worship Tim Graber

L: Welcome Lent.

P: Welcome mystery.

L: Welcome dissonance.

P: Welcome grief.

L: Welcome glory and uncertainty.

P: Welcome doubt. Welcome belief.

L: Welcome questions without answers.

P: Welcome fullness from above.

L: Welcome death and resurrection.

P: Welcome Jesus’ fiercest love.

Prayer of Invocation

* Singing our Praise – *Come, Ye Disconsolate* VT #643

Sharing the Peace

Children’s Story Lacey Friesen

Offering – Bienvenidos

Offertory – *Song Without Words op. 38, no. 2* (Mendelssohn)

Special Music – *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* Chancel Choir

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Gospel Story John 11:1-44 (vv. 1-16, 17-37, 38-44)

“What Wondrous Love Is This” – Clara Beseman, cello

Sermon – “Great Expectations. Great Grief. Great Hope.” Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Confessional Poem (on screen)

Song – *What Wondrous Love Is This* VT #564

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

SENT OUT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS

* Sending Song – *In the Bulb There Is a Flower* VT #670

* Benediction

Postlude – *Improvised*

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

We begin this sacred season of Lent by reflecting on grief and love, which are seen as very different emotions. Today we are challenged with the dissonance of their relationship in John 11. May Jesus’ words and actions, together with a grieving community, teach and guide us through whatever dissonance stirs up within us. Welcome to worship in this season of Lent!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Bienvenidos** (the ministry in Flandreau that supports immigrants and their needs).

9:30am – Sunday School

10:30am – Worship Service

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

THIS WEEK

Feb. 25 (Wed) – Kids Can Club at 5:30pm

Feb. 25 (Wed) – Congregational ice cream social at 7:00pm, a fundraiser for the Tuition Sharing Fund

Feb. 25 (Wed) – Spiritual Formation Team meeting at 7:30pm

Feb. 26 (Thurs) – Worship Team meeting at 5:30pm

Feb. 27 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – March 1

Next Sunday we continue the season of Lent with the theme: “*Dwelling in Dissonance.*” The focus of the morning is “*Obvious and Hidden*” and the text is John 13:1-17. Beth Bontrager is worship leader and Pastor Corey will be preaching.

The offering will be for the Household Treasury.

COMING EVENTS

Mar. 7 – Community concert at Salem-Zion at 7:00pm, a new arrangement of Vivaldi’s *The Four Seasons*

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Alice Graber remains on Hospice care at Oakview Terrace.
- Dennis Herlyn spent a few days in the Freeman hospital for pneumonia.

Remember to praise God for:

- healing that has come from seasons and times of grief.

Remember to pray for:

- young adults in our congregation: Josh Janssen.
- Alice Graber and her family as they walk through this season of life.

- all who are experiencing loss and grief in these days.
- our sister churches in Montana: Lame Deer MC, White River Cheyenne MC, and White Chapel MC.

The Season of Lent: Lent is a 40-day opportunity for us to listen more closely to God’s indwelling Spirit that is moving in our midst. Mennonite Church USA has published a Lent at Home 2026 worship guide! Find it at <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/resource/lent-at-home-2026/>. Intended for all ages and life stages to deepen the experience of the season, this resource is free for all congregations and families of MC USA and MC Canada. Download available in English and Spanish.

Mennonite Church USA responds to injustices: Mennonite Church USA is standing with over 300 Christian leaders nationwide to boldly affirm faith, justice, and democracy. Executive Director, Glen Guyton, has signed “*A Call to Christians in a Crisis of Faith and Democracy*”—an open letter that rejects the demonization of migrants and defends the dignity and rights of all people. As our nation nears its 250th anniversary, this is a time for repentance, courage, and hope. “We must widen our circles, see beyond our personal bias, and stand side by side with our neighbors,” Glen reminds us, echoing Philippians 3:20. Together, we commit to: Welcoming immigrants and refugees with compassion. Rejecting all forms of political violence and hate. Protecting voting rights and democratic values. Pursuing peace, truth, and hope—rooted in Jesus’ teachings. We want to be a community that chooses love over fear and justice over silence. Read the full letter and join us in this movement: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/call-to-christians/>
#FaithInAction **#MennoniteChurchUSA** **#Peacemaking** **#Democracy**
#LoveYourNeighbor **#JusticeMatters**

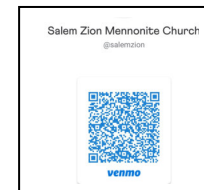
Support students *and* eat ice cream! Each year, **Salem-Zion's Tuition Sharing Fund** lends financial support to all students attending Mennonite schools. On Weds, February 25, we'll be serving Berrybrook ice cream and accepting freewill donations to help replenish the fund for the coming school year, when we may have as many as five students attending Mennonite colleges! Everyone is invited at 7 pm for fellowship and dessert.

On Saturday, March 7, 2026, at 7:00 pm, Salem-Zion Mennonite Church will host a **free community concert** featuring the world premiere of a new arrangement of Antonio **Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons***. This innovative version, created by internationally recognized cellist and pedagogue Emilio Colón, reimagines the iconic work for solo cello, cello quartet, double bass, and harpsichord. The concert is free and open to the public. Additional details have been posted in the narthex.

January Offerings and Gifts: The Banquet - \$500.00; CPMC - \$1,692.00; Deacon Sharing Fund - \$500.00; Household Treasury - \$25,326.00; MCC - \$730.00; MCC Meat Canning - \$2,051.00; Mennonite Church USA - \$1,229.00; MDS - \$1,500.00; Outreach Fund - \$5,966.00; Project Fund - \$1,000.00; SLCC - \$95.00; Tuition Sharing Fund - \$500.00.

The Household Treasury **monthly report** is posted in the narthex.

To give to Salem-Zion or the missions we support through Venmo, please use the attached QR code or go through your Venmo app and search (under charity) for Salem-Zion Mennonite Church. If you want your donation to go somewhere other than the household treasury, please put that in the notes. Thank you!



Community Connections

The **Swan Lake Christian Camp Annual Meeting** will be held Sunday, March 8 at 4:00. The meeting will probably be held in the new worship center so you can see the progress being made. A light lunch will follow. RSVPs are appreciated.

The **Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association's annual meeting** will be held on March 8 at 2:30 p.m. at Hopefield Mennonite Church, 1823 Aztec Lane, Moundridge, KS. Glen Ediger, a Bethel College graduate, will be our guest speaker. He will be speaking about "*Mennonites, Farming, Wheat and Threshing Stones*." The entertainment will be provided by Sam Shilts. Additional details have been posted in the narthex.

Mennonite Disaster Service’s February edition of **On the Level** is now available at <https://conta.cc/40eP7yL>. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King reflects on the early days of MDS, find out where to listen to MDS podcasts, and Johann Zimmerman shares reflections and observations while surveying for a bridge project. We also share information on how you can join the Annual Celebration online February 27 and 28.

God’s Peace in Loss and Grief: “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well...for there is a force of love moving through the universe that holds us fast and will never let us go.” - Julian of Norwich

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