



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

“Christ among us, Showing Us Faith”

February 25, 2024

## GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude – *If you but trust in God* (HWB #576)  
*If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee* (Reger) Lisa Kaufman  
Choral Call to Worship – *God Welcomes All/Amen* (VT #32)  
Ken Mannes, Mary Mannes, Lyle Preheim

Welcome and Call to Worship Mark Ortman

L: Come, you who seek God, proclaim God’s glory!

**P: All you descendants of Jacob and Rachel,**

L: come.

**P: All who are isolated and feel alone,**

L: come.

**P: All who are hungry,**

L: come.

**P: All who wander,**

L: come.

**P: Come, from the ends of the earth.**

**ALL: Come, you who seek God, proclaim God’s glory, and walk in faith.**

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Opening Prayer

\* Hymn of Praise – *We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer* VT #34

\* Greeting each other

Children’s Story Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Lacey Friesen

Offering – Bienvenidos

Offertory – *Herr, wie du willst, so schicks mit mir* (Marpurg)

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

New Testament Scripture Reading Romans 4:13-25

Prayer of Confession (screen)

\* Gospel Reading Mark 8:31-38

Sermon Jill Hofer

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Special Music – *What Is the World Like* (VT #298) Ken, Mary, Lyle

Testifying to Christ among us: Faith

Congregational Prayer

## SENDING

\* Song – *Go, My Friends, in Peace* (sing text B) VT #839

\* Blessing

Postlude

## Church Calendar

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

### TODAY

God promised Abram and Sarai that they would have children in their old age. Their response was both belief and unbelief. When God chooses to bless us, no matter our age, it is no laughing matter. We are so glad that you have joined us for worship and we welcome you! A special welcome to Jill Hofer, who is the pastor at the House Church of Freeman.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Bienvenidos**.

9:30am – Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

### THIS WEEK

**Feb. 26 and Mar. 2** – Kitchen/Fellowship Hall reserved during the day

**Feb. 28 (Wed)** – Children’s Choir practice, 6:00-6:30pm

**Feb. 28 (Wed)** – Last Feeding Our Faith – Bible Study on Luke 10 for the adults

**Feb. 29 (Thurs)** – Worship meeting at 7:00pm

**Mar. 1 (Fri)** – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

### NEXT SUNDAY – Mar. 3

Next Sunday continues our Lenten season’s theme, “*Christ Among Us, Showing us Justice*.” The texts are Exodus 20:1-7, Psalm 19, John 2:13-22, and I Corinthians 1:18-25. 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 Household Treasury.

## Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

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

- Work began this week on the sanctuary stage project. For a few weeks, the construction will continue to be a work in progress, so stay tuned and come and see each week what is happening.

### **Remember to praise God for:**

- the covenants that God has remembered and kept.  
- the new member’s class that has been meeting and learning from each other’s holy faith stories.  
- the gift of Ardis Jantzen and her generosity that will pay for a Pizza supper next Wednesday evening.

### **Remember to pray for:**

- those who cannot be here today: Eva Goosen.  
- Gwen as she continues her recovery from knee surgery.

- Spencer Bradford who was installed as pastor last Sunday at Salem Mennonite Church. Pray for God's blessing on the ministry that Spencer and Salem share.

I love my church family! **Thank you** so much for your thoughts, prayers, cards, calls, and food while I recover from my knee surgery. I am truly blessed! A special thank you to Pastor Corey for his reassuring presence throughout. And last, but not least, thank you to my loving, caring husband, Stan, for his encouragement and patience. ❤️ - Gwen

**Chancel Choir**, under the direction of Rolf Olson, will begin practicing on Wednesday, March 6 from 7:00-8:00pm in preparation for Easter Sunday. There are four pieces, available at the first rehearsal or you may pick up the music in the narthex earlier if you wish. Additional rehearsals will be held on March 20 (7:00-8:00pm), March 27 (after the Holy Week service), and at 10:10am on Easter Sunday.

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Swiss-Volhynian Mennonites in South Dakota – September 7-8, 2024:** The committee is asking for your stories and stories from your family that 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!

### Community Connections

Is a world without poverty possible? We invite you to join us for a look inside MEDA, where compassion meets creativity to solve some of the world's toughest problems through agriculture and innovation. Come to **Salem Mennonite (South Church) Fellowship Hall this afternoon, Sunday, February 25th, 2:00 p.m.** to enjoy some coffee and dessert while Clalude Clodomir from MEDA shares MEDA's vision for a world without poverty. Claude demonstrates how this happens through strategic investment in entrepreneurship and agricultural development. Clodomir is the Chief of Party for the ATTAIn project, a USAID-funded initiative by MEDA. With over 20 years of experience in international development, Claude specializes in implementing USAID-funded projects and believes in the transformative power of incentives. We welcome you to join us!

**Rural Revival** will meet on February 26 at 8:00 p.m. at the Freeman library. All are welcome to attend.

**Kuchen** for Schmeckfest will be made in the dining hall Friday and Saturday, March 1-2, starting at 9:00 a.m. Please bring a sack lunch and join us for all or part of the day. If you have glass pie plates we can borrow, please bring them, clearly labeled. Thank you!

The February issue of the **Swan Lake Christian Camp newsletter** is now available at [myslcc.com](http://myslcc.com) (a printed copy is in the narthex). In this issue: Information on Mary Anderson's retirement, upcoming annual meeting, staff news, prayer room update, worship center update, and a devotional by Jerry.

Every year the Justice and Peace Task Group awards a **peace mug** to a Central Plains peacemaker. This year we are looking for a special person who has seen the plight of immigrants and responded. As God's people, we are called to welcome the stranger. Look around your congregation and community. Think about people who have found ways to bring peace and justice by welcoming immigrants. Who do you hear advocating for their rights? Who do you see welcoming them by sharing resources? We need nominations for this special *Welcome the Stranger Peace Mug Award*. Send names and a brief description of why you are nominating them to Jane Y-S ([wilmajane17@gmail.com](mailto:wilmajane17@gmail.com)). We need them by Monday, March 18.

The February edition of **On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service at <https://conta.cc/49pNHoc>. In our current issue: Kevin King shares his insights on Jesus' passion for sharing meals, learn how MDS volunteers are finding additional work along the Texas border, and find out why one woman says MDS is the light of Canada.

MCC partner Team Brownsville welcomes your gently used **winter coats and jackets!** Team Brownsville seeks to share God's love by welcoming asylum seekers, including providing them with warm coats. It's as easy as collecting your gently used coats and jackets, boxing them up and shipping (up to) 70 lb./box to Team Brownsville – just follow the instructions on the poster in the narthex. Have questions? Please email the MCC Central States Immigration Team at [centralstates@mcc.org](mailto:centralstates@mcc.org) and either Abraham Diaz Alonso or Becky Teiwes will respond.

**God's Peace in Lent:** "God refuses to give up, and we who are enlisted to be fellow-workers with God know that the only reason we continue is that death did not have the last word; that Good Friday was not the end of the story." - Desmond Tutu

**Pastor Corey Miller**  
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Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon  
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Office hours: Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and by appointment as requested