



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

February 28, 2021

Called to Deep Commitment

“...let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” - Mark 8:34

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

- Prelude – *Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee* (Johann Kuhnau) Lisa Kaufman
- Welcome and Call to Worship Mary Mannes
- Lighting the Peace Lamp instrumentation of *All Who Are Thirsty* (VT #49)
- Opening Prayer
- * Opening Hymn – *Lord Jesus, you shall be my song* (SJ #14)
Chorister: Emily Epp

HEARING GOD’S WORD

- Children’s Story Mary Mannes
- Hearing the Scriptures Genesis 17:1-7,15-16 and Romans 4:13-25
- Song – *Will you let me be your servant* (HWB #307)
- * Hearing the Gospel Mark 8:31-38
- Sermon – “Setting our minds on divine things” Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

- Confession
 - P: Deep calls to deep. We call to you from the depths of our hearts.**
 - 1: We confess when we have stayed on the edges. Not listening to each other. Not taking the path you show.
 - 2: We confess when we have strayed from the way. Silencing suffering. Forfeiting life.
 - Silence*
 - 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 Steve Graber
- Celebrating our Mission - *Bienvenidos*
- Congregational Prayer
- * Sending Song – *Will you come and follow me* (SS #39)
- Benediction
- Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

We are transformed by God as we follow God’s voice along the path of life, a voice calling us to deep commitment. Even when our path leads deep into unfamiliar woods, as we lose ourselves, we are found. We welcome each of you to this worship experience together!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for *Bienvenidos*, assisting immigrants in Flandreau, SD. We have been blessed by relationships formed over the past several years through this ministry. Thank you for your generosity and continued support.

THIS WEEK

- Mar. 3 (Wed) - Zoom Bible Study from Mark 11-12 – “*Conflict in Jerusalem*” at 10 a.m.
- Faith From the Heart (Zoom) led by Malynda Penner at 6:45 p.m.
- Deacon Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY – March 7

Next Sunday we continue our Lent series “Deep Calls to Deep” and the focus of the morning is “*Called to deep wisdom.*” The Biblical texts are Exodus 20:1-17, John 2:13-22, and I Corinthians 1:18-25. Weldon Nisly of Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) will be preaching.

Offering next Sunday will be for our *Household Treasury*.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- We have learned of the sobering news that the U.S. experienced its 500,000th death from Covid. Aside from this catastrophic number, is the fact that people of color have been disproportionately affected by this illness. Let our prayers and work for justice continue so that all God’s children can receive equal care in this time.
- Gabriel Eisenbeis continues his mission on the MCC Meat Canner. They have been canning in Pennsylvania this week. Covid has affected the schedule and so the crew often has some down time interspersed between their canning events. Gabriel’s term of service will be done by the end of April and they are still looking for individuals who are willing to serve on this important ministry team.
- The family of Roger Schmidt gathered to say goodbye to Roger and have closure. Burial of Roger’s cremains will be done at a future time. We want to continue praying for Nancy and her children, Trevor, Abby and Bryce and their families in this time of loss and grief.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Dorothy Preheim.
- All those who are grieving the loss of loved ones from Covid-19 over this past year.
- Wisdom, Grace and Courage to know when we all can return to worship in person again.
- Those in the South that are still reeling from the effects of extreme cold temperatures and winter weather.
- Pray and encourage the young people that are considering baptism and church membership. The students are: **Connor Epp, Blake Van Ningen, Timothy Epp and Jada Koerner.**
- Nancy Schmidt and her children in the loss of Roger.
- the staff of Swan Lake Christian Camp (SD) and Crooked Creek Christian Camp (IA) as they begin to prepare for the summer camping season.

Bearing Witness during Lent: In recent years, our Central Plains Conference leaders have invited congregations to “*bear witness*” to Christ’s work in our midst. I am asking that each family reflect together on how you are bearing witness to God’s love on your life, particularly over the past year. These “testimonies” bear witness to God’s redeeming work among us. If we don’t hear of them, our praise to God isn’t as full as it might be. Take some time during Lent to write out these stories, insights and perspectives. This will be a blessing to you and to others. – Pastor Corey

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

Walking the Jesus Way can be hard work, complex and bewildering even, as our context keeps changing. How about some “continuing education” or “in-service” to help keep us up to the task? Nothing like taking a regular, joint look at our “instruction manual”/“road map” and enjoying some mutual encouragement from fellow pilgrims on the journey. **An in-person Adult Sunday School class will begin March 7th at 9:30 AM** in the Fellowship Hall using the Salt & Light material available in the narthex. All are welcome! Masks and spaced seating will be used to keep everyone safe.

“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.

It’s not too late to add a spiritual practice or two for Lent! Join Stan Harder as he teaches and gives opportunities to try a new spiritual practice each week during Lent. Each Tuesday throughout Lent. Join when you can. For more information about the upcoming **Lenten Spiritual Practices webinars**, visit our website, centralplainsmc.org.

Community Connections

Kuchen making planned March 5-6: The Freeman Academy Auxiliary will be making kuchen on March 5-6 starting at 9 a.m. in the Dining Hall kitchen. The kuchen will be sold at the Schmeckfest drive-thru days on March 16-17 and March 25-26. We will be using glass pie plates, so if anyone has some to loan or bring along to the work days, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Debra Schmeichel if you are willing to help, 648-3430, or ssag@goldenwest.net. Thank you!

Swan Lake Christian Camp will be hosting its annual meeting virtually on March 7 at 4:00 pm. The meeting will be held over Zoom. If you would like to participate, please call the office at 605-326-5690 or email campoffice@myslcc.com to get log-in information sent to you.

Ministry Opportunity: Do you have a heart for mentoring students and strong organizational skills? Freeman Academy is looking for a Resident Director to supervise and encourage 12 boarding students in on-campus housing. Salary plus benefits including health insurance, retirement, room and board. Main responsibilities are building relationships with students and overseeing daily life at the dorm including cooking the evening meal, coordinating student activities, and communicating with parents. Retirees and experienced parents are urged to apply. For more information visit FreemanAcademy.org/employment/ or contact Nathan Epp, Head of School, nepp@freemanacademy.org or 605-925-4237.

What sets Christian education apart? Learn more at the **Freeman Academy Open House** on March 19 from 2-4pm. Drop in for information or to schedule visits with teachers, register at FreemanAcademy.org.

The February edition of On the Level is now available from **Mennonite Disaster Service** at <https://conta.cc/3bckDni>. In our current issue: MDS welcomes a new regional leader, the Spirit of MDS Fund is offering another round of funding for congregations, and we’re now offering Behind the Hammer, our quarterly publication showcasing our volunteers and their inspiring stories, in a digital version giving you access via your phone, tablet or desktop.

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.

MCC Alumni Gathering, July 9-11 at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp! All MCC alumni are invited to Colorado to relax in the cool mountain air this summer. We realize there is still uncertainty about summer activities due to COVID-19. At this point, we are planning to have this gathering, all registrations will be refunded if the event gets cancelled. We ask that you still go ahead and register if you plan to attend. Find all the details, including COVID-19 protocols that the camp is following and REGISTER at mcc.org/alumni-gathering.

Praying for Deepening Peace in Lent: "As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst...'Repent and believe' Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor -- He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you." - **Mother Teresa of Calcutta**

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p.m. and by appointment as requested

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