



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

“Christ among us, the Way of Mercy”

March 10, 2024

## GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude		Austin Unruh
Welcome and Call to Worship (from Psalm 107)		John Epp
Lighting the Peace Lamp		
Opening Prayer		
* Hymn of Praise – <i>Gott ist die Liebe</i>		VT #158
* Greeting each other		
Children’s Story	Numbers 21:4-9	David Friesen
Offering – Central Plains Mennonite Conference Offertory		

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

New Testament Scripture Reading		Ephesians 2:1-10
Prayer of Confession		(screen)
* Gospel Reading		John 3:14-21
Sermon – “God’s Immeasurable Mercy”		Corey Miller

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Song of Response – <i>From the Parent’s Heart, the Firstborn</i>		VT #418
Testifying to Christ among us: Mercy		
Congregational Prayer		

## SENDING

* Song – <i>Amazing Grace</i>		VT #163
* Blessing		
Postlude		

## Church Calendar

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

### TODAY

God is always shining God’s light toward us. God pursues us with an everlasting love. As we open our hearts to God’s light, God’s love flows through us to all we encounter. To embody Christ is to be merciful as God is merciful. Welcome to everyone to this time of worship!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Central Plains Mennonite Conference**.

9:30am – Sunday School for all ages  
 10:30am – Worship Service  
 2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

### THIS WEEK

**Mar. 13** – Kitchen/Fellowship Hall reserved during the day

**Mar. 13 (Wed)** – Children’s Choir practice, 6:00-6:30pm

**Mar. 15 (Fri)** – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

### NEXT SUNDAY – Mar. 17

Next Sunday continues our Lenten season’s theme, “*Christ Among Us, the New Covenant.*” The texts are Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 119, John 12:20-33 and Hebrews 5:5-10. Pastor Corey will be preaching.

The offering will be for Mennonite Church USA.

### COMING EVENTS

**Mar. 18** – Administrative Board meeting at 7:00pm

**Mar. 20** – Chancel Choir rehearsal, 7:00-8:00pm

**Mar. 24 – Palm Sunday worship**

**Mar. 24-27 – Holy Week** services at Hutterthal Church with **Michelle Hershberger**

**Mar. 28 – Maundy Thursday** meal, worship and communion at Salem-Zion at 6:30pm

**Mar. 29 – Good Friday** service with the children presenting “*The Three Trees*” musical at 7:00pm

## Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

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

- Work on the stage renovation project continued to take shape this past week.

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

- the wideness of God’s mercy that is as far as the east is from the west!

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

- those who cannot be here today: Helen Tieszen.

- the gathering of many people on the campus of Freeman Academy to support its mission during Schmeckfest.

- those that are carrying burdens regarding their health, finances, relationships, and other places where it feels dark.
- our Holy Week services as we enter into the story of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.
- our sister churches in the Quad Cities area cluster: Casa de Oracion Emanuel, Iglesia Cristiana El Balsamo, Iglesia Menonita Centro Cristiano, Iglesia Torre Fuerte, Templo Alabanza and the El Buen Pastor church plant.

The Administrative Board has asked Lacey Friesen to fulfill the role of our **Mission Treasurer** through the end of 2024. She is replacing Clayton Kaufman who asked to be relieved of this position. We are thankful Lacey is willing to take on this additional responsibility and also extend our gratitude to Clayton for his years of service as our past Mission Treasurer.

**Service Opportunity!** First Fruits gardens are community gardens tended in Freeman to provide fresh produce for those who cannot afford it and benefit from the Bethany Food Pantry. Volunteers from area Mennonite churches plant, tend and harvest throughout the growing season. After Gary Graber has faithfully done Salem-Zion's part for the past several years, we now need someone else to be responsible for that, together with a few assistants. To volunteer or learn more about what is involved, please talk with Tim Eisenbeis.

**Swiss-Volhynian 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** - The anniversary committee is seeking contributions to cover expenses for this celebration. We are channeling our finances through the South Church General Fund. Checks should be made to Salem Mennonite Church earmarked for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Gifts may be given to any committee member (Corey Miller, Gwen Ortman, Marnette Hofer, Polly Waltner, Everett Waltner or Rudy Brockmueller).

**Rachel Miller's February MVS newsletter** has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Swiss-Volhynian Mennonites in South Dakota – September 7-8, 2024:** Please consider sharing your stories (or your family stories) with the committee that is planning the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. 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. Please give or send your written stories to Gwen Ortman or Marnette Hofer. Thank you!

**February Offerings and Gifts:** Household Treasury - \$11,015.00; Deacon Sharing Fund - \$2,312.00; CMPC - \$1,537.00; Flandreau - \$2,297.00; Meat Canning - \$350.00; MCUSA - \$25.00; MDS - \$100.00; MMN - \$25.00. The Household Treasury **monthly report** is posted in the narthex.

If anyone would be willing to **stain and refinish** several boards as part of the sanctuary stage project, please contact Kerwin Graber.

Mark your calendars for the **SD MCC Relief Sale** to be held on Saturday, July 20, 2024 in Freeman, SD.

Anyone who would like to volunteer to **provide music for the Holy Week service on Monday evening, March 25**, please contact Kerwin Graber.

**Burge Family Update:** Terry and Brenda Burge recently completed a mission trip to the Dominican Republic. They, their son Bob, Terry's brother Ron, and his wife Kathy, were part of the mission trip. A Baptist Church sponsors the mission every few years. Brenda has done multiple missions to other areas. This was Terry's first mission trip. Terry and his brother Ron worked on the construction part of the mission. They helped with homes not bigger than a kitchen space. In this small area was a kitchen & dining area and a small bedroom that had two beds for the whole family of six or more. Brenda and their son Bob worked in the medical area. Bob is an emergency room physician and Brenda is a doctor. We are thankful to have them sharing with those in need; we pray for the work they have done. We remember the words of Jesus, "Even as you have done it even unto the least of these...". God's blessings on their continued work. Please keep on praying for the work they have done.

### Community Connections

The Schmeckfest Food Committee is asking for **donations of food items for the Schmeckfest Country Kitchen** for March 15 and 16. Poppyseed rolls, fruit pockets, kuchen, pumpkin rolls, caramel rolls, jams, horseradish and summer savory sell especially well. Donated food items for the Country Kitchen may be brought to Sterling Hall and should be labeled. Thank you!

**Swan Lake Christian Camp** is hosting a retirement party for Mary Anderson March 10 from 2:00-4:00 pm. At 4:00 we will be having our annual meeting and we invite you to stay and hear about all that is happening at camp.

The **Freeman Network for Justice and Peace** will meet on Wednesday, March 13 at 11:30 A.M. in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome.

**God's Peace in Lent:** "We call for an immediate ceasefire, for the sake of human life, for the sake of all those beloveds who are made in the image and likeness of the divine. Scripture says, 'Humankind was created as God's reflection: in the divine image God created them; female and male, God made them.'" ~ Mennonite Church USA statement calling for ceasefire in Israel-Hamas War

**Pastor Corey Miller**  
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