

CALLED TO THE LIGHT

March 19, 2023

SALEM-ZION MENNONITE CHURCH



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

“Called to the Light”

March 19, 2023

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

(arr. Dan Forrest)

Mavis Ortman

Welcome

Corey Miller

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Choral Call to Worship

People: *You Are All We Have*

VT #701

Singers: The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. God makes me lie in green pastures and leads me beside waters still.

People: *You Are All We Have*

VT #701

Prayer of Invocation

* Hymn – *Come Away from Rush and Hurry*

VT #9

* Greeting each other

Offering – Mennonite Church USA

Offertory – *Grand Duo Concertante op.48 Rondo Allegro* (Weber)

Estelle Waltner, clarinet; Anne Waltner, accompanist

Confession

Children’s Story

Ross Richers

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Scriptures

I Samuel 16:1-13, Ephesians 5:8-14

Hymn – *Gentle Shepherd, Come and Lead Us* (sing twice)

VT #718

* Gospel Reading

John 9:1-17

Sermon

Jerrell and Jane Ross Richer

RESPONDING TO GOD

Response – *Open My Eyes* (vv.1-3)

VT #732

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Psalms 23 (VT #725)

* Sending Song – *Use Us, God*

VT #811

* Benediction

Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

As we continue our journey in these 40 days, we are reminded today that we are called to the Light. It seems that God never tires of inviting us into the Light and to see with renewed eyes. We are so blessed to have Jerrell and Jane Ross Richer join us for worship. Jerrell and Jane are our mission partners who are serving in Ecuador. Welcome to everyone! We are so glad you are here!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Mennonite Church USA**.

The photo on the bulletin cover was provided by Tim Waltner.

EVERYONE is invited to join us for a wonderful potluck meal following our worship time. Near the end of our meal, Jane and Jerrell will share a brief presentation in the fellowship hall. We welcome our friends from the South Church and the dorm students as well.

8:45am – Lenten Prayer Time in Fellowship Hall

9:30am – Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

Noon – Potluck and Presentation

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

THIS WEEK

Mar. 24 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

Mar. 24-25 (Fri-Sat) – Schmeckfest at Freeman Academy

NEXT SUNDAY – Mar. 26

Next Sunday is the fifth Sunday of Lent. The theme is “*Called to Life*” and the scriptures are Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, and John 11:1-45. Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary church relations person, Randy Detweiler, will be preaching.

Next week the offering is for **Mennonite Disaster Service**.

COMING EVENTS

March 29 – Chancel choir rehearsal at 7pm

April 1 – Game Night in the Fellowship Hall (7-9pm)

April 2-5 – Holy Week services at Bethany Mennonite at 7:00pm

April 7 – Good Friday service and communion at Salem-Zion at 7:00pm

April 9 – Easter Sunday breakfast and worship. Breakfast will start at 8:30am and worship will be at 10:00am.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Remember to praise God for:

- Delano Tieszen turned 90 this past week and his family and friends gathered over the weekend to celebrate with him. Praise God for the gift of life and breath for Delano!

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Helen Tieszen.

- Ruby Waltner will be having total hip replacement surgery on March 28th. Ruby welcomes your prayers and your calls as she anticipates this surgery.

- Jerrell and Jane Ross Richer and their family as they continue their ministry in bearing witness to Jesus in their missional work in Ecuador. May the Holy Spirit enable their ministry to bear fruit for God’s Reign.

- CPMC's Partners in Mission, Philip Friesen and the Agape Peace Center. (*You can find out more about each of them on the CPMC website.*)

Prayer Time During Lent at 8:45am: Every Sunday morning during the season of Lent, everyone is invited to a time of scripture reading, reflection, silence, and prayer surrounding the Biblical texts for that Sunday. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for thinking of me on my birthday. The flowers are beautiful. The cards and kind words also helped make my birthday special. Thank you!
- Ardelle Schrag

There are **new books** on the shelves in the narthex. Information about the books was emailed, and copies of that document are also available in the narthex.

One of the highlights at Salem-Zion this time of year is to celebrate the risen Christ. Youth and adults are invited to sing with the chancel choir on Easter Sunday. Please consider this to be an opportunity to be an active participant in this upcoming worship experience. There will be a **rehearsal on Wednesday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m.** Put this event on your calendars.

Game Night April 1 (7-9pm): On Saturday, April 1st a multi-generational game night will be hosted by the (Sunday Evening) Fellowship Committee in the Fellowship Hall. Some card games and board games will be provided, but if you have a favorite to share, please bring it! Snacks will be arranged. Gaming is welcome to go past 9pm if accompanied by a responsible adult.

Please see the bulletin board in the narthex for a letter from the **Central Plains Mennonite Conference Board**.

Swan Lake Christian Camp updates: A summary of the SLCC annual meeting along with the proposed budget for 2023 was emailed with the bulletin, and hard copies are available in the narthex. Blueprints for the proposed chapel have also been shared with us, and a copy has been posted on the bulletin board. For those interested in signing up for summer camps, all registration is done through the website www.myslcc.com. Postcards with the summer camp schedule are available in the narthex.

A thank-you card from the **Heritage Hall Museum and Archives** has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

If anyone would like to be added to the **church email list** or have a **church mailbox**, please contact the church office (salemzion@gwtc.net). For access to the church calendar, the church library catalog, cemetery information, the policy manual and more, go to www.salemzion.com. Questions? Feel free to reach out to administrative assistant Lisa. Thank you!

YouTube has a new system for channel page addresses. Our **church channel** is available at <https://www.youtube.com/@salemzionmennonitechurch8051>.

Community Connections

Donations Sought for Schmeckfest Country Kitchen: The Schmeckfest Country Kitchen is asking for donations of food items for March 24 & 25. Poppy seed rolls, fruit pockets, pumpkin rolls, caramel rolls, jams, horseradish and summer savory sell especially well. Donated food items for the Schmeckfest Country Kitchen may be brought to Sterling Hall and should be labeled. Thank you!

Rural Revival will meet on Monday, March 27 at 7:30 P.M. in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome.

The March edition of **On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service at <https://conta.cc/3JazUG0>. In our current issue: Executive Director Kevin King shares his experiences of working on an MDS project in Dulac, Louisiana and MDS Canada returns to Cape Bretton to repair damage from Hurricane Fiona.

Knowing God's Peace: "Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort me and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger." – Saint Patrick (March 17 was Saint Patrick's Day)

Pastor Corey Miller
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