



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

“Christ Collides with Our Bias”

March 9, 2025

10:30am

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” - Luke 10:27

GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude/Gathering Music – “Dream Echoes” (EL Lancaster) Keely Penner
 Welcome and Call to Worship Lori Hofer
 Prayer of Invocation
 * Singing our Praise – *Let Us Build a House* VT #36
 Children’s Story Clara Beseman
 Peace Lamp
 Offering – Central Plains Mennonite Conference
 Offertory – “Topaz” (Cook) Kenzy Penner; Sheila Epp, accomp.

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Gospel Story Luke 10:25-37
 Song – *Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord* VT #131
 Gospel Story Luke 10:38-41 Mary and Martha
 Sermon – “When Mercy Collides with the Law” Pastor Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Confession
All: Loving and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you.
 One: We have not loved you with all our thoughts, words, and actions.
Many: We have sinned through what we have chosen to do and what we have chosen to neglect.
 One: We have not fully accepted your love for us. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Many: We cling to our assumptions and insist that our point of view is the correct one.
All: We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to your love. Help us shake free from our biases and assumptions so we may better share your peace in your world, rejoicing in your name. Amen.

Song – *O God, We Read the Holy Law* VT #571
 Sharing and Congregational Prayer

SENT OUT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS

* Song – *Christ Has No Body Here but Ours* VT #568
 * Benediction
 Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus confronts biases and prejudice between Samaritans and Jews, the preconceived notion of who our neighbors are, the bias of what mercy looks like, and the bias of self-justification. With all our biases, we gather to worship God and follow Jesus. Welcome to this time of worship.

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

9:30am – Jr SS Opening; Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

THIS WEEK

Mar. 10 (Mon) – Administrative Board meeting at 7:00pm

Mar. 12 (Wed) – Children’s Choir, 6:00-6:30pm

Mar. 13 (Thurs) – Deacons meeting at 7:30pm

Mar. 14 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

Mar. 15 (Sat) – Worship Team meeting at 9:00am

Mar. 12, 14 and 15 (Wed, Fri, Sat) – Kitchen reserved

NEXT SUNDAY – Mar. 16

Next Sunday is the second Sunday in Lent. The overall theme is “**Jesus Collides**” and the focus is “*Christ Collides with Our Condemnation.*” The text is from Luke 13:1-9, 31-35 and Pastor Corey will be preaching.

The offering will be for Mennonite Church USA.

COMING EVENTS

Mar. 16 – Over 80’s Tea at Salem-Zion from 2:00-4:00pm

Mar. 23 – Dan Graber’s Organ Recital at 7:00pm

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Remember to praise God for:

- these 40 days of prayer, reflection, and seeking God’s face.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Marian Gering.
 - courage to face our biases and allow Christ’s illuminating Light to shine through our darkness.
 - Freeman Academy, the board, the faculty, staff, and students as it bears witness to Christ and discerns where God is leading.

- our sister churches in Minnesota: Bethel, Emmanuel, Faith, First-Mountain Lake, Lao Fellowship, Rochester, Saint Paul Hmong Mennonite, Third Way and affiliated group Fargo-Moorhead Faith Mennonite Fellowship in Minnesota.

Lent At Home Resources: If you are interested in entering Lent together as a family, **Mennonite Education Agency** has put together a *Lent at Home 2025* curriculum that has ideas, projects, prayers, and scriptures that follow our theme Christ Collides. <https://www.mennoniteeducation.org/resources/lent-at-home/>

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

February Offerings and Gifts: CPMC - \$1,385.00; Deacon Sharing Fund - \$150.00; Flandreau - \$150.00; Household Treasury - \$14,450.47; MCC Meat Canning - \$350.00; MC USA - \$100.00; Outreach & Service - \$3,466.13.

On Sunday, March 23 at 7pm Dan Graber will present an **organ recital** at Salem-Zion Mennonite Church with guests Michael King (oboe) and Rebecca Krause (flute). The program will include works by Beethoven, Saints-Saens and Paul Manz. A freewill offering will be taken for the Freeman Academy Music Department.

Planning for **VBS 2025** has begun! The theme is Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace and will be held June 2 - 6 from 9 AM to 1:15 PM. If you'd be willing to help out in any way or have questions, please reach out to Libby Miller, Bailey Carlson, Lacey Friesen or Kelsey Pidde.

Community Connections

The Freeman Network for Justice and Peace is hosting a presentation on "Zionism 101" on **Sunday March 9th 2pm CST** at the Prairie Arboretum in Freeman SD. This is the third part in a series of presentations exploring the history behind the Israel-Palestine conflict. Event will also be live streamed on the group's YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/@FreemanNetworkJusticePeace

Swan Lake Christian Camp will be holding their annual meeting on March 9 at 4:00 pm. All are invited to attend. The board of directors at Swan Lake Christian Camp propose to change the current by-laws of the camp. This proposal will be brought for a vote at the meeting. Article IV.2.a states that the board of directors shall be made up of not less than 75% of its membership having an affiliation with a Mennonite Church. *The proposal would be to reduce this requirement to a simple majority.* The board of directors is a nine-member board.

Salem Mennonite Church is hosting a **Lenten Study Series** in March to celebrate this year's 500th Anniversary of Anabaptist beginnings with believers' baptisms in Europe. Each of these presentations will be on Sunday at 4:30pm in the Fellowship Hall at South Church, with time for questions and discussion in the program. While some of the content will be familiar, we expect all will find new or forgotten aspects about our forbearers in faith that will nourish our own faith, as we continue seeking the faithful discipleship that they pursued and confessed. All are invited.

March 9, 4:30 pm, Nathan Epp - Pilgram Marpeck

March 16, 4:30 pm, Roy Kaufman - Amish Beginnings

March 30, 4:30 pm, Spencer Bradford - Menno Simons

All are welcome to join the monthly meeting of the **Freeman Network for Justice and Peace**. It will be on March 12 at 11:30 AM at the Community Room in the Freeman Public Library.

Schmeckfest kuchen will be made on Friday, March 14, starting at 12:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 15, at 9:00 a.m. If you are willing to help one or both of those days, please contact Debra Schmeichel, 648-3430. Donations of rhubarb or cherries would also be appreciated. Thank you!

The **Schmeckfest Country Kitchen** is asking for donations of food items for April 4 and April 5. Poppyseed rolls, fruit pockets, kuchen, pumpkin rolls, jam, 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!

Anabaptism at 500 Essay Contest Offers College Scholarship Opportunities: Go to <https://www.mennomedia.org/living-forward-essay-contest/> for all the details. Applications must be submitted by April 19, 2025.

Seeking God's Peace: *"Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves... What is it that stands between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters? Between us and life, the life of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment's hesitation."* - Catherine Doherty

Pastor Corey Miller

Office Hours:

Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon

corey.miller@gwtc.net

Cell phone: 319-930-7320

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Church Admin. Assistant:

Lisa Kaufman

(605) 951-1871 ~ salemzion@gwtc.net

Office hours: Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and by appointment as requested