



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

Stewardship Series: *A Spirit of Generosity*

April 14, 2024

GATHERING TO PRAISE

- Prelude Maria Paff
- Welcome and Call to Worship Tim Eisenbeis
- Lighting the Peace Lamp
- Opening Prayer
- * Hymn – *To God Be the Glory* VT #84
- * Greeting each other
- Children’s Story Liz Graber
- Offering – Central Plains Mennonite Conference
Offertory

HEARING GOD’S WORD

- Hearing the Old Testament Proverbs 30:7-9a
- Prayer of Confession (screen)
- Assurance of Pardon
- * Gospel Reading Luke 19:1-10
- Sermon – “Looking up” Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

- Song of Response – *God, Whose Giving* VT #745
- Receiving Brian and Maria Paff as New Members
- Sharing and Congregational Prayer

SENDING

- * Song – *My Soul Cries Out* VT #412
Maria Paff, flute; Sheila Epp, piano
- * Blessing
- Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Examples of generosity can be seen throughout the Bible. Today, we enter the life of Zacchaeus and are inspired by his generous example. How does Jesus convert our giving practices? Where is God inviting us to grow in our generosity? Welcome to our time of worship! We rejoice that you have joined us!

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

Youth Group: This afternoon, April 14, we will have a bowling outing at Bowlway Lanes in Marion! We will gather at the church parking lot at 3:45 p.m. and carpool to our scheduled 4 p.m. "lane time." We will have all four lanes to ourselves, pizza and a veggie tray will be provided and a selection of other snacks and drinks will be available. So if you're able to "spare" a little time, please join the fun!

THIS WEEK

- Apr. 17 (Wed)** – Children’s choir, 6:00-6:30pm
- Apr. 17 (Wed)** – Board of Education meeting at 7:00pm
- Apr. 19 (Fri)** – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm
- Apr. 19-21 (Fri-Sun)** – Pastor Corey and Nancy will be attending the annual CPMC Leader’s Retreat in Schuyler, NE

NEXT SUNDAY – Apr. 21

Next Sunday we continue our series on Stewardship. The focus of the day will be “**Healing Hands**.” The scriptures will be John 5:1-15 and Nathan Epp will be preaching.

The offering will be for Freeman Academy.

COMING EVENTS

- Apr. 23** – Deacons meeting at 7:00pm
- Apr. 28** – **Over 80’s Tea** in Fellowship Hall, 2-4pm
- May 4** – Church reserved all day by Fuente de Vida for a convention

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Janelle Ortman had successful knee replacement surgery on Tuesday. She returned home on Wednesday and is recuperating as well as can be expected after knee surgery.

- The trustees took advantage of a nice day and hosted a work day at Salem-Zion on Saturday. Take a moment to see what a beautiful place we have and thank a trustee. Our current trustees are Orville Ortman, Kyle Waltner, Jon Graber, and Kevin Albrecht.

Remember to praise God for:

- the gift of Brian, Maria, Trevor and Nathan Paff as they join our church and our faith community.
- the wonderful accomplishment of Kaitlyn Epp in graduating from The Paul Mitchell School in Kansas.
- successful surgeries for Janelle and Melissa Hall this past week.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Paul & Darlene Engbrecht.
- Janelle Ortman as she now begins the long road of recovery after surgery.
- the continuing crisis in Gaza, where thousands have been traumatized by the violence over these past several months. We grieve the loss of life in both Israel and Palestine and pray for a ceasefire in this delicate region.
- our college aged students as they begin the last segment of their semester. Pray for endurance and strength to finish well.
- those gathering for the Annual Leaders Retreat next weekend. May it be a time of rest and renewal with ministry colleagues from around the conference.

A New Pulpit has arrived! As part of the stage renovation project, a new pulpit has been built by Duane and Marlys Tieszen. They both poured themselves into this project and carefully built a beautiful pulpit with their skills, prayers, and love. Duane and Marlys write: “Marlys and I have considered it a privilege to build and finish this pulpit for Salem-Zion. We are donating the cost of all materials and our labor for this project to our church. Our prayer is that the message of Christ's love and his forgiveness coming from behind this pulpit will provide many with the courage to follow Him.” Thank you Duane and Marlys, for your generous and beautiful gift to our church at Salem-Zion!

This past week, **Kaitlyn Epp** graduated from her program at The Paul Mitchell School in Overland Park Kansas. Nathan, Sheila, and Connor, as well as all grandparents LeRoy and Janette and Burton and Jean, were able to be there for the celebration. She appreciates all of your thoughts and prayers during the past two years.

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner! This year the joint North and South Church VBS will be held at the North Church on June 3-7 starting at 9:00 AM and ending at 1:15 PM. We are looking for classroom teachers as well as volunteers to help with snacks, rec, and drama. If you are interested and willing to help in any capacity, please talk to Kelsey Pidde and Lacey Friesen. There are registration forms and a parent letter in the narthex.

The trustees will be receiving **bids for the positions of maintenance (custodian), groundskeeper, and housekeeper** for May 1, 2024 thru April 30, 2025. If you are interested in doing one of these jobs or would like more information about these jobs please contact Orville Ortman before April 20. Some additional information about the groundskeeping position is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Rachel Miller's March MVS newsletter has been posted in the narthex.

We are still in need of 3 or 4 individuals or a few families to commit to **tending the First Fruits garden** which supplies fresh produce for the Bethany Food Pantry in Freeman. This involves only weeding, harvesting and delivering the produce to the Pantry or alternate recipient. The North Church team is scheduled for 4 weeks during the entire growing season and can decide what day of the week to work. Please consider doing this as service to those in greater need in our own community.

The Freeman Network for Justice and Peace hosted an informational session about Israel-Palestine on Sunday, April 7 from 2-4 pm. It was called "**Challenging the Myth of the Israel-Palestine Narrative: A Community Conversation.**" If you were not able to attend, you can watch the recording online here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHUn2yqMaaM>.

The **South Church Mission and Service Team** would like to invite you to a **work day** on Saturday, April 20 from 9:00 a.m.-noon. We will be cutting fabric for kit bags and quilt blocks, sewing kit bags and possibly tying some comforters. You will need to bring your own supplies for cutting and sewing. If you have any questions, please contact Debra Schmeichel (648-3430).

On Saturday, April 27, **The Ortman Piano Duo**, consisting of Mory Ortman and Jordan Ortman, will perform a two-piano concert at 7:30 p.m. in Pioneer Hall. This is a rare opportunity for local music lovers to hear two grand pianos being played together - by two of Freeman's native sons, who are now professional musicians in New York City and Denver, respectively. No admission will be charged, but a freewill offering for Freeman Academy's Cultivate 120 campaign will be taken. A dessert reception will follow the concert. Plan to join us for this special treat!

Celebrating Generosity: “I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.” - C.S. Lewis

Pastor Corey Miller

Office Hours:
Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon
corey.miller@gwtc.net
Cell phone: 319-930-7320

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