



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

April 19, 2020

Restored to a New Normal

“Do you love me more than these?” - John 21:15

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude Josie Epp

Welcome Corey Miller

Call to Worship (from Psalm 30)

L: Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

**P: Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

L: You have turned my mourning into dancing;

**P: You have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,**

L: so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

**ALL: O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.**

Prayer of Invocation

## PRAISING GOD

Hymn of Praise – *Christ the Lord is risen today* HWB #280

Offering Prayer – Freeman Academy

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the New Testament Acts 9:1-20

Special Music Josie Epp

Hearing the Gospel John 21:1-19

Meditation – “Peter gets a Do Over” Corey Miller

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Song – *My life flows on* HWB #580

Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Postlude

## Church Calendar

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

### TODAY

As we continue celebrating Christ’s resurrection from the dead, we enter into Peter’s story of restoration with Jesus. When we have made big mistakes, Jesus is ready to receive us and restore us for his mission. Thanks be to God for “do overs.”

Welcome to this time of worship. We are so glad that you have tuned in.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Freeman Academy**. From its beginning, Freeman Academy has been an important ministry that Salem-Zion supports. The loss of Schmeckfest this year has been difficult for our community and the school. We pray that your generous gifts to this mission that has touched thousands of young people’s lives, will enable Freeman Academy to continue its good work of making disciples of Jesus.

### THIS WEEK

**Tuesday** – Pastor Corey ZOOM meeting with the S-Z children at 7:00pm.

### NEXT SUNDAY – April 26

Next Sunday the season of Easter continues. The theme is “**Road to Emmaus**” and the scriptures are Luke 24. Conference Minister Amanda Bleichy will be preaching at our live-streaming service.

Offering next Sunday will be for **Wellspring Wholistic Care Center**.

## Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

### Happenings over the past week:

- New blinds were installed in the Fellowship Hall and in Pastor Corey’s office this past week.
- Central Plains Mennonite Conference made the difficult decision to cancel our in-person Annual Meeting in the Twin Cities this summer. There will be some kind of virtual meeting in the middle of June to conduct some business and pray together. Plans are underway to meet in the Twin Cities in 2021.
- Paul and Darlene Engbrecht have moved in recent weeks from their apartment to Assisted Living at Tieszen Home. Their room numbers are 501 (Darlene) and 152 (Paul).

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

- the community of Sioux Falls as they respond to the health concerns in that place.

- all the health care workers, nurses, doctors and first responders who are battling COVID on the frontline.
- our students and teachers and schools, as they continue to learn, miss their friends, and feel certain losses.
- God's Spirit to breathe new life into our tired bodies, enabling us to catch new visions of how we can be the church in this time and in this place.
- the work of the Outreach and Service Committee of Central Plains Mennonite Conference. We ask for wisdom and courage as they lead by example and encouragement into new ways of thinking about and doing God's just work in our ever-changing world.

**Remember to thank God for:**

- our staff at S-Z that continue to do their work. We give thanks for Lisa, Phil, Lindy and Corey.
- the way we have been able to reach out to others because of our live-streaming services. We give thanks for Nathan Schrag and the generous use of his time and equipment.

**Worship at Salem-Zion:** The worship committee has been decided that we will continue providing live-streaming worship services at Salem-Zion for the foreseeable future. This week and next week, we are going to simplify the services by having fewer people involved as we try to practice social distancing. We are also looking at getting a ZOOM account that would be activated immediately after our worship time, to give people a chance to see one another and have some conversations if they wish. We also dream about having a drive thru or a drive by service sometime on campus, but nothing is finalized regarding that. We are all learning in this time together and we are grateful for grace, mercy and love that surrounds us as we try being the church in new ways.

**Funerals at Salem-Zion:** Remarkably, we haven't had a funeral at Salem-Zion since last summer. Whenever that time comes when we will experience a death in our church, funerals will be quite different because of COVID-19. In working closely with Walter's Funeral Home, we have discerned that only immediate family members would be present for a small service either in the chapel at Walter's or at the graveside. We would try and limit the gather to less than 10 people and would practice social distancing. At a future time, we would plan on having a memorial service when the whole community could come and enter into that time. I just wanted to make you aware of what our plans are before we have a real situation. May we continue to treat each day as a gift of God's grace to us all.

**Easter Season:** Together with the disciples, we will continue to explore encounters with the Living Christ in this Easter season. These months of being isolated have provided much time for solitude, prayer and quieting of the soul. God is certainly working in our lives and in our church in this unusual time. If you are willing, please share with Pastor Corey or the deacons what God has been doing in your life, how the Spirit's winds have been blowing, and how Jesus has spoken to you in this new time. I trust that these experiences are in fact, shaping us and our church for the ministries that God is inviting us to join. In this Easter season, may we proclaim resurrection hope in this time!

**Office Hours for staff during this season:** Because of the continued call for social distancing and staying at home, Lisa and Corey will not be keeping their normal office hours in the COVID-19 era. If you want to visit with Corey or Lisa, call their cell phone or send an email and they will get back with you. You will also notice that there is a small table in the foyer with disinfectant on it along with instructions. We want to make sure our facility helps to flatten the curve.

During this time of sheltering and limiting contacts because of COVID-19 the **deacons have set up a call person to take small orders** and miscellaneous items to those who request them from Freeman and Marion businesses. David Janssen is the contact person if you are in need of something. Please contact any of the deacons if there are other ways we can assist you. Besides David Janssen the deacons are Steve Graber, Beth Epp, Stacey Waltner, and Janette Epp.

**Household Treasury Report 3rd Sunday of month** Balance: \$6,905.43  
The household treasury pays for salaries, electric/heating bills, Sunday school materials, office supplies, etc. The average monthly expenses for the Household Treasury are around \$15,000. We greatly appreciate your giving and generosity towards these needs to keep our Salem-Zion community functioning! Thank you so much!

The **church library will remain closed** (no lock on the door) until further notice to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please hold on to any material you may have checked out. Contact librarian Marlan Kaufman if services are needed.

From Dale Nafziger: Warmest greetings to each one of you from here at the "top of the world"! In these challenging times we are blessed to journey with both the Nepali people and also with you. Thank you for your faithful prayers and giving via **Mennonite Mission Network** that make this Mission Journey

possible. Mission is a two-way street. Please know, therefore, that we faithfully continue to remember each one of you...as you, also, remember us.”

## Community Connections

Crisis agencies and our shelters in our state need **face masks** for their staff and residents. These services are essential services. Please help make masks. Here's a link to a mask pattern that a nonprofit in Spearfish is developing in consultation with Monument Health to stock their hospitals: <http://makespacesd.org/N95FilterCoverTutorialv2-1.pdf>

There may be other patterns as well. Please make masks and we can let you know where to send them. Contact Krista at [krista@sdnafvsa.com](mailto:krista@sdnafvsa.com) for more information.

**Freeman Regional Health Services and Salem Mennonite Home** are so grateful and humbled by the number of masks we've received. The gracious response of the large number of masks has shown us the talent, generosity, and support from this community, and we are so very thankful and blessed by the donations. At this time, we've received enough masks to meet our needs and encourage those who have additional masks to feel free to share them with others who may benefit from them.

The **South Dakota MCC Relief Sale**, scheduled for July 11, has been canceled for 2020. The board is working on new and creative ways for you to still contribute to MCC through the relief sale. Details coming soon.

### Online Event: Explore Ukraine! - Sunday, May 3, 7:30 PM

MEDA and Freeman's Heritage Hall Museum & Archives invite you to a FREE online event, hosted by Marnette and Vanessa Hofer. This event will use the "Zoom" video app to share photos and videos from the Hofers' 2019 journey through Ukraine and Germany.

Marnette is the Director & Archivist for Heritage Hall Museum & Archives in Freeman, SD, while Vanessa is an Associate Development Officer at MEDA, based in Lancaster, PA. MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates) is an international economic development organization whose mission is to create business solutions to poverty. Last summer, the mother-daughter duo traveled to Ukraine on a MEDA Field Experience.

The online evening event will begin with an overview of the Hofer's week with Freeman native Gary Waltner in Germany, where they visited a number of historical sites that have ties to the Freeman community. The second half of their program will offer a unique inside look at MEDA's current agricultural projects in Ukraine as well as several historical sites the group visited while in Ukraine.

You do not need to be tech savvy to use Zoom — no advance downloads required! To RSVP and receive the link to attend, or if you have questions and would like a walk-through of how to join the online event, please contact Marnette at [info@heritagehallmuseum.com](mailto:info@heritagehallmuseum.com) or by calling the Museum (605-925-7545).

### Practicing God's Peace Now

“Christ instructs us to love our enemies, which does not mean a submission to their hostile agendas or domination, but does mean treating them as human beings also created in the image of God and respecting their human rights as adversaries and even as prisoners.”

- Jim Wallis, God's Politics

