



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

Stewardship Series: *Hands to Heal the World*

April 21, 2024

GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude Kaye Waltner

Blessed be your Name with All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

(Matt and Beth Redman, arr. Tornquist)

In Christ Alone (My Hope is Found) (Stuart Townsend, arr. Tornquist)

Welcome and Call to Worship Ken Mannes

L: In the healing presence of God, we gather this morning.

P: We come as we are, with our inner wounds and physical injuries,

L: With our worries and fears about a loved one's health,

P: With our body's mortality and the reality of aging,

L: We come as we are, vessels made out of clay,

P: Filled with God's eternal glory by his grace.

ALL: In the healing presence of God, we gather this morning to worship and pray.

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Opening Prayer

* Hymn – *Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing* VT #7

* Greeting each other

Children's Story Polly Waltner

Offering – Freeman Academy

Offertory – *Be Thou My Vision* (arr. Line)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

* Gospel Reading John 5:1-15

Sermon – "Stewardship: Being Well" Nathan Epp

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Song of Response – *As I Went Down to the River to Pray* VT #453

Sharing and Congregational Prayer Gwen Ortman

SENDING

* Song – *Praise God* VT #70

* Blessing

Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

As we worship together today, we will focus on healing. Healing is much needed in our own lives, in the lives of our neighbors, and in the world around us. Jesus is the Great Healer, but healing requires action – the action of accepting God's offer for healing. Healing also requires good stewardship of our resources so that we can be an extension of God's healing presence to those around us. This is our calling as Christ-followers; to bring God's Kingdom here to earth. Welcome to our time of worship!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Freeman Academy**.

9:30am – Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

THIS WEEK

Apr. 23 (Tues) – Deacons meeting at 7:00pm

Apr. 24 (Wed) – Children's choir, 6:00-6:30pm

Apr. 26 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – Apr. 28

Next Sunday we conclude our series on Stewardship. The focus of the day will be "**Generosity, The Fruit of Gratitude.**" The scriptures will be Luke 7:36-50, Pastor Corey will be preaching, and we'll receive new members.

The offering will be for Wellspring Wholistic Care.

COMING EVENTS

Apr. 28 – Over 80's Tea in Fellowship Hall, 2-4pm

May 4 – Church reserved all day by Fuente de Vida for a convention

May 5 – Baccalaureate Service at Freeman Community Building

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Corey and Nancy traveled to Schuyler, Nebraska for annual leader's retreat. They will return back home on Sunday evening.

Remember to praise God for:

- the wondrous gift of refreshing rain that blessed God's ground where we live!

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Ardelle Schrag.

- 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.

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.

One of Salem-Zion's ministries, "**Caring and Sharing Meals**," offers us an opportunity to extend support to our fellow church members. Janelle Ortman recently had knee replacement surgery, and if anyone would like to provide a meal in the coming days, please make arrangements by contacting Orville and Janelle (605-925-7437 or Janelle's cell phone: 605-659-1321).

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. For more details or to volunteer, contact Tim Eisenbeis (605) 659-4311.

On Saturday, April 27, **The Ortmen 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!

The Freeman Ministerial Assoc. invites you to the 2024 **Community Baccalaureate Service** for Freeman High and Freeman Academy. It will be held on Sunday, May 5 at 4:00 pm, at the Freeman Community Center. Join us as we celebrate this milestone in the lives of our graduates, and invite God's blessing on their future endeavors. This year's speaker is Pastor Stuart Curry, of the Salem M.B. Church. If you are not able to join us in person, we invite you to join us online, as the event will be live streamed at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/@salemzionmennonitechurch8051>. Following

the service, we extend a warm invitation for you to join us for a taco luncheon. It's a perfect opportunity to continue celebrating our graduates.

Community Connections

Rural Revival will meet on Monday, April 22 at 8:00 p.m. at the Freeman library. All are welcome to attend.

The April edition of **On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service at <https://conta.cc/3UjUriu>. In our current issue: Kevin King shares a truly uplifting story of MDS work in Maryland, volunteers are transforming lives in Mississippi, and a long-time project in Jennings, Louisiana comes to a close. Plus, check out the volunteer opportunities for this summer and fall.

I will be starting my thru-hike of the Pacific Crest Trail soon and I would love for you to follow along. I'll be posting videos on my YouTube channel: @kleenexhikes. Feel free to subscribe so you get all my videos. The PCT is a 2,650 mile hike from the Mexican border to the Canadian border through California, Oregon and Washington. I expect it to take around 6 months. My dad and sister will be sending some packages to me while I hike, so if you have something small or homemade that you'd like to send you can give it to them to send. They have a list of suggestions. In 2012 I hiked the Appalachian Trail for Swan Lake Christian Camp and I'm excited to take on this adventure. **I ask for prayers along this journey.** Thanks so much! ~ Renee Neufeld

Peace brings Healing: "Don't forget to love the way you want to be loved, listen the way you want to be heard, speak the way you want to be spoken to, give the way you hope others will give, care the way you want others to care because change doesn't start with them. It starts right here."
- Madalyn Beck

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