



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

April 26, 2020

Meeting Jesus on the Road to Emmaus

“While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them.” - Luke 24:15

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Redeemer* (Johann Pachelbel) Dan Graber
Welcome Corey Miller

Call to Worship (from Psalm 116)

L: I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

P: Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

L: What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

P: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,

L: I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

P: I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.

ALL: Praise the LORD!

Prayer of Invocation

PRAISING GOD

Hymn of Praise – *Christ is our cornerstone* HWB #43

Offering Prayer – Wellspring Wholistic Care Center

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Greeting and Prayer Pastor Nathan Luitjens

Hearing the Gospel Luke 24:13-35 Pastor Susan Janzen

Special Music – *Road to Emmaus I* (Krehbiel) Dan Graber

Sermon Pastor Amanda Bleichy

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Special Music – *Road to Emmaus II* (Krehbiel) Dan Graber

Affirmation of Faith

Lord, you are always doing miracles with common things.
You give us bread; we break it, butter it, taste it...know it’s real.
But the mystery of seed, sprout, and leaven is hidden from us.

You give us bread; we break it, share its goodness, remember the
miracle of Jesus’ love.

But the mystery of how newness happens is hidden from us.

Lord of miracles in common things,

As we eat, help us enter the mystery of rejoicing. AMEN.

Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Postlude – *How Firm a Foundation*

arr. Jeffrey Blersch

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

It’s a long road home to Emmaus, but Jesus walks with us on the journey, even when we can’t see clearly. Today, we are blessed to have our Central Plains Conference pastors lead us in worship. They have graciously offered their gifts to all the churches in our conference and because of technology, all churches can hear them. Welcome to this time of worship. We are so glad that you have tuned in.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for Wellspring Wholistic Care Center. Wellspring is a church supported, non-profit counseling service located in the FRHS Clinic building in Freeman. The wholistic concept of Wellspring is support for each individual’s physical, emotional and social well-being. Wellspring provides a supportive environment by empowering the individual and his or her family to experience safe, productive and positive life changes.

THIS WEEK

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

NEXT SUNDAY – May 3

Next Sunday the season of Easter continues. The theme is “**Seeing and Believing**” and the text is John 20:24-31. Pastor Corey will be preaching at the live-streaming service.

Offering next Sunday will be for the **Household Treasury.**

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Helen Tieszen had a good week at the Samaritan Home in Sioux Falls after testing positive for COVID-19. While she had some mild GI symptoms, she hasn’t had a cough or fever.

- We celebrated Lisa Kaufman’s excellent work this past week on Administrative Assistant Day on Wednesday. Thank you Lisa for the tremendous work that you do for Salem-Zion!

Remember to pray for:

- Ashlyn Benjamin. Ashlyn will be finishing up her senior year of high school at Freeman Public this week on May 1. Baccalaureate and Commencement services are still unknown at this point. For all the seniors who feel losses in this spring semester, we pray for God’s healing and God’s love.
- health care professionals, mayors, governors, and other people in elected offices, as they discern and decide what’s best for people, both in this country and people around the world.
- the work of the Christian Formation Committee of Central Plains Mennonite Conference. We pray for wisdom and courage as they help us to be intentional and to think theologically about Christian formation for all ages.

Remember to thank God for:

- the promise that Jesus is on the road with us, even when we don’t always see him or understand him.
- lovely weather recently that has enabled farmers and gardeners to begin planting precious seeds in God’s good earth.
- our conference ministers who are providing counsel, resources, support and prayer to pastors, leaders and congregations.
- God’s good earth, as it continues to be gracious to us, even when we haven’t been gracious to it.

Worship at Salem-Zion in May: For the time being, Salem-Zion will continue providing live-streaming worship services at 10:30am on Sunday mornings. We will continue looking at post-resurrection stories during the month of May as we continue proclaiming Christ’s victory over the powers of sin and darkness. We will try to limit the amount of people involved in these services, but if you are open to sharing music or would like to be involved in these services, contact Pastor Corey.

Easter Season: The empty tomb and this Easter season make it impossible to go back to life as we knew it. In these days, followers of Jesus are invited to see all the places where our resurrected Lord, Savior and Friend, is revealing himself. If you have experiences where you are seeing Christ’s light and love manifested in the world in which you live, feel free to share those stories with someone, as a way of bearing witness to the resurrected Christ.

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.

Our church constitution prescribes a **congregational-pastoral review** every three years. Early this year, the administrative board appointed the following members to a review committee: Dave Janssen (deacon), Marlan Kaufman (pastor-congregation relations committee), Sherilyn Ortman (at-large), Jay Penner (admin board) and Marlys Tieszen (at-large). In March, the administrative board approved the evaluation form and process the committee had devised . . . just one week before coronavirus forced us to suspend gathering together physically. Given the circumstances, the review committee has decided to postpone the evaluation until the end of summer. Our intent is to have the process completed comfortably in advance of Salem-Zion’s annual business meeting in November.

Towards the end of last year, we as a worship committee made the recommendation to the church to purchase the new hymnal **Voices Together** to further enhance worship at Salem-Zion. At the time, we had no idea what would lie ahead and how the world would change in the first few months of 2020. The church has committed to our purchase and paid for the balance due through donations from church members, the music fund, and the youth group. We are so grateful for the contributions made by everyone so far. The difference between the cost and the funds raised is being covered with additional money from the music fund. We as a worship committee are committed to continue to raise money to replenish these additional funds to the music fund. However, given the tough financial times with uncertainty for many of us regarding jobs, farming markets, and economic security for our families, we ask that people make sure to consider their own immediate needs and the needs of our vital institutions in our community. We will continue to gladly accept donations for the Voices Together project, and will look for opportunities to connect with you more when our lives have returned to a more normal condition. Thank you to everyone for your continued support and contributions to our church community through participation in live streamed services, your thoughts and prayers, and financial support. We all look forward to the day when we can gather together once again to raise our voices together to worship at Salem-Zion! - SZ Worship Committee

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.

Community Connections

Rural Revival will hold a Zoom web meeting at 8:00 p.m. on April 27. Meeting information will be sent to people on the Rural Revival mailing list on April 23.

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 for more information.

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 or by calling the Museum (605-925-7545).

Practicing God's Peace Now

"It is not always obvious how to withdraw from systems of injustice... Yet, doing so in small ways, in places we are rooted, is how we help bring a new heaven and a new Earth to birth." – Michael Iafrate

Pastor Corey Miller

Office Hours:
Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon
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Church Admin. Assistant:

Lisa Kaufman
Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
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