



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

Stewardship Series: *Generosity: The Fruit of Gratitude*
April 28, 2024

GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude Sherilyn Ortman
All Things Bright and Beautiful (John Rutter)
For the Beauty of the Earth (John Rutter)

Welcome and Call to Worship (from Psalm 57:9-10) Paul Ortman
L: We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
P: We will sing praises to you among the nations.
L: For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens;
P: Your faithfulness extends to the clouds.
**ALL: God of love, we invite your Spirit into our hearts this morning
so that we might offer our utmost praise to you.**

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Opening Prayer

* Hymn – *For the Fruit of All Creation* VT #124

* Greeting each other

Children’s Story Kelsey Pidde

Receiving new members Chris and Carol Eisenbeis

Offering – Wellspring Wholistic Care
Offertory Noelle Friesen

HEARING GOD’S WORD

* Gospel Reading Luke 7:36-50

Sermon – “Cultivating Gratitude” Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Song of Response – *On Silken, Soft Wings* VT #676

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

SENDING

* Song – *Rain Down* VT #703

* Blessing

Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Biblical stewardship invites a life of generosity that stems from a spirit of gratitude. Our text from Luke 7 ties together forgiveness, grace, love, gratitude, and generosity in a powerful way, through the actions of a sinful woman, the response of a Pharisee and one of Jesus’ captivating parables about a benevolent moneylender. Welcome to our worship! May you feel God’s generous love and feel gratitude in your spirit.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Wellspring Wholistic Care**. 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. Appointments can be made by calling the FRHS Clinic in Freeman at (605) 925-4219.

9:30am – Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service in the sanctuary

TEA THIS AFTERNOON from 2:00 – 4:00pm

If are 80 years or older, you are welcome to attend our “Over 80’s Tea” in the fellowship hall. This time of fellowship and storytelling is hosted by the deacons and Pastor Corey. We look forward to our time together. If you are in need of a ride, please contact Tim Graber or Gwen Ortman to coordinate rides.

THIS WEEK

May 1 (Wed) – Children’s choir, 6:00-6:30pm

May 3 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

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

NEXT SUNDAY – May 5

Next Sunday is Ascension Sunday. The scriptures will be Acts 1:1-11, Ps. 47, Eph.1:15-23, and Luke 24:44-53. Pastor Corey will be preaching, and we’ll hear a testimony from the Gideon ministry.

The offering will be for the Household Treasury.

COMING EVENTS

May 5 – Baccalaureate Service at Freeman Community Building at 4:00pm

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Kerry Schafer and Lana Tieszen were united in marriage on Saturday in Sioux Falls.

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: Marian Gering.
- 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.

Did you know?

Everence (formerly Mennonite Mutual Aid) has been helping congregations for years by providing matching grants to help with people's financial needs. With the extra \$2000-\$3000 offered to us every year, Salem-Zion has utilized these funds (together with the deacon sharing fund) to help numerous people from our church and community who need financial help. Praise God for being a part of a network that offers God's generosity to so many! Our brother Tim Graber is currently our **Everence** advocate.

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.

Are you missing your brothers and sisters from Central Plains? You'll get to see them soon! Come to Wayland, IA on June 20-23 for **Annual Meeting 2024**. Our theme is "How can we know the way?" Children, youth, and adults welcome! If you are interested in serving as a delegate for Salem-Zion, please contact a deacon. Our church will assist with registration fees and other expenses. Registration is due by May 31 to get early bird rates. Go to www.centralplainsmc.org for additional details.

New information from **Everence** is available in the narthex. Check out three posters regarding upcoming online events and registration information.

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

Author to present 'A Prairie Love Affair', sign books April 28: C. Thomas Shay, who is presenting "A Prairie Love Affair" at Heritage Hall Museum & Archives (HHM&A) in Freeman on Sunday evening, April 28, will also be signing copies of his recently published book, "Under Prairie Skies." The book, which is on sale at the HHM&A Mercantile, explores the plants and native peoples of the Northern Plains, which is the theme of his illustrated program that starts at 7 p.m. at the historical Bethel Church. Shay will be signing books at the mercantile from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday as well as at the Bethel Church following his presentation. A senior scholar at the University of Manitoba, Canada, Shay has researched the northern prairies for decades. His program will explore the region from dinosaurs to the Ice Age, the native peoples from the Ice Age to the present, and the future of the prairies and its peoples. The museum will be open for guests before the program; doors will open at 3 p.m. Sunday afternoon. Museum admission will include the evening program. Admission for the program only will be charged at the door. Admission is free for HHM&A members.

The **Freeman Network for Justice and Peace** will meet Wednesday, May 8 at 11:30 A.M. in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome.

Stewardship of God's Gifts: "Stewardship is the act of organizing your life so that God can spend you." - Lynn Miller

Pastor Corey Miller

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