



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

“Christ Collides with Our Blinders”

April 6, 2025

“Lord, let me see again.” - Luke 18:41

GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude – *The Path to the Cross*

(piano arrangements by Larry Shackley)

Mory Ortman

Welcome and Call to Worship

Stacey Waltner

Prayer of Invocation

* Singing our Praise – *Will You Come and Follow Me* (vv. 1,3-5) VT #540

Greeting each other

Children’s Story

Paul Ortman

Peace Lamp

Offering – Household Treasury

Offertory – *My Jesus, I Love Thee* (arr. Dan Forrest)

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Gospel

Luke 18:31-43

Song – *Open My Eyes*

Judy Graber

Seeing the Gospel Story

Luke 19:1-10

Jeremy Waltner

Song – *Open My Eyes*

Judy Graber

Sermon – “Seeing Again”

Pastor Corey Miller

Song – *Open My Eyes*

VT #732

(congregation sings v. 1-3, 5, Judy sings vs. 4)

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Confession

All: Loving and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you.

One: We have not loved you with all our thoughts, words, and actions.

Many: We have sinned through what we have chosen to do and what we have chosen to neglect.

One: We have not fully accepted your love for us. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Many: We walk through our days with blinders on, unable to see or understand clearly.

All: We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to your love. Help us to walk with open eyes and hearts so we may better share your peace in the world, rejoicing in your name. Amen.

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

SENT OUT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS

* Song – *Christ Has No Body Here but Ours*

VT #568

* Benediction

Postlude – *Gigue* (J.S. Bach)

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Jesus invites disciples of any generation to see his Kingdom ways with clearer vision. So often, we have blinders on that prevent us from seeing through Jesus’ lens, but he is always looking to restore our sight. On this busy weekend, we are so glad that you have decided to join us for worship. Welcome!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for the **Household Treasury**.

9:30am – Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

THIS WEEK

Apr. 9 (Wed) – Children’s Choir, 6:00-6:30pm

Apr. 9 – Worship Team meeting at 6:00pm

Apr. 9 – Chancel Choir at 7:00pm, Men/Ladies at 8:00pm

Apr. 11 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – Apr. 13

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. The overall theme is “**Jesus Collides**” and the focus is “*Christ Collides with Our Expectations*.” The text is from Luke 19:29-44 and Pastor Corey will be preaching.

The offering will be for Central Plains Mennonite Conference.

COMING EVENTS

Apr. 13-16 – Holy Week Services at Salem-Zion at 7:00pm

Apr. 17 – Maundy Thursday meal and communion at 6:30pm

Apr. 18 – Good Friday Service at 7:30pm

Apr. 20 – Easter Breakfast at 9:00am, Worship at 10:30am

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Today is Marian Gering’s 100th birthday!!! Colorful cards are encouraged to be sent to her at Oakview Terrace in Freeman. While Marian can’t remember many things, she still has a smile and a pleasant disposition. Praise God for Marian and her long and faithful life!

- Dennis Herlyn has continued his treatments at Avera cancer center. He was hoping to return home by this weekend.

- Judy Gross was hoping to return home at the end of the week after being in the hospital and recovering from Covid.

- Jaraine Hansen (Ronald Unruh’s older sister) passed away recently. Jaraine’s funeral service was held this past Thursday in Sioux Falls.

- The historical pictures of our church and pastors got a makeover recently. Take a look at those newly decorated places in the church, including a framed original drawing of our current church building.
- The Times/Talents Sheets have been tabulated and will be sent to the various ministry teams to assist them in their ministry focus. A special thanks to Lisa Kaufman for doing an outstanding job in tabulating all the results!

Remember to praise God for:

- all the ways that we experience the goodness of community during Schmeckfest weekend.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Nita Engbrecht.
- Dennis Herlyn as he receives treatment at the Avera cancer center.
- Judy Gross as she recovers after Covid.
- all those who served and shared at the Schmeckfest activities this weekend.
- all those who are grieving the tragic death of thousands in Myanmar and Thailand after the recent earthquake.
- our conference ministers Nathan Luitjens and Susan Janzen, as they travel to visit our congregations in Montana--and as they travel throughout the year to visit congregations all around the conference!
- the people of Ecuador. Violence has been increasing drastically in Ecuador, and churches there are struggling to know how to respond. A letter that several groups of Anabaptist/Mennonite churches in Ecuador have composed together as a plea to the wider church has been posted in the narthex.

Thank you: Without all your support and prayers, the last 3 months would have been even more difficult. Through your cards, texts, phone calls, food, you became the hands and feet of Jesus. As we continue this journey, we ask for your prayers. - Ted and Diane Ellinger

Choirs at Salem-Zion will meet this Wednesday, April 9, to rehearse for Easter Sunday. Chancel at 7:00pm and Men/Ladies at 8:00pm. This will be an important rehearsal – it may be the only one, since each choir is only preparing one number. Please join us as we prepare to lift our voices on Easter morning!

Holy Week Services April 13-16 at Salem-Zion Mennonite at 7:00pm: This year, we are hosting the Freeman area Mennonite Churches for Holy Week services. The theme “*Have this Mind Among You,*” is taken from Philippians 2, one of our top formational scripture passages. Our speakers, **Katherine and Peter Goerzen**, grew up in the Goessel, KS area and graduated from AMBS together. Katherine is co-pastor at Tabor Mennonite Church and Peter is chair of the Bible and Religion department at Bethel College, North Newton, KS. Katherine's great grandfather, Olin Krehbiel, pastored here at Salem-Zion from 1957-1966.

There will be an **Easter Breakfast** on Easter Sunday morning, April 20, in the fellowship hall serving from 9:00 am - 10:00 am. There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday morning. Come for a time of fellowship and to celebrate our Risen Lord!

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen! **We invite you to dress up a little extra this Easter.** Ladies, if you have any Easter hats or fascinators, scarves or gloves, feel free to showcase those. Gents, if you have a special hat or vest, or wear your best tie, we invite you to do so. On Easter Sunday, why should the kids have all the fun in their cute outfits, let's join them.

The Household Treasury **monthly report** is posted in the narthex.

March Offerings and Gifts: CPMC - \$2,126.00; Deacon Sharing Fund - \$2,276.00; Flandreau - \$1,800.00; Household Treasury - \$14,796.00; MCC Meat Canning - \$800.00; MC USA - \$2,348.00; MDS - \$2,075.00; MMN - \$2,477.00; Wellspring - \$25.00.

Community Connections

The **Freeman Network for Justice and Peace** will be meeting Wednesday, April 9 at 11:30 A.M. in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome.

Et Cetera Shoppe is seeking volunteers who are willing to serve on a weekly tagging committee. We have a lot of fun doing meaningful work together - please consider joining us! Call 925-7098 or stop in the shop to express your interest.

The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association (SMCHA) is again offering **educational grants** to individuals preparing for full-time Christian service, Mennonite ministry, Mennonite voluntary service, or other related careers. Details are posted in the narthex.

Seeking God’s Peace: *“We remain as innocent as doves by employing strategies of peacemaking and nonviolence, by overcoming evil with good, through radical love and prophetic intervention, and through vulnerable noncooperation with anything that clashes with the reign of the Messiah.”* - Drew G.I. Hart, *Who Will Be A Witness: Igniting Activism for God's Justice, Love, and Deliverance*

Pastor Corey Miller
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