



Salem–Zion Mennonite Church

Stewardship Series: *Sabbath as Gift*

April 7, 2024

GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude Sheila Epp

Welcome and Call to Worship Nathan Epp
 L: We come together for sabbath rest.
P: We rest in the love of the Creator, who made us.
 L: We rest in the hope of Jesus Christ, who saves us.
P: We rest in the power of the Holy Spirit, who makes us one.
**ALL: In this hour of worship, we come as God’s people to rest together
 in the peace of God’s presence.**

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Opening Prayer

* Hymn – *Lift Your Glad Voices* VT #340

* Greeting each other

Children’s Story Laura Hofer

Offering – Household Treasury
 Offertory

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Scripture Readings Leviticus 25:1-7, Mark 2:23-28

Sermon – “Sabbath” Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Song of Response – *Touch the Earth Lightly* VT #145

Receiving New Members
 Billy Beseman
 Clara Beseman

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

SENDING

* Song – *Here I Am, Lord* VT #545

* Blessing

Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Welcome to Stewardship month! Over this next month, our focus will be on stewardship principles and practices. Today, we celebrate the practice of Sabbath rest, for ourselves, for our neighbors, and for the land. We are so glad that you are worshiping with us. Welcome to Salem-Zion!

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

9:30am – Jr. SS Opening; Sunday School for all ages
 10:30am – Worship Service
 2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

This afternoon at 2:00pm in the Freeman Community Center, three speakers will give a presentation that outlines the religious significance of the Holy Land from the perspective of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. The session will go from 2-4pm. Each speaker will offer a 20 min. presentation and then 10 min. of questions after. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome to become better informed by these speakers regarding the conflict in the Middle East.

THIS WEEK

Apr. 9 (Tues) – Outreach and Service meeting at 7:30pm

Apr. 12 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – Apr. 14

Next Sunday we continue our series on Stewardship. The focus of the day will be “**Generosity as Gift**.” The scriptures will be Proverbs 30:7-9a and Luke 19:1-10. Pastor Corey will be preaching and we will continue to receive new members into our fellowship at Salem-Zion.

The offering will be for Central Plains Mennonite Conference.

COMING EVENTS

Apr. 17 – Board of Education meeting at 7:00pm

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

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- On Saturday the Administrative Board met to consider how to implement the ideas offered by the envisioning task force regarding our church structure and organization. More information will be shared when clarity comes.

Remember to praise God for:

- the rains that have recently brought needed moisture to the soil, pastures, and land.
- resurrection power that continues to breathe life, hope, light, and love into our lives as Christ’s witnesses.
- the gift of Sabbath rest and how God’s peace comes through Sabbath practice.
- the gift of Billy and Clara Beseman (and Bella) as they join our church fellowship and ministry.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Nita Engbrecht.
- Melissa Hall, daughter to Ken and Mary. Melissa will be at Mayo having an all-day surgery to help restore her facial nerves following her past surgeries on April 8. This is an important surgery and the family appreciates all prayers. Melissa will be in the hospital for a while due to the proximity to the brain, and will be monitored very closely and stay until the danger of infection is minimized.
- our sister churches in Montana: Ashland Christian Fellowship, Lame Deer, White Chapel and White River Cheyenne Mennonite Churches.

Bowling/Pizza Party for Youth: Youth group, mark your calendars for Sunday, April 14 for a bowling outing at Bowlway Lanes in Marion! We will gather at the church parking lot at 3:45 p.m. and carpool to our scheduled 4 p.m. "lane time." We will have all four lanes to ourselves, pizza and a veggie tray will be provided and a selection of other snacks and drinks will be available. So if you're able to "spare" a little time, please join the fun! Any and all perfect games will be announced in church the following Sunday!

The trustees will be receiving **bids for the positions of maintenance (custodian), groundskeeper, and housekeeper** for May 1, 2024 thru April 30, 2025. If you are interested in doing one of these jobs or would like more information about these jobs please contact Orville Ortman before April 20. Some additional information about the groundskeeping position is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

NEW Service Opportunity! The Bethany Food Pantry (Freeman) serves about 50 needy households each month, from the Freeman, Menno and Olivet areas. The coordinator is asking Salem-Zion for help with a volunteer or two to serve there for 2–4 hours each month on the first or third Friday. This involves stocking shelves, sorting and trimming boxes, assisting shoppers, recycling and locking up. For more details or to volunteer, contact Tim Eisenbeis (605) 659-4311.

Under the umbrella of Wellspring, counselors from The Changing Behavioral Group have been seeing clients at Freeman Regional, providing **mental health support**. Realizing the importance of this service, Salem-Zion has funds available for its members, including children, adolescents and adults. Make an appointment by calling the Freeman Clinic, mentioning you are a Salem-Zion member. If you have questions, please call the Group office at 605-201-0104.

Community Connections

The Freeman Academy Chamber Choir traveled to Goshen, Indiana this week for the annual **MSC Choir Festival**. Their concert will be live-streamed on Sunday, April 7th at 2:00pm Central Time. Here is the link: <https://www.bethanycs.net/apps/pages/choirfestival>.

The Freeman Network for Justice and Peace will meet Wednesday, April 10 at 11:30 A.M. at the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome.

MCC invites you to take the challenge: A month of climate actions for peace! Sign up to get your free calendar with a different climate action you can take each day in April. From learning to praying to advocating, this month of activities will help you take action to address climate change. Join the challenge as an individual, family, church or small group. Sign up today for A Month of Climate Actions for Peace at mcc.org/month-climate-action-peace!

Celebrating Sabbath during Easter season: “Sabbath is the celebration of life beyond and outside productivity.” - Walter Brueggemann

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