



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

**“Ascension Sunday”
May 21, 2023**

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name / Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Mavis Ortman
Elizabeth Janssen

Welcome

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Call to Worship (from Psalm 47)

L: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

P: For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.

L: God has gone up with a shout, with the sound of a trumpet.

P: We sing praise to God who is our King.

ALL: For God is King of all the earth!

Prayer of Invocation

* Hymn – *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

VT #411

Greeting each other

Children's Story

Beth Bontrager

Offering – Student Tuition Sharing Fund

Offertory – *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

Recognizing our Graduating High School Seniors

Jess Bashige

Connor Epp

Simeon Eremin

Albert Kalonji

Leo Wang

Prayer for Graduates

Ephesians 1:15-23

Special Music – *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* LeRoy Epp & D. J. Sims

HEARING GOD'S WORD

New Testament

Acts 1:1-11

Sermon – “Going Up and Going Out”

Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD

Song – *Beyond a Dying Sun*

VT #416

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

* Sending Song – *Although Our Lord Has Left Us*

VT #366

* Benediction

Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

We celebrate Ascension Day and remember that holy moment when Jesus was lifted up in a cloud. We continue to ponder what it means to wait for the Holy Spirit's power as we follow Jesus today. Welcome everyone to this place as we worship God together!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for the **Student Tuition Sharing Fund**.

9:30am – Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

5:30pm – Youth BBQ at Dan and Tina Graber's

THIS WEEK

May 22 (Mon) – Final Anabaptist Bible Study at 7:00pm. The text will be Proverbs 4:20-27.

May 23 (Tues) – Joint Worship Committee & Music Committee meeting at 7:30pm

May 24 (Wed) – Meeting with Deacons, Baptismal candidates and parents at 7:00pm in SZ Fellowship Hall

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

NEXT SUNDAY – May 28

Next Sunday is **Pentecost Sunday** as we celebrate the dramatic coming of the Holy Spirit. The scriptures include Acts 2 and John 20:19-23. We will be celebrating the baptisms of five young people and Pastor Corey will be preaching.

Next week the offering is for **Mennonite Central Committee**.

COMING EVENTS

May 28 – Pentecost/Baptism Sunday

June 5-9 – Joint North and South Church VBS at the South Church

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Mary Schmidt moved to her new home at Avera Prince of Peace in Sioux Falls. Her new room is Boulder Creek 1.

- Julie Brown and another member from Community Peacemaker Teams spoke on Thursday night about the ongoing work and mission of CPT.

Remember to praise God for:

- Ken and Mary Mannes' daughter, Melissa, had a good surgery last Tuesday at the Mayo Clinic. Prayers as healing continues for Melissa.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Helen Tieszen.
- our high school graduating seniors.
- our five baptismal candidates as they prepare for their believer's baptism next Sunday: Ella Waltner, Liam Ortman, Tyce Benjamin, Sam Waltner, Josh Janssen.
- the Central Plains congregations that are in the midst of processes of congregational discernment. We pray for God's leading and guidance in the midst of changing congregational patterns.

The Board of Education is excited to announce our **summer Sunday School series**, LOFT "Living Our Faith Together". This is a time for all ages to join together on Sunday mornings. There will be childcare for those children Preschool age and younger each Sunday during LOFT. We will be meeting in the fellowship hall; coffee starts at 9:00 am with programming starting at 9:30 am. Each month will focus on different topics: June will center around Creation Care, in July we will be hearing from some in our congregation who have done service through various organizations, and August will focus on Mind, Body, Soul, and Mental Health. The question to be answered during the summer will be "Where did you see God?" and/or "Where do you see God?" We look forward to this time and hope you will join us as we experience "Living Our Faith Together!"

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner! This year the joint North and South Church VBS will be held at the South Church on June 5-9 starting at 9:00 AM and ending at 1:15 PM. Registration forms are available in the narthex. Please leave your completed registration forms in Kelsey Pidde's or Lacey Friesen's church mailbox by May 21.

Salem-Zion is scheduled to serve the evening meal at **The Banquet** in Sioux Falls on **Thursday, June 22. The Banquet is a feeding ministry whose "mission is to equip volunteers to provide food and fellowship to those served through the ministry of the Banquet. We provide a safe place where people can gather, receive nourishment, and experience love in action"** – taken from their Mission Statement. The cost of the meal is around \$1000. If you are willing to be part of this ministry you can help by donating to the cost of the meal and/or by signing up to help prepare or serve the meal. There is a **sign-up sheet** for workers on the bulletin in the narthex. Monetary donations can be given to Anita Eisenbeis, Amy Kaufman or Lacey Friesen. Checks should be made out to **Salem-Zion Mennonite Church (memo line The Banquet)**. Information about this organization is available at www.thebanquetsf.org.

We are still looking for a couple more **delegates for Mennonite Church USA Convention** in Kansas City, MO July 3-8. If you are interested, contact a deacon or Pastor Corey. Our church will assist with registration fees and other expenses.

It's not too late to get the discounted rate for **CPMC's Annual Meeting**—but rates go up on May 26! Register today to come worship, learn, fellowship and discern with your brothers and sisters in Central Plains! See our website for more information and to register, www.centralplainsmc.org.

Community Connections

On Saturday, June 10, at 7:30 pm, our community is welcoming **Ted and Company** to Freeman Academy's Pioneer Hall. FREE to the public, all are welcome. A freewill offering will be collected at the conclusion of the show. Following the offering, the audience will be invited to a 30-minute talkback conducted by the performers. Starring Ted Swartz and Michelle Milne, **We Own This Now** is a play by Alison Casella Brookins that seriously looks with humor at love of land, loss of land, and what it means to "own" something. Chris has farmed the land his grandmother found as a home in Kansas after fleeing Russia almost 100 years ago; his daughter Riley is learning more about who was on that land before her Oma arrived, and the jarring connections she has to the fate of those people. More information about the play can be found on our **We Own This Now** page: <https://www.tedandcompany.com/shows/we-own-this-now/>.

The May edition of **On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service at <https://conta.cc/3o6Ll1>. In our current issue: a West Virginia family finds a safe haven in an MDS-built home; a disaster survivor shares the terror of riding out Hurricane Fiona; cooks share the joys and challenges of feeding an MDS crew.

Peace for all: "At His Ascension, our Lord entered Heaven, and He keeps the door open for humanity to enter." – Oswald Chambers