



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

May 24, 2020

Ascension of the Lord!

“You are witnesses of these things.” - Luke 24:48

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *Amazing Grace* (arr. Jack Schrader) Dan Graber
 Choral Call – *Christ, we do all adore thee* Rachel Miller, Hannah Miller
 Welcome Stacey Waltner

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 47)

L: Clap your hands, all you peoples!

P: Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

L: For God has ascended with shouts of triumph and trumpet fanfare!

P: Our God is exalted on high, Sovereign over all the nations, and Lord of our lives.

ALL: Let us worship our exalted LORD together!

Prayer of Invocation

PRAISING GOD

Hymn of Praise – *All hail the power of Jesus’ name* HWB #106
 Offering – Mennonite Central Committee
 Offertory Liam Ortman
 Offering Prayer

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the New Testament Acts 1:1-11
 Special Music Solomon Ortman
 Hearing the Gospel Luke 24:44-53
 Sermon – “You are witnesses” Pastor Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Song – *God has chosen me* SS #114
 Sharing and Congregational Prayer
 Sending Song – *Move in our midst* HWB #418
 Benediction
 Postlude – *Sing to God’s Name!* (Gilbert Martin) Dan Graber

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Ascension Sunday recalls the incredible story of Jesus being lifted up into glory. While we are tempted to continue looking into the clouds, we, like the disciples, are invited to get involved in the witnessing ministry that Jesus has left for us. Welcome to this time of worship. We are so glad that you are here with us.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for Mennonite Central Committee. 2020 marks the 100th year celebration of MCC’s ministry. Many in our church have served with MCC all across the world. In this past year, our own Gabriel Eisenbeis began with the MCC Meat Canner before it was shut down in March. We praise God for all the ways that God’s healing and hope has come through the ministry of MCC!

THIS WEEK

Tuesday – Pastor Corey ZOOM meeting with the younger SZ children at 7:00pm (pre K – 4th grade)
 – Pastor Corey ZOOM meeting with the older SZ children at 7:30pm (5th grade – 8th grade)
Wednesday – Board of Education meeting

NEXT SUNDAY – May 31

Next Sunday is Pentecost! The theme is “*God’s Spirit Poured Out*” and the texts are Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, I Peter 4:12-14, John 17:1-11 and Pastor Corey will be preaching.
 Offering next Sunday will be for **Swan Lake Christian Camp.**

COMING EVENTS

June 20 – Central Plains Mennonite Conference delegate sessions via ZOOM. 9:30am-12:00pm.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- TODAY, Delmar and Maxine Ortman are celebrating their 68th wedding anniversary! Congratulations Delmar and Maxine and may God bless your lives in this special moment.
 - Hannah Miller recently moved from Indiana to Freeman to begin her master’s program in Social Work at USD. She is taking classes online.

- Paul and Darlene offer their heartfelt thanks for all the cards, letters and prayers that have come from their Salem-Zion church family for Paul and Darlene regarding their recent health concerns and move.

-A recently formed task force met this week to discern about when and how to “open” church again. The task force includes Mark Ortman (moderator), Paul Ortman (assistant moderator), Janette Epp (deacon), Jay Penner (trustee), Nancy Miller (worship) and Pastor Corey.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Nita Engbrecht.
- wisdom and discernment from the Holy Spirit as we reflect on when and how we can worship together again at our church building.
- those who are most vulnerable in our communities in this strange time, as in all times. May our eyes be opened to the possibilities for love and the protection of the least of these among us.

Remember to thank God for:

- Delmar and Maxine’s 68th wedding anniversary.
- Paul and Darlene as they settle into their new normal and count their blessings every day.

Survey regarding our live-streaming services: The worship committee invites you to fill out the recent survey sent to you regarding our live-streaming services. Please fill out the simple survey and return it to the church email address by **May 31**. Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to share your thoughts and perspectives as we try to navigate through this different time in our lives and in our church.

In this very trying and difficult time of uncertainty, I'd like to say **thank you** to everyone for their wonderful giving! It continues to amaze me how kind hearted and generous you all are in this congregation! Thank you again for sharing your gifts to help keep our church going! - Lacey Friesen, treasurer

The trustees will be looking for help to wash the flat part of the church roof in June. We hope to do it in a forenoon following an overnight shower or rain, so it cannot be scheduled far in advance! Please contact one of the trustees if you will be able to help. You will need to bring a push broom and appropriate foot wear for wet conditions, and perhaps a protective face mask.

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.

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

Mennonite Disaster Service has launched *On the Level*, a monthly online newsletter to inform and inspire you! In our current issue, you'll read how MDS volunteers helped a victim of multiple disasters return home even after closing down the project. You can also learn how special funds are helping Mennonite churches in the U.S. and Canada keep their doors open. To read more, go to: <https://conta.cc/2LGvidw>.

God’s peace brings justice

For true evangelical faith... cannot lay dormant; but manifests itself in all righteousness and works of love; it... clothes the naked; feeds the hungry; consoles the afflicted; shelters the miserable; aids and consoles all the oppressed; returns good for evil; serves those that injure it; prays for those that persecute it. - Menno Simon

Pastor Corey Miller
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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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