



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

**Ascension Sunday
May 5, 2024**

“While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven.” (Lk. 24:51)

GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude – *Rejoice, ye pure in heart* (Emma Lou Diemer) Ken Mannes

Welcome and Call to Worship (from Psalm 47) LeRoy Epp

L: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy!
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’s worship together!

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Opening Prayer

* Hymn – *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns* VT #101

* Greeting each other

Children’s Story Sheila Epp

Missional Moment from the Gideons Bud Arbeiter

Offering – Household Treasury

Offertory – *Jesus, lover of my soul* (Emma Lou Diemer)

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the New Testament Ephesians 1:15-23

Special Music Josh Hofer

* Gospel Reading Luke 24:44-53

Sermon – “Endings and Beginnings” Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Song – *One Is the Body* VT #386

Congregational Prayer

* Song – *Although Our Lord Has Left Us* VT #366

* Blessing

Postlude – *Allegro Maestoso* (Felix Mendelssohn)

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

“*You are witnesses of these things,*” Jesus told his disciples before he ascended into heaven. The disciples had a lot to process in this moment of saying goodbye and beginning their ministry. How does Jesus’ ascension capture your heart and life as we both witness and wait for his return? Welcome to our time of worship!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for the **Household Treasury**. Did you know that the Boiler inspector came on Thursday for the two-year Boiler checkup, and our Boiler passed the inspection with flying colors! Money given to the household treasury helps pay for this inspection and all things that are Boiler related! 😊

9:30am – Jr. SS Opening; Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

The Freeman Ministerial Assoc. invites you to the 2024 **Community Baccalaureate Service** for Freeman High and Freeman Academy this afternoon at 4:00pm, 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. Following the service, we extend a warm invitation for you to join us for a taco luncheon.

Live stream link: <https://www.youtube.com/@salemzionmennonitechurch8051>

THIS WEEK

May 8 (Wed) – Children’s choir, 6:00-6:30pm

May 10 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

May 11 (Sat) – Sunday Evening Fellowship event (Rodney and Tiffany Hammerstrom) at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – May 12

Next Sunday we will remember God’s call to nurture. The scriptures will be Acts 1:21-26, Ps. 1, I John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19, and Pastor Corey will be preaching.

The offering will be for Central Plains Mennonite Conference.

COMING EVENTS

May 30 – Serving at The Banquet in Sioux Falls

June 3-7 – Bible School at Salem-Zion

June 20-23 – CPMC Annual Meeting in Wayland, Iowa

September 7-8 – 150th Anniversary of the Swiss-Volhynian Mennonites in Freeman. We are still looking to receive stories and memories from your extended families regarding life in the early years of Dakota Territory.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- The Fuente de Vida congregation hosted a regional conference held at our church on Saturday.

Remember to praise God for:

- the moisture that has come to settle in this area.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: LaVonne Schrag.
- patience as the farmers wait for the fields to dry out to plant crops.
- grace in our country, especially on college campuses that grapple with the violence in the Middle East.
- willing volunteers to attend Central Plains Mennonite Conference. Salem-Zion is allotted 6 delegates to join in vibrant Bible Studies, interesting reporting, and warm fellowship with other parts of our CPMC. Talk to Gwen or Pastor Corey if you are interested or willing to go.
- the work of the Pastoral Leadership Committee of Central Plains Mennonite Conference. We pray for wisdom and courage as they develop and walk alongside both new and experienced pastoral leaders.

Sunday Evening Fellowship welcomes you to an evening with Rodney and Tiffany Hammerstrom on **May 11 at 7 pm**. Rodney is a husband to Tiffany - who teaches elementary music, art, theatre arts and comm. tech. at Freeman Academy. Rodney will be sharing his story in dealing with a tragic accident and how his faith in Jesus helped him through the challenges. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Salem-Zion is scheduled to serve the evening meal at **The Banquet** in Sioux Falls (west location) on **Thursday, May 30**. The Banquet's mission is to welcome the community to gather and serve each other, feeding body and spirit. A **sign-up sheet** for workers to prepare and/or serve the meal is located on the bulletin board in the narthex. The **Sunday morning offering** on May 19 will go toward the expense of the meal. Contact Anita Eisenbeis or Amy Kaufman with any questions.

The May church **newsletter** is available on the table in the narthex.

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner! This year the joint North and South Church VBS will be held at the North Church on June 3-7 starting at 9:00 AM and ending at 1:15 PM. If you have questions or would like to inquire about remaining volunteer opportunities, please talk to Kelsey Pidde or Lacey Friesen.

Central Plains Annual Meeting isn't just for delegates and pastors (although if you are interested in serving as a delegate for Salem-Zion, please contact Gwen or Pastor Corey)--All are invited to Wayland, IA, June 20-23 to worship, learn, fellowship and discern together! Visit the CPMC website to learn more and to register! www.centralplainsmc.org

Church email addresses: If you would like to reach the technical committee with any items for projection on Sunday mornings, please use the following email address: salemzionmennonite@gmail.com. To reach Lisa in the church office, the email address is salemzion@gwtc.net. We forward emails to the intended recipient, but wanted to make everyone aware of both email accounts.

Community Connections

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.

The **Freeman Regional Hospital Auxiliary** is having its May fund drive. Please put donations into Renee Hartman's mailbox as soon as possible. Thanks!

The May issue of the **Swan Lake Christian Camp** newsletter is now available at <https://myslcc.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/May-newsletter-2024.pdf>.

Seeking to live God's Peace: "Speaking out against the genocide in Gaza is not antisemitic — it is loving, humane, decent. And speaking out against the violence of Oct. 7 by Hamas is not anti-Palestinian or anti-Arab - it is loving, humane, decent. Every Israeli life is precious. And every Palestinian life is just as precious. Ceasefire now. Release the hostages. End the violence. More killing will not stop the killing." – Shane Claiborne