



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

“Living Stones”
May 7, 2023

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude Sheila Epp

Welcome Nathan Epp

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Call to Worship (from Psalm 31)

L: We praise you O God, for you are a rock of refuge for us.

P: You are our rock and our fortress, a safe shelter from the storms.

L: We exalt and rejoice in your steadfast love.

P: You have set our feet on a broad place, a firm foundation.

ALL: Let your face shine upon your servants. Save us with your steadfast love.

Prayer of Invocation

* Hymn – *Christ Is Our Cornerstone* VT #4

Greeting each other

Children’s Story Diane Ellinger

Offering – Household Treasury
Offertory

HEARING GOD’S WORD

New Testament Acts 7:55-60, 1 Peter 2:2-10

Song – *Living Stones* insert

Sermon – “The Living Church is Built...” Matthew Tschetter

RESPONDING TO GOD

Song – *Let Us Build a House* VT #36

Blessing of the Seed Corey Miller

Congregational Prayer

Sending Song – *The Hand of God Shall Hold You* VT #671

Benediction

Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

We welcome Matthew Tschetter to our pulpit today. Matthew, who originally grew up here in Freeman, recently accepted a job with Caminando Juntos – Presentation Sisters Hispanic Ministry in Sioux Falls. Welcome to our worship!

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

4:00pm – Community Baccalaureate Service in the Freeman Community Building

Community Baccalaureate Service: Come and worship with the Freeman Ministerial Association and graduates of Freeman Public High School and Freeman Academy. The Baccalaureate Service will be this afternoon, May 7, 2023 at 4 PM at the Freeman Community Center and is sponsored by the Freeman Ministerial Association. The service will also be live-streamed from this link: [YouTube.com/@salemzionmennonitechurch8051](https://www.youtube.com/@salemzionmennonitechurch8051).

THIS WEEK

May 8 (Mon) – Administrative Board meeting at 7:30pm

May 10 (Wed) – Anabaptist Bible Study at 7:00pm

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

NEXT SUNDAY – May 14

Next Sunday we continue celebrating the Easter season with the theme: “***Celebrating the Home.***” The scriptures include Psalm 139 and Luke 2:41-52. We will also have a dedication service for two young children. Pastor Corey will be preaching.

Next week the offering is for **Central Plains Mennonite Conference**.

COMING EVENTS

May 14 – Child Dedication Service at Salem-Zion

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

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Pastor Corey attended the Leader’s Retreat in Nebraska with 17 other pastors and spouses from CPMC.

- Mary Schmidt continues to make progress in regaining her strength. She will hopefully be transferred to the Avera Prince of Peace facility for rehab and will remain at that facility to live.
- The Anabaptist Bible Study group met to begin our journey in studying the four texts given to us. Marlan and Rose Kaufman, Polly Waltner, Elizabeth Janssen, Beth Epp, Ken and Mary Mannes, and André Eisenbeis make up our team and will be studying the Bible this month. Our comments, questions, and observations will be shared with the organization that is compiling these and the end result will eventually be an Anabaptist Bible.

Remember to praise God for:

- the good seeds that we are so blessed to plant in the ground.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: LaVonne Schrag.
- Mary Schmidt as she recovers and regains strength.
- 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.

The **women’s book study has been put on hold** for now due to the busyness of spring and all of the events (i.e. graduations) that will be taking place. We will look at restarting this fall when school starts again.

You are Cordially Invited to the
FREEMAN ACADEMY GRADUATION
 Pioneer Hall
 Saturday, May 20, 2:00 pm
 &
GRADUATION PARTY
 3:15-4:30 pm
 In the Dining Hall
 To Celebrate Our International Students
 Jess Bashige
 Simeon Eremin
 Albert Kalonji
 Leo Wang

April Offerings and Gifts: Household Treasury - \$10,742.00; Cemetery - \$100.00; Deacon Sharing Fund - \$186.00; Ross Richers - \$170.00; Heifer International - Jr. Sunday School - 1 goat - \$130.00; MDS - \$50.00; Wellspring - \$992.00; CPMC - \$889.00; FA - \$1,672.00; Ross Richers - \$2,344.00.

A copy of the Household Treasury **monthly report** is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Rachel Miller’s April **MVS newsletter** and the April **Oyate Hope Academy newsletter** have been posted on the bulletin board 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 South Church on June 5-9 starting at 9:00 AM and ending at 1:15 PM. If you are interested and willing to help in any capacity, please talk to Kelsey Pidde or Lacey Friesen. Also, registration forms are available in the narthex. Please leave your completed registration forms in Kelsey’s or Lacey’s church mailbox by May 21.

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.

Community Connections

The Freeman Academy Music Department will present their High School **Spring Concert** Thursday, May 11, at 7:30 p.m. in Pioneer Hall. A variety of music will be performed by the Concert Choir, the Chamber Choir, and the Concert Band (grades 7-12). Music awards will be presented during the evening. Come join us!

God’s Gospel of Peace for all: “When the Gospel has become bad news to the poor, to the oppressed, to the broken-hearted and imprisoned and good news to the proud, self-righteous and privileged instead, it is no longer the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.” – Beth Moore

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