



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

June 21, 2020

“I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord.”

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *Sonata K. 238* (Domenico Scarlatti) Josie Epp

Welcome and Call to Worship (inspired by Jeremiah 29:1,4-7) Corey Miller

L: A word of encouragement came from prophet to people;

P: Live a life that is full – build, plant, eat, love, multiply -

L: Pray for your communities

P: Keep God in the center of all that is.

L: We enter into worship today with hope in our hearts.

P: For something happens here that reminds us that we can live as God desires.

L: God has made a promise of faithfulness to us

P: and we can trust the promise.

Opening Prayer

Congregational Song – *What is this place* HWB #1

Celebrating God’s Mission – Service and Mission Fund
Menuet and Ballo (James Hook) Timothy Epp

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Old Testament Scripture Jeremiah 29:5-7

Sermon – “Seek the Peace” Pastor Nathan Luitjens

SENDING TO SERVE

Song *Let us break bread together* HWB #453

Communion *Eat this bread* HWB #471

Congregational Prayer

Sending Song – *The peace of the earth be with you* SJ #77

Benediction

Postlude – *God be with you till we meet again* arr. Paul Cardall

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

The theme for Central Plains Annual Meeting is **Jeremiah 29:5-7**. The prophet Jeremiah speaks to the exiles in Bablyon who want nothing more than to go home and return to the lives they knew in Israel. But God has something else for them. Instead of pining for the homes they knew, the exiles are invited to grow roots where they have been planted. To make this place a home, and to work here for God’s peace. Welcome everyone!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for the **Service and Mission Fund**. This fund helps send kids to camp at Swan Lake, assists with needs at “The Banquet” and provides supplies for Bearcat Avenue at Marion Public and Caring Closet at Freeman Academy among many other services. Recently, Service and Mission sent funds to Cornerstones to assist with English language classes. Your generous contributions to this fund help with God’s restorative justice and healing purposes in the world.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday – ZOOM Devotional at 10:00am (Psalm 46). The ZOOM link is the same every week.

Thursday – Ad Hoc Committee Meeting at church at 7:30pm

NEXT SUNDAY – June 28

Next Sunday we welcome you to join us in worship at Salem-Zion Mennonite Church. Even though we won’t have Sunday school on site (that will happen via ZOOM), we will open our doors for public worship. Please note details on the insert. The theme is “*The Spirit Outpoured in Evangelism*”, the scripture text is Acts 8:26-40, and Pastor Corey will be preaching.

Offering next Sunday will be for **Mennonite Church USA**.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Salem-Zion’s delegates attended Central Plains Mennonite Conference yesterday via ZOOM. Our delegates were: Pastor Corey, David Janssen, Steve Graber, John Epp, Marlan Kaufman, Janelle Ortman and Janette Epp.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Duane & LaVonne Schrag.
- wisdom, flexibility, patience and grace as we begin preparing for gathering in worship again.

- the shared work of Central Plains Mennonite Conference, that we would continue to be empowered and encouraged by our relationships with one another to do the work of God in our local communities and around the world, bringing God's shalom to each of our cities and towns.

Remember to thank God for:

- the refreshing rain and the reprieve from the wind on Thursday.
- all the ways our consciences are being awakened to social justice in these days.
- the gift of our fathers and for all the ways they have nurtured and loved us.

Our church is scheduled to serve the evening meal at **The Banquet on July 16**. They have been serving meals to go since March 13 but anticipate opening the dining room on July 6. If you are interested in helping prep the meal (6 people) or serving (20-25 people) please sign-up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board or call Janette Epp or Lillie Eisenbeis. Gloves and masks will be required and provided for workers. They are requesting anyone with a compromised health issue not to serve. If we are not able to send enough workers *The Banquet* will provide additional ones. Salem-Zion will still sponsor the cost of the meal. Watch for further information in next week's bulletin.

We will be holding an **Adult Sunday School Zoom class** on June 21 and 28 at 9:30 a.m. for 45 minutes via the church Zoom account. You will receive the Zoom link at the same time you receive the worship service streaming information on Saturdays. We will be using the Uniform series summer quarterlies which are available at the church.

Student Tuition Sharing Fund: Parents, please contact John Epp or Polly Waltner by July 1st if your child is planning on attending Freeman Academy or a Mennonite College for the 2020-2021 school year.

For those who had individual subscriptions to *Mennonite World Review* and were part of our group subscription to *The Mennonite*, you would have received renewal options (with a response deadline of June 30) as *Anabaptist World* is being launched in September. You may choose the "Group Subscriber" option if you wish, and once Salem-Zion reaches our renewal period, more information will be available for everyone in the congregation.

Office Hours update for staff: Pastor Corey is in his office Tuesday-Friday mornings. If you would like to visit with Corey either in the morning or in the afternoon, give him a call or send an email. Lisa remains available by e-mail and phone throughout the week.

Household Treasury Report 3rd Sunday of month - Balance: \$7,507.86
The household treasury pays for salaries, electric/heating bills, Sunday school materials, The Mennonite and Upper Room, taxes, insurance, etc. The average monthly expenses for the Household Treasury are around \$15,000. We greatly appreciate your giving and generosity towards these needs to keep our Salem-Zion community functioning! Thank you so much!

Masks have been donated through Krista Graber to South Dakota social service agencies that work around domestic violence, human trafficking, child safety, as well as other organizations and individuals. Donations of reusable face-masks are an ongoing request by non-profits around the state. Please add your donations to the basket located in the Narthex of church.

Here are two links to mask patterns, a rectangular mask: <http://makespacesd.org/N95FilterCoverTutorialv2-1.pdf> and a mask with option of a pocket for a filter:

<https://www.instructables.com/id/Olson-Mask-for-PPE-With-Filter-for-Personal-and-No/>

If you have questions about how to make a mask or are in need of supplies, Charity Ortman is serving as a contact person on behalf of Salem-Zion's Outreach & Service Committee.

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

Rural Revival will hold the annual membership meeting and election of officers on Monday, June 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Upper Meeting Room of the Et Cetera Shoppe in Freeman. Following that meeting will be the regular monthly meeting. The meetings will also be on the internet through a Zoom web meeting. Come see what we're all about!

Freeman Academy is accepting applications for the Faith and Leadership Scholarship for students in grades 9-12. Recipients receive 40% off regular high school tuition and a scholarship to attend summer leadership training through their denomination or an approved regional or national program. Like all Freeman Academy high school students, recipients take courses in Bible content, church history and contemporary global Christianity, and in Christian discipleship and practice. Students also attend chapel, where they

hear presentations from a range of Christian traditions as well as participate in spiritual formation activities. Freeman Academy families represent a variety of faith backgrounds, which are incorporated into student life on campus. Applicants must be new students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher who wish to develop their leadership skills through contributions to the school. An interview and short essay are required. Scholarship recipients who maintain a 3.5 GPA and complete the leadership requirements, receive the 40% discount each year of high school. Details at [FreemanAcademy.org/scholarships/](https://freemanacademy.org/scholarships/). Deadline July 15. Contact Lynnelle Allison, Enrollment Director, for more information.

The June edition of On the Level is now available from **Mennonite Disaster Service**. In our current issue, you can read how MDS volunteers helped Hesston College make modifications to campus housing to improve student health and safety. You can learn how MDS innovation and creativity is helping to bring a flood victim home after four years of waiting. Plus MDS shares how it is planning and visioning for an eventual return to projects. Read more at <https://conta.cc/2UX1MVZ>.

Seeking God's peace in our Baptism: "The crisis in the U.S. church has almost nothing to do with being liberal or conservative; it has everything to do with giving up on the faith and discipline of our Christian baptism and settling for a common, generic U.S. identity that is part patriotism, part consumerism, part violence and part affluence." ~ Walter Brueggemann

Pastor Corey Miller
Office Hours:
Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon
corey.miller@gwtc.net
Cell phone: 319-930-7320

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Church Admin. Assistant:
Lisa Kaufman
Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(605) 925-7771 ~ salemzion@gwtc.net

Dear Salem-Zion Members:

Over the past 3 months, we have experienced many changes in our lives due to the coronavirus pandemic. Most notably at Salem-Zion, we have not been able to worship together in person, learn in Sunday School, or enjoy face to face conversations with each other.

Our Ad Hoc committee has been meeting regularly to consider all the variables needed in order for us to "reopen" for public worship. As we continue to listen to the national health experts regarding the decline in Covid-19 cases as well as stay up to date regarding our peak in South Dakota, we are planning to reopen church worship services with safe physical distancing. We stress that people's health and their safety is our primary concern and so this plan implements many safety measures.

We know that gathering in any size increases the risk of catching this virus, but we also know that with these precautions, worshipping together can be safe and we think, it will be good for our spirits as well. There is no blueprint for this, but the Holy Spirit is with us and we will grow together in this. The following outlines our plan that we offer at this time:

The following outlines our plan for an anticipated "reopening" of worship services on June 28:

- *There will be no Sunday School or fellowship time at the church building. Worship starts at 10:30am.*
- *Initially we will not be doing congregational singing.*
- *Our livestream video will continue to be an option available to you.*
- *Discern your own attendance. If you are of an older age, have health risks or feel unsafe, you should feel no guilt in staying home or changing your mind to do so at any time.*
- *If you are not feeling well (have a fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, and/or muscle pain) or have possibly been exposed to COVID-19, for the safety of everyone please remain at home.*
- *Our committee will be regularly evaluating several public health metrics as we evaluate when and how we meet for worship.*

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If you decide to attend, please note the following practices:

- As you enter and exit the church building practice safe physical distancing.
- We recommend that you wear a mask for the safety of others as you enter and exit the church building. There will be some provided if you do not have one. If you wish to remove your mask once you are seated you may do so.
- Please use sanitizer when you enter and exit the church building.
- We request that you refrain from using the restrooms if possible and please follow the posted guidelines. Water fountains will not be functioning.
- Nursery use for one family at a time. Please utilize other classrooms for overflow as needed for distancing.
- An offering basket will be available in the Narthex, or you may continue with your offerings through the mail or online.
- Please contact Janette Epp (deacon chair) if you have attended church within 48 hrs prior to testing positive for COVID-19.

All the above guidelines are subject to change. We ask for your prayers and grace while we navigate this era.

If you have questions please directly contact one of the ad hoc committee members: Mark Ortman, moderator, Paul Ortman, moderator elect, Janette Epp, deacon, Nancy Miller, worship committee, Jay Penner, trustee, Pastor Corey

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though its waters roar and foam. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.” - Psalm 46:1,2,7