



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

July 12, 2020

“The Spirit Outpoured in Conversion”

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *What Wondrous Love* (Boeringer) Sherilyn Ortman

Choral Call to Worship – *You Raise Me Up* Josh Hofer

Welcome and Call to Worship Polly Waltner

L: God of open road, the twisting path, the narrow and upward way,

P: Your people are gathered for worship!

L: In this hour, give us provision for the journey, courage and faith and compassion, and endurance to face any hardship.

P: Open our eyes to see you walking beside us, calling us, converting us, conforming us to your will.

ALL: We pray this in the name of Jesus, who moves us, saves us and heals us, Amen.

Opening Prayer

Expression of Praise – *I owe the Lord a morning song* (HWB #651)

Celebrating God’s Mission – SD MCC Relief Sale

Children’s Story Lynelle Hofer

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Scripture Acts 9:1-19

Special Music – *Sittin’ in a window prayin’* Josh Hofer, Sherilyn Ortman

Sermon – *“Conversion Stories”* Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

Song – *I sought the Lord* (HWB #506)

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Recessional – *Kommt her zu mire spricht Gottes Sohn* (Nicolai)

translation: *Come to me, speaks God's son*

Sending Song Outside – *Praise God from whom*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heav’nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Praise God from whom all blessings flow; in heav’n above and earth below; one God three persons we adore. To God be praise forevermore.

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Jesus met Saul on the road to Damascus and Saul’s conversion had begun. What is your conversion story? How did Jesus call your name and how is the Spirit still doing its conversion work in you, in us, and in the world today? Welcome to the Light of God’s Love in Jesus Christ! We are so glad you are here with us.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for the **SD MCC Relief Sale**. Last week, brother Paul invited the children (and us all) to find ways to gather coins and cash to contribute to “My Coins Count.” Even though Covid is preventing us from having a sale onsite this year, the sale board has creatively offered other ways to contribute to MCC’s mission. Our offering today goes for the sale that has a different look this year. May our hearts be filled with joy as we joyfully give to this life-saving ministry on their 100th anniversary.

THIS WEEK

Monday – Administrative Board meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday – ZOOM Devotional at 10:00 a.m. (Exodus 20:1-18); Lisa will send out the ZOOM link.

Wednesday – Deacons meeting at church at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday – Serving at The Banquet in Sioux Falls

NEXT SUNDAY – July 19

Next Sunday we continue our study on the book of Acts that celebrates the work of the Holy Spirit. The theme is *“The Spirit Poured out in Discernment.”* The scripture texts are **Acts 15** and **Isaiah 56:6-8** and Pastor Corey will be preaching.

Offering next Sunday will be for **Christian Peacemaker Teams**.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Lana Herlyn’s sister Kim Baarson died last weekend from health complications. The family had a small burial service last Thursday. Keep Lana and Kim’s family in your prayers in this time of grief.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Sharon Schmidt.
- Lana Herlyn in the death of her younger sister Kim. May God’s mercy surround the family.
- our SS teachers who continue to nurture our children through creative teachings and unconditional love.

- the work of our camps, Swan Lake Christian Camp and Crooked Creek Christian Camp, as they creatively share God's creation.

Remember to thank God for:

- all the ways that God's Holy Spirit continues to shine light on our lives.
- our conversion stories and the way that God used people to bring us into right relationship.

Welcome back to church: Unlike several states in our country, South Dakota is not experiencing rising rates of infection, so we continue to feel good about inviting people to worship in our sanctuary as they feel able to do so. For the time being, it looks like our congregational worship experience will include those who attend and those who watch via live-stream. I would encourage all to join our worship times in one form or another, so we can stay connected, listen for God's Spirit together, and find courage for the living of these days. As always, if you have thoughts or feelings about our "new normal" regarding worship times, please let Pastor Corey, the worship committee, or the Task Force know your thoughts.

Forming our Faith during Covid: Conference Minister Amanda Bleichty will be hosting a ZOOM conversation about teaching children's SS during this challenging season. She will be ZOOMing on **July 15th at 1pm** and on **July 16th at 7pm**. You can find links to her ZOOM chat on the Central Plains Mennonite Conference website.

Everyone is invited to join the Jr. Sunday school department in giving **monetary donations to the Bethany Food Pantry**. Starting today, July 12, there will be an offering basket in the narthex to collect money so that the Bethany Food Pantry can locally buy the items that they need at this time. If you are not at church you can send your gifts to the church office. Money will be collected through July 26.

So, what is happening with the Endowment Fund? So glad you asked. This is the time of year when endowment funds are available for your ministry or mission projects. There will be about \$3,000 available for the work of the Kingdom. Contact Lisa in the church office for a funds request form and then send the filled out form to Elizabeth Janssen, chair of Outreach and Service. Submission deadline is August 30. These will be reviewed by the O&S Committee at our next meeting September 3.

Throughout July, the Adult Zoom Sunday School class will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 9:50 to allow plenty of time for those who plan to attend the worship service at church to get there. We invite anyone who has access to

Zoom to join us. The link is in the email with the link for streaming our worship services. We are studying Wisdom literature from Proverbs, the Gospels, and James. You may pick up a quarterly at the church. We have had great discussions, and it's wonderful to see the faces of our church family!

June Household Treasury Report – Income: \$15,618.39; Expenses: \$10,084.22; Balance: \$11,576.57.

Deacon meeting minutes from May are available on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Confused on how to approach racism? **Central Plains Staff have collected resources related to racism.** If you need materials for a Sunday School class, for small group discussion or for your own reflecting, check out the list of resources at <http://www.centralplainsmc.org/anti-racism-resources.html>. If your congregation is finding ways to respond to racism, the Peace and Justice Task Group continues to collect stories. Email stories and additional resource ideas to: wilmajane17@gmail.com.

If you are in need of a **face mask** or know someone, or an organization, who needs masks please contact Charity Ortman. If you are able to create masks to build up our supply for future requests please place donations in the narthex.

June Mission Fund Offerings and Gifts: Swan Lake Christian Camp - \$960.00; Mennonite Central Committee - \$945.00; Central Plains Mennonite Conference - \$1,015.00; Freeman Academy - \$300.00; MCC Meat Canning - \$200.00; Wellspring - \$100.00; SD MCC Relief Sale - \$110.00; Mennonite Church USA - \$535.00.

Church office: Lisa will be in the church office on Thursday mornings in July and by appointment as requested. Feel free to reach her by cell phone or e-mail throughout the rest of the week.

God's peace stitches a new garment: "We will not go back to normal. Normal never was. Our pre-corona existence was not normal other than we normalized greed, inequality, exhaustion, depletion, extraction, disconnection, confusion, rage, hoarding, hate and lack. We should not long to return, my friends. We are being given the opportunity to stitch a new garment. One that fits all of humanity and nature."

~ Sonya Renee Taylor

Pastor Corey Miller

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