



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

**August 16, 2020**

*“The Spirit Outpoured in Athens”*

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude Sheila Epp

Choral Call to Worship – *Here in this place* LeRoy Epp

Welcome and Call to Worship Lacey Friesen

L: This morning, God, we want everything to be for your glory.

**P: We want our thoughts, our words, our songs,**

L: our church, our community, our resources, our time, our lives—all to be for you.

**P: Everything ours is yours, and we come together to declare this to be so, on this Sunday, your holy day.**

*ALL: Bless our time together with your holy presence, Amen*

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn – *Immortal, invisible, God only wise* (HWB #70)

Chorister: LeRoy Epp

Celebrating God’s Mission – Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Children’s Story Lynelle Hofer

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Old Testament Psalm 40:4-5,9-11

Hymn – *The love of God* (SJ #44)

Hearing the New Testament Acts 17:16-34

Sermon – “To an unknown god” Corey Miller

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

Song – *He comes to us as one unknown* (HWB #498)

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Recessional

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

When Paul landed in Athens, he was distressed by all the idols he saw. He found a way to share about Christ, the “*unknown god*” in the Greek community. Wise ones still seek Him! We are so glad you are here.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for *Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary*. We continue to joyfully give to this important ministry that prepares pastors, scholars and theologians to share the Gospel in word and deed. Pastor Corey was blessed to study at AMBS, graduating in 1998 and most recently, our own Caley Ortman also studied and graduated from AMBS. Thanks be to God for our seminary!

### TONIGHT

**Ice Cream Social:** Come and enjoy some of Tim and Beth’s ice cream this Sunday evening (August 16) between 6:00-7:30 p.m. This will be an outside event at church and we will follow safety guidelines. You may bring lawn chairs and observe safe distancing or be served in your vehicle.

### COMING EVENTS

**Wed, Aug. 19** – ZOOM Devotional at 10:00am (John 3:16-17). Lisa will send out the ZOOM link.

– Board of Education meeting at 7:30pm.

**September 3** – Outreach & Service Committee meeting at 7:30 p.m.

### NEXT SUNDAY – August 23

Next Sunday we will have a special outdoor worship service at church and our focus will be “*Celebrating God’s Created World.*” Our scriptures, songs and music will invite us to worship with joy our Creator God. As a way of limiting our carbon imprint, we invite you to ride bike, carpool with family members, or even walk to church on this special day of worship. Worship begins at **10:30am** and we ask you to bring your lawn chairs and masks as we practice safe distancing.

There will also be a **backpack blessing** on August 23. All school age children ages preschool – college are encouraged to bring your backpacks to the worship service.

Offering next Sunday will be for **Swan Lake Christian Camp**.

## Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

### Happenings over the past week:

- The trustees continued work on the fellowship hall improvements by installing the rolling window in the kitchen. The project fund balance is currently -\$1,085.96, and donations would be appreciated as we complete this

work. Please earmark your checks for “the project fund” and submit to Lacey Friesen.

**Remember to pray for:**

- those who cannot be here today: Joyce Schrag.
- our two college students, Josie Epp and Rachel Miller, as they headed off to college last Thursday. Both are attending Bethel College, Kansas.
- Wisdom and Wonder as “**we live and move and have our being**” in the world.
- the CPMC Council of Committees, happening virtually this week. We pray for the generative and fruitful work of our various conference committees as they meet to dream and plan for the next year of our shared work.

**Remember to thank God for:**

- the gift of Allen and Ardelle’s 72<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary! Congratulations!
- our church family that worships every Sunday, both those on site and those online. We are One Body!

**Worshipping at Salem-Zion during COVID:** We appreciate the effort the congregation has made in following the safety guidelines. One reminder: following the worship services please exit the sanctuary from the back to the front with safe distancing in order to avoid crowding. Thank you.

- the COVID-19 Task Force

The family of Allen and Ardelle Schrag would like to request a card shower in honor of their **72nd Wedding Anniversary** (August 19). Wishes may be sent to them at:

Allen and Ardelle Schrag  
502 Tieszen Drive  
Marion, SD 57043

The Selection Committee is starting to work on compiling the **Fall selection ballot**. If you no longer wish to serve in a certain position please let one of the committee members know by Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>. Clara Graber, Sheila Epp, or Tim Graber.

**Adult Zoom Sunday School** will continue through August, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending 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 Faith and Wisdom in James this week: “Faith without Works is Dead.” The background scripture for August 16 is

James 2:14-26. 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!

**Household Treasury Report 3rd Sunday of month** Balance: \$5,273.93

The household treasury pays for salaries, electric/heating bills, Sunday school materials, office supplies, 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!

**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.

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

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**Community Connections**

A **Freeman Academy** Opening Convocation and picnic will be held on August 23 at 6:00 pm on the lawn south of Sterling Hall on the Freeman Academy campus. Due to the pandemic, the picnic and program will be open to Freeman Academy families and students only. There will be a short program involving the introduction of staff, new families and their students, the presentation of 2020-2021 scholarships, and recognition of the 2019-2020 eighth grade graduates. Freeman Academy would like to ask the extended community to continue to pray for the opening of the school and for the safety of all of our students. We look forward to connecting with our wonderful and supportive community at future events.

Jason Kauffman (Lisa Graber Kauffman’s spouse and Tim Graber’s son-in-law) invites you to **share your stories from 2020!** Heritage Hall Museum & Archives is seeking stories on life during these changing times as part of **Anabaptist History Today**, a collaborative Anabaptist storytelling project. Sixteen Anabaptist-related archives and history organizations from across North America are participating in this project and we would like to have representation from the Anabaptist groups here in the Great Plains states. Upload videos, audio recordings, photos, journal entries, artwork,

poetry and personal reflections at <https://aht.libraryhost.com/s/archive/page/share-your-story>.

**God's Peace in us:** "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

– Jesus, Matthew 6:25ff

**Pastor Corey Miller**

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**Church Admin. Assistant:**

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