



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

**“Unity in the Body”
August 20, 2023**

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *Musical thoughts from Voices Together #553 to 556* Ken Mannes

Welcome and Lighting the Peace Lamp Kelsey Pidde

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 133)

L: It is truly wonderful when relatives live together in peace.

P: It is like the dew falling on mountains, where God blesses people with life forevermore.

L: How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity.

P: It is like dew falling on God’s mountain.

L: For there the LORD graciously gives blessing, even life forevermore.

P: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.

All: It is like the dew of which falls on the mountains, for there the LORD ordains blessing, life forevermore.

Opening Prayer

* Hymn – *All Creatures, Worship God Most High* VT #81

* Greeting each other

Children’s Story Beth Bontrager

Offering – Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Offertory – *Open, Lord, my inward ear* (VT #548)

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the New Testament Scriptures Ephesians 4:1-6,11-13

Song – *The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound* VT #392

* Hearing the Gospel John 17:10-23

Sermon – “Unity Within Diversity” Pastor Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD

Song – *Unity (Jesus, Help Us Live in Peace)* VT #719

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

* Sending Song – *Sing a New World into Being* VT #809

* Benediction

Postlude – *God, whose giving knows no ending*

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Unity in the Body of Christ is God’s goal and hope and yet diversity within the church is reality. A united church within our diversity is an exercise in grace. We are so glad that you have decided to join our worship as we ponder these things in community. Welcome!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary**.

9:00am – Coffee/Fellowship time

9:30am – Summer Sunday School Series: LOFT "Living Our Faith Together"

10:30am – Worship Service

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

THIS WEEK

Aug. 21 (Mon) – Board of Education meeting at 7:00pm

Aug. 23 (Wed) – Choir rehearsal at 7:30pm

Youth Sponsor meeting at 8:30pm

Aug. 25 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

Aug. 26 (Sat) – Last Morning Prayers with the Psalms (Psalms 145-150) at 7:30am

NEXT SUNDAY – August 27

Next Sunday we conclude our Summer of Psalms series. The focus of the morning will be “*Called to Praise*” and the scriptures will be Psalm 150, Colossians 3:12-17, Revelation 5:11-14, and Luke 19:37-40. Pastor Corey will be preaching and many special things are planned for this service that will be filled with praise to our Creator God!

Next week the offering is for **Swan Lake Christian Camp**.

COMING EVENTS

Sept. 10 – Salem-Zion Church Retreat at Swan Lake Christian Camp, starting at 3:00pm; Watch for details in next Sunday’s bulletin

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Lillie and Andre Eisenbeis welcomed their baby girl into the world last week.

Willa June was born on August 12th and everyone is doing well. The family was able to return home last Monday. Tim and Anita are grateful grandparents. The flower by the organ is in honor of Willa June Eisenbeis.

- Alicia and Jacob Hofer-GunderKline welcomed **Leo Jalen** into their lives on August 9th. Todd and Marnette Hofer are grateful grandparents.

- Burton and Eileen Kaufman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Thursday, and the flowers in the front of the church are in their honor.

- Susan Schrag continues to wait for her radiation treatment for her cancerous sarcoma. She has had a second MRI and hopes that treatment will begin next week.

- Many willing helpers gave time, energy, and some sweat to feed the multitudes at the Turner County Fair. Special thanks to Andre Eisenbeis, and Will and Sherilyn Ortman for organizing and providing leadership in this fundraiser. Working with our youth is always a treat!

Remember to praise God for:

- all the ways that our church family worked together at the fair this past week. Rubbing shoulders, having conversations, and working toward a common good is what creates Unity in the Body.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Ardelle Schrag.
- our children and their families as school begins again this week.
- Susan Schrag as she patiently awaits radiation treatment on her tumor.
- the island of Maui as it reels from the devastating fires in recent weeks.
- Ecuador, where violence has recently increased. Recent assassinations of a mayor and also of a presidential candidate point to the growing challenges. Pray for our Mennonite Churches in Ecuador as they pray and respond to these tensions.
- our sister churches in Minnesota and Wisconsin: Bethel, Emmanuel, Faith, First-Mountain Lake, Lao Fellowship, Rochester, Saint Paul Hmong Mennonite, Third Way and affiliated groups Fargo-Moorhead Faith Mennonite Fellowship and The Mennonite Worker in Minnesota, and Shalom in Wisconsin.

Backpack Blessing: Next Sunday, August 27th, we will have a blessing on our children's backpacks during the children's story time. Every child is invited to bring their backpacks to church for this blessing as we celebrate a new school year for our children and their families.

Life Sketch (6 and counting.....)

Everyone is invited to take a few moments to fill out the yellow Life Information Sheets in your mailboxes. This is helpful information in planning for funerals/memorial services. Once completed, please return to Pastor Corey (place in his church mailbox or email a copy to him at corey.miller@gwtc.net) and he will hold in a confidential file.

Those who have accepted the position of Assistant Adult Superintendent are Elizabeth Janssen and Assistant Junior SS Superintendent, Malynda Penner. 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. 3. Those on the committee are Clara Graber, Malynda Penner, and Tim Graber.

We are encouraging **singers to join the choir** for the last Sunday in August. We'll have a short rehearsal this Wednesday, August 23 at 7:30pm. Please join us.

Here is **Albert Kalonji's** new address: Rhoads Hall, Mailbox RH 312-A, 401 Chestnut Street, Terre Haute, IN 47809.

College students: Please submit your contact information (address, phone number, email) to the church office (salemzion@gwtc.net) by the end of August for inclusion in the annual college listing.

Join the MCC School Kit Challenge: Bring your school kit items and bags to church (box in narthex) during the month of **August**. Cash donations for purchasing items can be given to Marlyce Miller, Janette Epp or by check to Salem-Zion with 'school kits' in the memo line. Notebooks and pencils are treasures for families who struggle to afford basic school supplies.

MDS REQUEST: SD MDS is looking for volunteers to help with siding and window replacement for homes of Native Americans that were damaged in a hail and windstorm in Red Lake, MN. The project date is August 27-September 2. Transportation, meals, and lodging will be provided. Please contact LeRoy Pullman (605-660-1014) or Karl Ries (605-261-0703) if you are able to assist.

For information regarding the upcoming **CPMC Women's Retreat** at Swan Lake Christian Camp, please see the bulletin board in the narthex or go to Facebook at Central Plains Mennonite Women or email Elisabeth Harder Schrock at eharderschrock@gmail.com.

Community Connections

Everyone is invited to **Freeman Academy** this evening, Sunday, August 20: Supper at 6:00pm and Convocation begins at 7:00pm. Please bring lawn chairs.

The **Et Cetera Shoppe** will be hosting Kraft Pillow Service on Friday, August 25, beginning at 9 a.m. This traveling service completely sanitizes the contents of used feather pillows, and places them in brand new ticking pillowcases. Several colors and grades of ticking are available, and different pillow sizes can be made upon request. Pillows can also be "plumped" with additional feathers. Cleaning for foam pillows is available as well. The process can be done in approximately an hour. Following Kraft Pillow Service's visit, the Et Cetera Shoppe will have brand new feather pillows available for purchase for as long as supplies last. Proceeds from the cleaning of your pillows, as well as the sale of new pillows, go directly to support the relief and development work of Mennonite Central Committee in the U.S. and around the world! For more information, please call the shop at 925-7098.

Host Family Opportunity: Are you interested in being a Host Family for Freeman Academy Students during the 2023-2024 school year? Contact Jason Mehlhaf or Troy True at Enrollment@FreemanAcademy.org for more information or to sign up!

The August edition of **On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service at <https://conta.cc/3E1RVV3>. In our current issue: We have the latest information from Maui on the devastating wildfires; learn about the power of family love; and learn about new ways to get involved with MDS by exploring Beyond the Project.

Praying God's Peace Continually: "Unity, not uniformity, must be our aim. We attain unity only through variety. Differences must be integrated, not annihilated, not absorbed." - Mary Parker Follett

Pastor Corey Miller

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p.m. and by appointment as requested