



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

August 23, 2020

“The Earth is the Lord’s!”

GATHERING TO WORSHIP OUTSIDE

- Prelude Austin Unruh
- Choral Call to Worship – *Morning has broken* Lacey Friesen & Polly Waltner
- Welcome and Call to Worship (from Psalm 24) Jeremy Waltner
 - L: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it.
 - P: We live in God's world; we are not alone.**
 - L: *We share this life with the heavens and the earth, with the waters and the land,*
 - P: with trees and grasses, with fish, birds, and animals, with creatures of every form,**
 - L: and with all our brothers and sisters.
 - P: God has founded the earth on the seas, and established it on the rivers.**
 - ALL: God saw all that was made, and behold, it was very good!**
- Opening Prayer
- Psalm of Praise Psalm 148
 - L: Hallelujah! Praise God from the heavens; praise God from the heights!
Praise God, all you angels; Praise God, all you multitudes in heaven!
 - P: *Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars!*
Praise God, you highest heavens, And you waters above the heavens!
 - L: Let them praise the name of the Most High, For God commanded and they were created. God established them forever and ever; God fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
 - P: *Praise God from the earth, You sea monsters and all deeps, Fire and hail, snow and frost, Stormy wind fulfilling God's command!*
 - L: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!
 - P: *Sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, Royalty and all rulers of the earth!*
Young men and women alike, old and young together!
 - L: Let them praise the name of God, For God's name alone is exalted;
God's glory is above earth and heaven.
 - P: *God has raised up a horn for God's people, Praise for all the faithful,*
For the people of Israel who are close to God.
- ALL: Hallelujah!**
- Opening Hymn – *All creatures of our God and King* (insert)
- Celebrating God's Mission – Swan Lake Christian Camp
- Children's Story Sheila Epp
- Bible Presentation to Simon Ortman
- Backpack Blessing

HEARING GOD'S WORD

- Genesis 2:4b-15
- Job 12:7-10

Romans 8:18-23

Matthew 6:25-30

Meditation – “Being Present with Creation”

Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

Leader: Hosea 4:1-3: There is no loyalty or faithfulness, and no knowledge of God in the land. Swearing stealing, lying, murder and adultery break out; bloodshed follows bloodshed. The land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing.

Confession: Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is risen from the grave and has shattered the power of death, we are still held captive by fear and doubt.

We hold on to suspicions and jealousies that set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We have neglected the poor and the hungry. In our pursuit of the "good life" we have gone along with injustice; we have ignored the cries of the oppressed.

We pursue profits and pleasures that harm the land and pollute the waters. We have squandered the Earth's gifts on technologies of destruction. Have mercy on us, O God. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we and all your creatures may know the joy of life abundant, given through Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

Words of assurance:

Christ hears your confession and forgives your sins against the planet.

Christ, teach us to love Earth as our home and the planet as a precious sanctuary.

In the name of Christ, I invite you to celebrate Earth as your home and to revere this planet as God's sanctuary.

Shalom! Shalom! Earth is our home!

Song – *God, who touches earth* (insert)

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song – *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

We take a little break from Acts to worship outside on this beautiful day. By sitting closer to God's good earth, we are more able to listen to the earth, feel the earth, and experience the earth. Today, we celebrate God's created world. Welcome to our worship. We are so glad you are here!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for *Swan Lake Christian Camp*. Remarkably, SLCC was able to have camp this past summer and had a good turnout of kids that enjoyed their programming and ministry. From our church, Connor Epp, Ella Waltner, Oliver Waltner and Ashton Kesteloot attended. Josie Epp and Rachel Miller spent several weeks at SLCC as counselors.

COMING EVENTS

August 26 – Last ZOOM Devotional at 10:00am (Psalm 23, Romans 12:9-21). Lisa will send out the link.

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

NEXT SUNDAY – August 30

Next Sunday we will conclude our series on the book of Acts. The theme is *The Spirit Outpoured at Sea*. The scripture text will be Acts 27:13-38, Pastor Corey will preach and we will be having communion.

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

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

-Ted Ellinger's family dealt with some tragic news this week. Ted's cousin, Dr. Jon Schafer, was killed in a motorcycle accident as he was going to work. He was only 59 years old and leaves a wife and five children. Prayers for Jon's family and for Ted as they grieve Jon's untimely death.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Hilda Kaufman.
- Ted's family in the sudden death of his cousin Dr. Jon Schafer.
- faithful responses to care for this created world with love, respect and justice.
- our schools, universities and seminaries as they begin classes with many adjustments.
- our Board of Education as they move forward with faith formation activities on Sunday mornings.
- our sister churches in the Quad Cities area cluster: Casa de Oracion Emanuel, Iglesia Cristiana El Balsamo, Iglesia Menonita Centro Cristiano, Iglesia Torre Fuerte, Templo Alabanza and the El Buen Pastor church plant.

Remember to thank God for:

- the beauty, wonder and creative joy found in God's created world.
- Simon Ortman as he receives his Bible from Salem-Zion Mennonite.

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. 6th. Clara Graber, Sheila Epp, or Tim Graber.

Feedback for Offerings: Please take time to prayerfully look over the insert that shares about our offering schedule for this year. The deacons want your feedback in helping to set next year's offering schedule. Thank you.

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: "Taming the Tongue." The background scripture for August 23 is James 3:1-12. 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!

Even the healthiest person needs exercise, stretching and purposeful movement. So it is with our spirits; we need to exercise and nurture them together! **Your Board of Education has made plans to re-open Sunday School in person for both children and adults on Sept 6, for those who feel ready and confident doing so.** These plans are subject to change, depending on the status of COVID-19 spread in our area. Please read the upcoming bulletins carefully for details. We plan to have one class for adults in the Fellowship Hall, with Gloria Graber leading the elective study of Christ in Crisis (Jim Wallis). All are welcome, including those who did not sign up initially or join in back in March for the first few sessions. We will also continue the current adult class by ZOOM, using the quarterly series, now titled *Salt & Light*. The quarterly has a new format. Carol Duerksen is the writer of the fall quarter entitled *Joining God: Relationship and Worship*. This is open to all and quarterlies are now available in the narthex. To join this class, just follow the link sent out each Saturday by Lisa. If neither of these appeals to you, we urge you to organize your own study group, in-person or otherwise. For those wishing to join the Sunday School class via ZOOM but have trouble doing so due to insufficient equipment or know-how, contact Tim Eisenbeis, your incoming superintendent. He will be recruiting a few tech-savvy members and will forward you to someone who can help remove the limitations in your situation. We may be relying on computer-based meeting for quite some time yet and we want to make it possible for as many as are interested to join in. – S-Z Board of Education

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.

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.

Community Connections

Greetings to our SDMDS Supporters, Because of the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic, the SDMDS annual meeting has been postponed to the fall of 2021. Starting in 2019, Binational MDS changed their fiscal year from August 1 to July 31 and required all MDS units to do the same. Therefore the SDMDS financial report (available in the narthex) provides information starting from December 1, 2018 through July 31, 2020. As indicated in the report, you, our supporters, have shown your love, concern, and compassion with bountiful giving which funded projects in disasters in Region 3 and in South Dakota. We sincerely thank you for volunteering your time, financial support and upholding MDS in your prayers. Blessings, SDMDS board of directors

A **Freeman Academy** Opening Convocation and picnic will be held tonight, 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.

Rural Revival will meet on August 24 at 8:00 p.m. in the Upper Meeting Room of the Et Cetera Shoppe in Freeman. All are welcome to attend.

Join the growing culture of discipleship in the church! Save your spot in the next **Missional Discipleship Initiative cohort**. Visit MennoniteMission.net/MDI and sign up for the next MDI cycle, starting Sept. 1.

The August edition of **On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service at <https://conta.cc/3gfccYK>. In our current issue, you can read how MDS volunteers with Early Response Teams are working in Iowa, engineers roll up their sleeves in West Virginia and help build bridges they

designed, and you'll learn how MDS is cautiously planning for a few projects this fall.

Mennonite Central Committee is accepting donations to support people in need of food and other assistance in Beirut, Lebanon. A massive explosion on Aug. 4 destroyed the country's main port and silos filled with grain and worsened an existing economic crisis. You can donate online at mcc.org/beirut-response, by calling (888) 563-4676 or by sending a check earmarked for "Beirut response" to MCC, 21 S. 12th St., Akron PA 17501.

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>.

MCC is in need of school kits to fulfill requests from our partners around the world! Complete kits and/or supplies (find a full list of items at mcc.org/kits) can be shipped to MCC Central States (121 E. 30th St. North Newton, KS 67117) or dropped off in the 24-hour donation room at MCC. If you would like help unloading, please contact Kate at (katemast@mcc.org, (316) 804-8432) to schedule a drop off time. Thank you for your continued support of MCC!

God's Peace in Creation: "The ecological teaching of the Bible is simply inescapable: God made the world because He wanted it made. He thinks the world is good, and He loves it. It is His world; He has never relinquished title to it. And He has never revoked the conditions, bearing on His gift to us of the use of it, that oblige us to take excellent care of it." – Wendell Berry, *What Are People For?*

Pastor Corey Miller

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

Church Admin. Assistant:

Lisa Kaufman
(605) 951-1871 ~ salemzion@gwtc.net

Offering Schedule Ideas for 2021

Dear friends at Salem-Zion,

The deacons are tasked with putting together an offering schedule that fits our vision for ministry at Salem-Zion Mennonite. We are so appreciative of all the giving that has happened in this past year, especially with the challenges brought on by the coronavirus.

As a way of seeking input from the congregation, the deacons are inviting you to offer some feedback on the offerings so the deacon's proposal can most fully represent Salem-Zion's interests and needs.

In the outline below, you can see how the offering schedule looked for January-December 2020:

- ***Household Treasury** – 12 offerings
- ***Central Plains Mennonite Conference** – 10 offerings
- ***Mennonite Church USA** – 8 offerings
- ***Deacon Sharing Fund** – 3 offerings
- ***FA, Student Tuition Sharing Fund, SLCC**– 2 offerings
- ***Salem Home, MDS, Wellspring, MCC, Service and Mission Fund, SD MCC Relief Sale, Christian Peacemaker Teams, The Banquet, AMBS, Mennonite Mission Network, MCC Meat Canning** – 1 offering.

If you have any suggestions, ideas or even brainstorms, please contact deacon chair **Janette Epp** (ljepp@hotmail.com) over the next two weeks as we look at formulating an offering proposal that will be shared with the Ad Board at their September meeting and ultimately with the congregation at the Annual Business Meeting in November.

Thank you again, for your joyful, faithful and generous giving to these life-giving ministries that we are so blessed to support. Through these gifts, we are making a difference in the world and glorifying God!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Corey