



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

Building on the Rock
August 25, 2024

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on a rock.” - Mt. 7:24

GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude Amber and Lance Hopkins

Welcome John Epp

Call to Worship (from Psalm 122)

L: I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

P: Our feet are standing within your gates O Jerusalem.

L: We are here to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

P: For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

Opening Prayer

* Singing our Praise – *My Hope Is Built* VT #621

* Greeting each other

Children’s story Liz Graber

Lighting the Peace Lamp

L: The light shines in the darkness.

P: And the darkness did not overcome it.

Offering – Swan Lake Christian Camp

Offertory

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Scriptures Isaiah 28:16-17, Ephesians 2:19-21

Music

* Hearing the Gospel Matthew 7:24-28

Sermon – “Hearing and Acting” Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Song – *The Word of God Is Solid Ground* VT #399

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

SENT OUT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS

* Song – *As You Go Out from Here* VT #841

* Prayer of Blessing

Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Jesus concludes his Sermon on the Mount by calling his disciples to build wisely on the firm foundation! We are invited to not only hear what Jesus said, but are instructed to act in faithful response. We are so glad you are here worshiping with us!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Swan Lake Christian Camp.**

9:00am – Coffee time

9:30am – Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

TONIGHT: The South Church will host the showing of the movie “*The Radicals.*” This film outlines the story, faith, and witness of the early Anabaptist movement through the eyes of Michael and Margareta Sattler. Some parts of the movie are not suitable for younger children. The movie begins at 7:00pm.

THIS WEEK

Aug. 30 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – Sept. 1

Next Sunday we will finish our series on the Sermon on the Mount by gathering at the Freeman Arboretum for worship. The theme will be “*Sermon Summary*” and the scripture texts are Matthew 5-7. If you haven’t been keeping up with the readings, consider reading the entire Sermon in one setting. Let God’s Spirit lead you. Together we will reflect on how the SOM has formed us and Pastor Corey will be preaching. Bring lawn chairs. There is no Sunday School hour and worship will begin at 10:30am.

The offering will be for the Household Treasury.

POTLUCK on September 1: The Potluck committee will provide coffee and water. Everyone is encouraged to bring a contribution to the potluck as well as your own table service.

COMING EVENTS

Sept. 1 – Worship at the Arboretum in Freeman. 10:30am with a potluck meal to follow. Bring lawnchairs and blankets and worshipful spirits!

Sept. 4 – 6:30pm Youth Group Kick off!!!

Sept. 4 – Choir rehearsal and sectionals at North Church at 7pm

Sept. 7 – Choir rehearsal at Pioneer Hall at 2pm

Sept. 7 – Opening Worship and Presentation at Salem-Zion at 7:00pm. Ice Cream to follow!

Sept. 8 – Worship service together with the South Church at Salem-Zion at 10:00am.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Rolf Olson had successful shoulder surgery on Monday and is recovering at home these days.

Remember to praise God for:

- the gift of our heritage, the story of our forebearers who exemplified faith and trust in God.
- the gift of all those who have joined our church and shared their gifts in ministry for God's glory.
- the gift of the future for our church, the hope that is always ours through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Bernie Koller.
- Rolf Olson as he recovers and heals from his recent surgery.
- the graduates of Instituto Biblico Anabautista (IBA).

Regular **bulletins will not be printed** for our Sunday at the arboretum, Sept. 1. Announcements will be emailed on Thursday.

The fall season for Adult and Children's Sunday School will begin on September 15. Make plans to join a class as we grow our awareness for God's Spirit through dwelling in God's Word.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the **selection process**. The following positions have been filled:

Assistant Adult Sunday School Superintendent: Chris Eisenbeis
Assistant Jr. Dept. Sunday School Superintendent: Sheila Epp
DVBS Co-Chairs: Kelsey Pidde & Lacey Friesen

Don't forget to register! **Women's Retreat: Formation of Hope and Healing**, held on September 14-15 at Swan Lake Christian Camp in Viborg, SD. Our Keynote speaker will be Jill Hofer. Join us for a weekend of faith, relaxation, nature and the fellowship of other women. Register at www.myslcc.com.

All singers are invited to join us for a special choir performance on September 8th, 2024, at 7 PM in Pioneer Hall in Freeman. This event will be the grand finale of our 150th anniversary celebration of the Swiss Volhynian Mennonites settling in the greater Freeman area. The choir will be directed by Dan Graber and there will be two rehearsals -- Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 7 PM, and Saturday afternoon, Sept. 7 at 2 PM. We will also be singing at the joint Sunday morning service at Salem-Zion Mennonite on Sept. 8th. We welcome EVERYONE to

join us in this celebration of our musical heritage. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/150Choir> to sign up. There is also a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer. Then help us spread the word by sharing this link with others who might be interested in joining us. We look forward to singing with you in September!

Our congregations will share a **meal** following the joint service on September 8, at North Church. Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex. We will be looking for donations of kuchen, poppyseed rolls, pies, and homemade dill and beet pickles. Please bring a salad for the meal such as potato salad, cabbage slaw, cucumber salad, or a seasonal favorite to accompany our ethnic meal of sausage and cheese pockets. All food donations should be brought to the Salem-Zion kitchen the morning of the meal before the worship service. Please contact Polly Waltner with questions. Thank you!!

The September church **newsletter** is available on the table in the narthex, and a copy of Rachel Miller's final MVS newsletter has been posted on the bulletin board.

Community Connections

Rural Revival will meet on Monday, August 26 at 8:00 p.m. at the Freeman library. All are welcome to attend.

Freeman Academy is hosting a **planned giving seminar** for its constituents and all who are interested, facilitated by Rose Shetler (FA Director of Strategic Development) and presented by Lyle Miller (Everence Foundation). Tuesday, August 27 OR Thursday, August 29, 7-8:30pm at the Prairie Arboretum Visitor Center. Additional information has been posted in the narthex.

The August Edition of **On the Level** is now available at <https://conta.cc/46Ym9WM>. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King shares our need for volunteers at our warehouse in Mississippi, read the latest on our flood response in Vermont, meet an inspirational 22-year-old volunteer and get the back story on a popular MDS photo.

God's Peace in Jesus: "Peace is a dream that is uttered first on the lips of God, a dream that speaks against all settled political reality, an act of imagination from the throne of heaven in which we are invited to participate. This text (Isaiah 11:1-9) invites us to dream along after God in a certitude that the world judges to be outrageous." – Walter Brueggeman

Pastor Corey Miller

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