



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

Ask, Seek, Knock
August 4, 2024

*“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened...” - Mt. 7:7*

GATHERING TO PRAISE

- Prelude – *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (Dale Wood) Ken Mannes
 - Welcome Sheila Epp
 - Call to Worship
 - Opening Prayer
 - * Singing our Praise – *God, Be the Love* VT #43
 - * Greeting each other
 - Children’s Story Paul Ortman
 - Lighting the Peace Lamp
 - L: The light shines in the darkness.
 - P: And the darkness did not overcome it.**
 - Offering – Household Treasury
 - Offertory – *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* (David Cherwein)
- ## HEARING GOD’S WORD
- Hearing the Scriptures Jeremiah 29:10-14, Matthew 7:6-11
 - Sermon – “God Gives Good Things” Corey Miller
- ## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD
- Song – *I Sought the Lord* VT #161
 - Sharing and Congregational Prayer
- ## SENT OUT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS
- * Song – *We, Your People, Sing Your Praises* VT #849
 - * Prayer of Blessing Ephesians 4:16-21
 - Postlude – *Improvised* (VT #161)

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

In his teaching from Matthew 7, Jesus reiterates to his disciples that God gives good things to those who ask. We rejoice that God welcomes and even invites our “asking, seeking, knocking” prayers. Welcome to worship!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for the **Household Treasury**.

9:00am – Coffee time

9:30am – Jr. SS Opening; Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

TONIGHT – Miller BBQ from 5:30-8:30pm. Bring a lawn chair and come for some food, fellowship, and fun!

THIS WEEK

Aug. 9 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm/Kitchen reservation

Aug. 10 (Sat) – Kitchen/Fellowship Hall reservation (all day)

NEXT SUNDAY – August 11

Next Sunday we will continue our Summer Series on the Sermon on the Mount. The theme for the morning is “*Wisdom for the Journey*” and the texts are Matthew 7:12-14 and Romans 13:8-10. Pastor Corey will be preaching.

The offering will be for Central Plains Mennonite Conference.

COMING EVENTS

Aug. 11 – Adult SS Lesson on “Theological Formation through the years” led by Pastor Corey

Aug. 11-15 – Turner County Fair

Aug. 25 – Movie Night at Salem Church at 7:00pm. “The Radicals.”

September 7-8 – 150th Anniversary of the Swiss-Volhynian Mennonites in Freeman. Please share a story from your family that has been instrumental in your growth and faith formation.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Rachel arrived home early on Tuesday morning. All her checked luggage eventually came too! A summary report of her MVS experience will be forthcoming.

Remember to praise God for:

- the gift of being able to ask God for the things that are on our hearts, knowing that God listens and responds.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Ardis Jantzen.
- all the people who participated in the Menno Action March from Harrisonburg, VA to Washington DC to ask for a ceasefire in Gaza. Some were arrested recently as they protested the ongoing violence in the Middle East. Surround each one with a calmness that is centered upon Jesus as they call for justice.
- the people of Venezuela. Euclides Bauza, pastor of *Comunidad de Paz* (Community of Peace) and president of *Asociación Civil Red de Misiones Menonita de Venezuela*, a conference of Mennonite churches in Venezuela, requests brothers and sisters around the world to join the people of Venezuela in praying for justice and an end to the violence in the wake of Sunday’s disputed election.
- Laurel Swartzendruber as she is ordained at Wayland Mennonite Church. Pray for Laurel as lives out her ministerial calling as a hospice chaplain.

Adult Summer Sunday School continues today with S. Roy Kaufman leading a session on acculturation. During our buildup to our 150th anniversary of our forebearers arriving here in Dakota Territory, each week during SS, we have been focusing on aspects of our faith story and our journey in this place as we strive to follow Jesus. Coffee on at 9:00am.

MCC SCHOOL KITS: Salem-Zion will be collecting school kit items the first three Sundays in **August (4, 11, 18)**. There will be a table in the narthex where you can place your items. Last year we were able to supply MCC with 128 school kits. Please join this effort again to share a tangible message of God’s love with children around the world. Past bulletins have included a list of items needed for the school kits or you can visit mcc.org/school-kit-challenge for information. Contact Janette Epp or Marlyce Miller if you have questions.

This is the final Sunday before the Turner County Fair! Please sign up for your shift at the **grandstand booth** TODAY. Openings remain for every night and we'll make sure to find a position you are comfortable in if the job you want is already taken. We also need a few people to be on call each day in case someone's plans change.

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!

Summary minutes from the July deacons’ meeting have been posted in the narthex.

The August church **newsletter** is available on the table in the narthex.

Community Connections

Heritage Hall Museum & Archives program: What was it like when Germans from Russia immigrants set foot in Dakota Territory in the 1870s? That's the theme of a program scheduled for this afternoon, Sunday, Aug. 4, at Pioneer Hall starting at 3 p.m. Please see the bulletin board or church newsletter for details.

The **Friedensberg Bible Church of Avon** will be commemorating the 150th year anniversary on August 11, 2024. Coffee time will begin around ten and worship at ten thirty. Noon lunch will be provided. A time of sharing will be after lunch. We are trying to get some church history on www.FDBC.church so keep checking. Phone contact at 605-286-3621.

URGENT OPENING: Would you or someone you know consider serving a two-year term as an MCC mobile canner operator? Do you want to gain new skills while traveling across the country? To learn more, contact Joe Miller at joemiller@mcc.org or call 717-808-2417.

God’s Peace Through Love: “The hardest spiritual work in the world is to love the neighbor as the self – to encounter another human being not as someone you can use, change, fix, help, save, enroll, convince or control, but simply as someone who can spring you from the prison of yourself, if you will allow it.” - Barbara Brown Taylor

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