



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

September 20, 2020

*“Prophetic Actions”*

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude Sheila Epp

Welcome and Call to Worship Jay Penner

L: O God, we come seeking you in our worship together.

**P: We come to you for truth because we are untrue.**

L: We come to you for strength because we are weak.

**P: We come to you for wisdom because we are unwise.**

***ALL: Move in our midst; show us your truth, your strength, and your wisdom, Through our Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.***

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn – *Fairest Lord Jesus* (HWB #117) Chorister: LeRoy Epp

Celebrating God’s Mission – Mennonite Church USA

Children’s Story Jeremy Waltner

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

Hearing the Old Testament Jeremiah 13:1-11

Song – *Open my eyes* (SS #65)

Hearing the Old Testament Jeremiah 19:1-8, 10-11

Sermon – “You want me to do what?” Corey Miller

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

Confession:

L: Lord, when you call us to prophetic action in this world, we are often afraid.

**P: Afraid of how it will look. Afraid of what people will think. Afraid of how it will affect our lives.**

L: Take our fears Lord Jesus Christ, and transform them into power that is based on humility, grace and love.

**P: Give us words and actions to proclaim Your Reign on earth and Your Will be done.**

L: Give us courage to trust in You, to yield to You, and to rest in You, as we faithfully follow Jesus.

Prayer of Thanks SS #203

Song – *Beauty for brokenness* (SS# 115)

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Benediction

Processional Outside for Prayer of Blessing for Harvest

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

Offering a prophetic witness will often raise a few eyebrows. Welcome to Jeremiah’s world, where God continued to call Jeremiah to use unconventional tactics to help encourage Israel and Judah to return back to God. In this day that the Lord has made, we are so glad that you are able to join us for worship at Salem-Zion.

Following the service, there will be a brief **“Harvest Blessing”** by the combine in the parking lot. We hope all will join us for this blessing as our fall harvest begins.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Mennonite Church USA**. MC USA was formed in 2002 and has experienced many changes in our short history. Executor director Glen Guyton wrote a few weeks ago: *“The church I joined in 1993 is not the church of 2020. The merger never took. The cultural roadblocks that existed in the 1990s are hanging on in 2020. I believe the world and the church are ready for change. A new culture that values Anabaptism over the current iteration of politicized evangelicalism is growing in the denomination. The systems, structures and cultural paradigms we started with in 2002 will not take us through the next 20 years. It is time to redesign those to facilitate the work of the next generation. I am proud to be a part of MC USA because I have hope that the next generation will take the brave steps necessary for us to be the church God has called us to be.”*

Today, we joyfully give of our gifts to support Mennonite Church USA.

**TODAY** – Sunday school will be offered for all ages at 9:30am. Join us if you are able.

### NEXT SUNDAY – September 27

Next Sunday we will continue our series on “Road signs and Guideposts” in Jeremiah. The theme is **“Homeland Security.”** The scripture text will be from Jeremiah 22:13-17, 21-23 and Pastor Corey will preach.

Offering next Sunday will be for the **Student Tuition Sharing Fund**.

**Sunday School:** Anyone is welcome to the “Christ in Crisis” Sunday School class that meets in the fellowship hall each Sunday and begins at 9:30. Next Sunday (September 27) we will be looking at Chapter 5 “The Power Question.” “What does leadership look like in our world today and What is Jesus’s way of leadership?”

### COMING EVENTS

**Oct. 4 – World Wide Communion Sunday**

**Oct. 25 – Harvest Mission Festival** celebrating our local mission activities

## Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

---

### Happenings over the past week:

- Diane Ellinger recently began another “semester” in teaching English as a Second Language in the Freeman Community building. After meeting in person for a session, it was decided to go back to having ZOOM sessions. We give thanks for this important ministry that Diane is involved in and that Salem-Zion supports.
- Harvest has begun for some of our farmers. It’s always interesting to notice what story the field will tell.
- Nathan Schrag installed Salem-Zion’s new live streaming equipment recently. Thanks be to God!

### Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Nita Engbrecht.
- all those in the health profession that continue to work hard to care for the sick and vulnerable as well as doing it safely during this time of Covid-19.
- our farmers as they once again gear up for another harvest season. Pray for safety, calm, and patience.
- a collective sense of feeling and experiencing care in the giving and receiving of the Care Cards. May each card speak God’s peace into the hearts and souls of every person.
- Jacob Guckenberger who is being licensed toward ordination at Christ Community Church, Des Moines, IA today. Jacob joined his wife Kelsey to become part of the pastoral team there on August 1. We pray that God would bless Jacob's ministry at and with Christ Community.

### Remember to thank God for:

- the faithful ones throughout the ages who have boldly offered prophetic acts for God’s rule and God’s reign.
- the six young people who are taking the catechism class to grow in their faith and discern about baptism. The students are: Timothy Epp, Connor Epp, Aidan Kesteloot, Jada Koerner, Blake Van Ningen, and Laura Ilunga.

**Salem-Zion Connects with Caring Cards:** In this past week, you have begun receiving your names for the **Caring Card Blitz**. I encourage you to be playful, encouraging and even colorful in writing out cards for people in our church. May you be blessed as you offer love and as you receive love from others this month.

Please see the bulletin board in the narthex for **Deacon meeting minutes** from the summer months.

There will be a **Congregation/Pastor Review** this fall in keeping with our Salem-Zion constitution which specifies that a review be done every three years. The Review Committee has made plans to resume this process after it

was need fully tabled this spring. More information will be coming in the next few weeks as we seek to make this review possible and relevant during this time.

The **Junior Sunday School offering** for the Fall Quarter will be going to the Don and Sonja Waltner Family. An offering box is located in the narthex marked Junior Sunday School Offering. Everyone is welcome to contribute. Make checks payable to Salem-Zion and in the memo put Don and Sonja Waltner. If you have any questions, please ask Sheila Epp.

At the beginning of our current fiscal year the administrative board approved a **project fund** in the amount of \$5,000 for the trustees to complete some improvement projects in the church building. These projects have included new drapes in the fellowship hall, new whiteboards in the Sunday school classrooms and the lowering of the serving wall between the kitchen and fellowship hall and a new roll up door for that opening. We have done all this work with the generous help of volunteers from our church family. However, we have gone over budget by \$1,500 and are looking for donations to cover this unexpected cost. \$965.96 is still needed. If you are willing to contribute toward this, please earmark your checks for “the project fund” and submit to Lacey Friesen. Thank you!

**Contributing to the Dennis Schrock Memorial:** Because of the many ways that Dennis Schrock has blessed our church, the deacons are going to send a financial gift to Marcia from their deacon sharing fund. You are invited to also contribute to Marcia in her time of need. Write your checks out to **Salem-Zion Mennonite** and write in “*Marcia Schrock gift*” in the memo. If you want to contribute to the Dennis Schrock Memorial (which goes to Freeman Academy), you can again write out your checks to Salem-Zion and write “*Dennis Schrock Memorial – FA*” in the memo. We will run this for a few Sundays and after Lacey has collected all the gifts that come in, she will write out two checks and give them to the Schrock family. May God’s healing and hope flow through us to this grieving family. - the Deacons

**Household Treasury Report 3rd Sunday of month** Balance: \$4,070.98  
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!

**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.

## Community Connections

---

**Et Cetera Shoppe** is currently open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:30-3:30 for shopping. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, our back door is open from 9-3 for dropping off donations. We hear requests for more shopping hours, but at this time we don't have enough volunteers to make that very doable. (The COVID pandemic took our list of 29 clerks down to 13, for example!) Would any of you like to join our team during this crazy time?? We have openings for both clerks and pricers. We do require all of our volunteers to wear a mask when in the shop, and we take every precaution we can to keep everything well-sanitized and to maintain good physical distancing. Thank about it, and call the shop at 925-7098 if you'd like to know more.

The September edition of *On the Level* is now available from **Mennonite Disaster Service**. In our current issue, you can read how MDS volunteers are exploring ways to assist with recovery from Hurricanes Laura and Sally and the deadly West Coast wildfires, volunteers in PA make plans to assist farmers facing drought, and we are now accepting volunteers for fall and winter projects. Read more at <https://conta.cc/33EJ34W>.

**The Peace of Christ:** "To put one's hope in Jesus, then, is to believe, despite all the evidence to the contrary, Jesus' way of peace, justice, mercy and compassion will ultimately prevail over the empire's ways of violence, exploitation, oppression and fear." – Rachel Held Evans

### Pastor Corey Miller

Office Hours:

Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon

[corey.miller@gwtc.net](mailto:corey.miller@gwtc.net)

Cell phone: 319-930-7320

5

### Church Admin. Assistant:

Lisa Kaufman

(605) 951-1871 ~ [salemzion@gwtc.net](mailto:salemzion@gwtc.net)

6