



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

**“The Holy Spirit Helps in Difficult Times”
September 24, 2023**

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

- Prelude – *Beautiful Savior* (Cherwien)
Abide, O Dearest Jesus (MH #308; Manz) Lisa Kaufman
- Choral Call to Worship – *All Will Be Well* Judy Graber, Lacey Friesen
- Welcome and Lighting the Peace Lamp Nathan Epp
- Gathering Songs Preschool/Kindergarten class
Sing, Little Children, Sing
Praise Him, Praise Him
- Opening Prayer
- * Hymn – *What a Fellowship/Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* VT #160
- * Greeting each other
- Song of Praise – *Clap Happy Psalm* 1st-6th graders
- Children’s Story Story of Esther Gwen Ortman
- Sharing our Offerings – Student Tuition Sharing Fund
Offertory – *Jesus Christus, unser Heiland* (Buxtehude)
- ## HEARING GOD’S WORD
- Hearing the Scriptures Acts 15:1-5, 6-12, 13-21
All Will Be Well (VT #586)
- Sermon – “The Spirit and Ethical Issues” Pastor Corey Miller
- ## RESPONDING TO GOD
- Song – *My Life Flows On* VT #605
- Sharing and Congregational Prayer
- * Benediction
- * Sending Song – *Go, Now in Peace* (VT #835) 1st-6th graders
- Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

How can we trust the Holy Spirit when the church seems divided on certain issues? How does the Spirit work when not everyone agrees? The early church provides some examples of how to navigate through difficult times. We are so glad that you have joined us to worship this morning.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for the **Student Tuition Sharing Fund**.

9:30am – Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Worship Service

Noon – Potluck meal and kickoff for our Pastor/Congregational Review

2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

We would like to welcome everyone to our church potluck. Today is a joyous start to our Congregation/Pastor Church Review process. We will have the surveys available in the fellowship hall for you to take and fill out today or take home with you and return to the church. All regular attendants and members who attend in person or virtually are invited to fill out a survey. We hope to have the surveys returned by October 8th. Please feel free to contact the Pastoral Congregation Review Committee for any questions. Teresa Dick, Marlys Tieszen, Nathan Epp, Mary Mannes and LeAnn Kaufman.

THIS WEEK

Sept. 26 (Tues) – Deacons meeting at 7:00pm

Sept. 27 (Wed) – Children's Choir rehearsal - 1st-6th grades - 6:00-6:30pm

Sept. 27 (Wed) – Youth Group at 6:30pm; Supper and Session

Sept. 29 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – October 1

Next Sunday we continue our Fall series “*God’s Faithful Community*,” and the focus of the morning will be “*Worship and Studying the Bible*.” Lois Janzen Preheim will be preaching and the text is 1 Timothy 2:1-2. Everyone is invited to bring their Bibles to worship.

Next week the offering is for the **Household Treasury**.

COMING EVENTS

Oct. 8 – Communion

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Susan Schrag had her last radiation treatment on Thursday! After four weeks of recovery, she will then have surgery to remove the shrunken tumor. We praise God that Susan has endured these weeks with strength, grace, and faith.

Remember to praise God for:

- the gift of moisture that will settle the harvest dust for a few days. Let us sing to the Lord of the harvest our songs of happy praise!

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Helen Tieszen.
- S. Roy Kaufman as he travels to AMBS to participate in the annual “Rooted and Grounded Conference” next weekend. Roy will speak on “*The Role of Agriculture and Agrarian Cultures in Addressing Climate Change.*”
- faithful, generous, and joyful giving to our Household Treasury so we can meet our giving goals for the year. For all that we’ve given and will give, all praise and glory to God who blesses us with abundant love.
- our college aged students as they continue their studies and work. Pray for Josie Epp, Kaitlyn Epp, Timothy Epp, Ashlyn Benjamin, Albert Kalonji, and Connor Epp, that they will know God’s presence with them.
- Susan Schrag as she recovers from her recent radiation treatments.
- the pastoral leaders of CPMC who will attend the "Finding Our Way: Learning to Lead Like Jesus in the Midst of Conflict" event next week in Omaha. May it be a fruitful time of learning and fellowship.

Miller’s traveling to Virginia: On Thursday, September 28th, Corey and Nancy will be driving to Virginia to visit Hannah and her fiancé Silas Driver for a few days. They will be returning home on October 3rd.

Life Information Sheets: Thank you for taking some time to fill out the Life Information Sheets that were placed in your mailboxes. 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.

Dear members of Salem Zion, those who attend and those who watch online: the **household treasury** has been struggling to stay in the black. There has been an extra \$15,000+ in expenses that we don't normally have. Our insurance skyrocketed and we had some unexpected expenses with the furnace. Right now the household treasury balance is more than -\$20,000. I am sending out a request to ask those who are able to give or give some extra, consider doing so. Salem Zion is our community and in order for this community to continue to function, we need your help! Our fiscal year ends at the end of October and it would be wonderful to end with a positive balance! Please contact your loyal treasurer if you have any questions! Thanks in advance for your generosity!!!! - Lacey Friesen, treasurer

Under the umbrella of Wellspring, counselors from The Changing Behavioral Group have been seeing clients at Freeman Regional, providing **mental health support**. Realizing the importance of this service, Salem Zion has funds

available for its members, including children, adolescents and adults. Make an appointment by calling the Freeman Clinic, mentioning you are a Salem-Zion member. If you have questions, please call the Group office at 605-201-0104.

Community Connections

Swiss Choral will begin rehearsals this evening, September 24, 7pm at Salem Mennonite (south) Church. Preparation will begin for a performance of Brahms' *German Requiem*. Scores will be provided. All interested singers are encouraged to attend and be a part of learning a timeless piece of music!

Rural Revival will meet on September 25 at 8:00 p.m. at the Freeman library. All are welcome to attend.

Et Cetera Shoppe is in need of some volunteer work that can be done in your own home, on your own time schedule! We’re looking for volunteers to sew rug strips together for our rug weavers. This is very simple sewing that doesn’t require a lot of care or accuracy. It’s similar to making a quilt binding, but a bit cruder. If you’d consider helping us out with this ongoing need, please let Kris or Anita know. Another (more short-term) job that we’re looking for help with, is stripping dried summer savory leaves off stems so that we can package and sell it. This fragrant job can be done in front of the TV! Call the shop at 925-7098, or stop in, if you’d be willing to help with either of these needs.

The September edition of **On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service at <https://conta.cc/45YzaOx>. In our current issue: MDS is hiring several positions; the important role of cooks at an MDS project; and moving words of gratitude at the closing of the project in Cape Breton.

Practicing God’s Peace: “The 'peace' the gospel brings is never the absence of conflict, but an ineffable divine reassurance within the heart of conflict; a peace that surpasses understanding.” - Walter Wink

Pastor Corey Miller
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