



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

September 26, 2021
Stewardship Focus
Generosity: The Fruit of Gratitude

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude – *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*
(arr. Michael Burkhardt)

Dan Graber

Welcome and Bringing Peace

Janette Epp

Call to Worship

L: Friends, we gather together this morning to proclaim the ways in which God is working in our midst.

P: We have been blessed by God!

L: We gather together to give thanks for the ways in which God is working in our midst.

P: We are being blessed by God!

L: We gather together to open our eyes to the ways God is using us to work within our midst.

P: We will continue to be blessed by God!

Opening Prayer

* Hymn – *Sing to the God of Harvest*

VT #122

Celebrating our Mission with *Student Tuition Sharing Fund*

PROCLAIMING

Children’s Story

from Exodus 16

Corey Miller

Song – *Fill Us with Your Feast*

#309

* Hearing the Gospel

Luke 7:36-50

Sermon – “Generosity: Love Spilling Over”

Corey Miller

Special Music

Dan Graber, Beth Kaufman

RESPONDING

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

* Sending Song – *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

#606

* Blessing

L: Go in peace

P: As we have heard this morning, “Going in Peace” means going into the world as a whole person, forgiven, smothered in God’s grace, ready to show generosity because of our gratitude, and ready to be good stewards of God’s grace toward others.

L: Go in peace

Postlude – *Toccata No. 3* (Johann Pachelbel)

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

God is a generous God. All throughout the Biblical narrative, God demonstrates a generosity that is beyond comprehension. As we worship today, we are invited to enter into God’s generous love and implement it in our lives. We are so glad that you are worshipping with us.

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

9:00 a.m. – Zoom Adult Sunday School

9:30-10:15 a.m. – Jr. Dept. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for adults

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

NEXT SUNDAY – October 3

Next Sunday is *World Communion Sunday*. The scripture texts are Genesis 2:18-24, Psalm 8, Hebrews 1:1-4, Mark 10:2-6 and Pastor Corey will be preaching. We will be celebrating God’s saving love by coming to the communion table with believers all over the world.

Offering next Sunday will be for the *Household Treasury*.

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, Oct. 3 – World Communion Sunday

Sunday, Oct. 24 – Harvest of Peace Festival with John Sharp

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Hilda Kaufman died on September 14 and her memorial service is pending.
- Caley Ortman will be ordained at First Mennonite Church of Reedley, CA on Sunday, September 26th.
- Elmer Gross remains a patient at Sanford Hospital and is still on the ventilator. Judy has recovered at home and is doing well, even though she can’t see Elmer in the hospital.

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Cody Schrag.
- Elmer Gross in his health journey. Pray for Judy as she walks alongside Elmer in spirit in this difficult time.
- Caley Ortman as he prepares for his ordination to Christian ministry in Mennonite Church USA.

- those who feel a bit weary in the journey with the pandemic. Pray for people, teachers, neighbors, health care workers, politicians, and others that often feel polarized against one another.
- a spirit of generosity to well up inside us and we may embody God's generous spirit with each other.
- CPMC ministry staff as they travel, that they would be safe on the road and in each congregation and that they would bring blessings wherever they go.

Freed Up Financial Stewardship Curriculum: FreedUp is an app-based personal finance curriculum that is an updated version of the "Freed Up Financial Living" curriculum that Everence has used in the past. It's designed as a six-week session, beginning with an introduction to stewardship, followed by sessions on what it means to be a "Diligent Earner," "Prudent Spender," "Generous Giver," "Wise Saver," and "Cautious Debtor." At the heart of the curriculum is the ability for participants to choose the "lane" they will be in. Using some questions about their circumstances, they are guided to a line for those seeking Stability (those living paycheck to paycheck, likely struggling with debt), Clarity (not living paycheck to paycheck, paying off their credit card each month, but not having a clear sense of future goals), and Legacy (those in generally good shape, but not feeling completely free, perhaps because they're not sure what to do with their stuff and resources and how to use them responsibly). Lyle Miller is looking for a few churches to try out this updated curriculum as a pilot. If you are interested in being a part of this, let Dave Janssen (Everence advocate) or Pastor Corey know.

Fall selection ballots are being distributed in today's bulletin; extra copies are available in the narthex. Everyone is encouraged to fill out this ballot to help determine church leadership for 2022. Please place completed ballots in the box in the narthex by Monday, October 11.

A trip to deliver excess **Christian literature and Bibles** to Christian Literature Distributors, Inc. in Minneapolis is being planned for early October. Please leave any items you would like to have included in this delivery in the women's cloakroom by October 3. - Duane & Marlys Tieszen

30 Days of Generosity: Even though it's been a full month of school activities, work responsibilities, and harvest, I hope you have been able to enter (even partially) into this past Stewardship month to be inspired to grow in generosity. As we continue to practice generosity, may we experience God's blessings.

Community Connections

The **Rural Revival** monthly meeting will be on September 27 at 8 pm in the Freeman Public Library, downtown Freeman.

Learning God's Stewardship:

"Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already." - C.S. Lewis

Zoom Adult Sunday School

<https://zoom.us/j/97667382194?pwd=NHNieHZ6a29ZMGpZSHJpczlibUxtdz09>; Meeting ID: 976 6738 2194; Passcode: 523139

Livestream link for Sunday morning worship

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX8KyFIZChK0Ef-rIBAAaS3A>

Pastor Corey Miller

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