



# Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

September 8, 2019

Sloth/Joy

“As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy...” - Mt. 25:5

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude Sheila Epp  
 Welcome and Announcements Jay Penner  
 Call to Worship and Gathering Prayer  
 L: The God who created our universe, who acts through history to save our world, who reveals God’s love through Jesus and through ongoing intervention in our lives...  
**P: This God calls us to the holy task of partnership in building God’s kingdom.**  
 L: Come, let us draw near in worship.  
**ALL: Let us be transformed by our calling.**  
 \* Hymn of Praise – *God of our strength* HWB #36

## DISORIENTED LOVE

Gospel Reading Matthew 25:1-13  
 Homily – “Drowsy” Corey Miller  
 Hymn – *Whatsoever you do* (vv. 1-4) SS #52

## ORIENTED TOWARD GOD’S LOVE

Children’s Time Elizabeth Janssen  
 Prayer of confession and words of assurance  
 Special Music – *The Crystal Fountain* Judy Graber

## NEWLY ORIENTED LOVE FOR DISCIPLESHIP

Scripture reading II Pet.1:3-7  
 Homily – “Participants of the Divine” Corey Miller  
 Sharing and Congregational Prayer Steve Graber  
 Offering our gifts – Central Plains Mennonite Conference  
 Offertory  
 \* Song – *Praise God from whom* (HWB #119) & Offertory Prayer  
 \* Song – *I’m pressing on the upward way* SJ #96  
 \* Benediction  
 Postlude

\* Congregation please stand. If standing is difficult, please remain seated.

*The peace lamp is lit weekly as a reminder that there is violence and suffering in the world. We as a faith community pray for peace for all people and look for ways to be active in peacemaking and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

## Church Calendar

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

### TODAY

Snakes and Ladders! Sloth has often been associated with being lazy and disconnected. Joy on the other hand represents dramatic connection to God and others. We are so glad that you have chosen to be present here in this place to worship God in community. Welcome!

**Greeters:** Armando Miller and Solomon Ortman

9:15 a.m. – Sunday School  
 10:10 a.m. – Fellowship Time  
 10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

### **“Celebrating Giving”**

This morning the offering is received to further the ministry of Central Plains Mennonite Conference. The conference helps to facilitate a larger church family that supports each other through prayer and support of many ministries across the Upper Midwest. Thank you for supporting this ministry!

### THIS WEEK

Sept. 9 (Mon) 7:30 p.m. – Administrative Board meeting  
 Sept. 11 (Wed) 8:00 p.m. – Music Committee meeting

### NEXT SUNDAY – Sept. 15

Next Sunday we conclude our *Snakes and Ladders* series (7 deadly sins and holy virtues) by reflecting on **Wrath/Love**. The scripture texts will be Mark 15:15-20, 23-32 and Matthew 28:1-10. Pastor Corey will be preaching.

**Greeters:** Ella and Oliver Waltner; **Organist:** Ruby Waltner; **Offering:** Mennonite Church USA

### COMING EVENTS

**Sept. 21-22** – Women’s Retreat at Swan Lake Christian Camp

## Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

### **Happenings over the past week:**

- Great weather blessed the farm sale at Lawrence and Ladonna’s farm last Wednesday.

- Members of Central Plains Conference executive board and committees met this weekend here in Freeman. Pastor Corey is a part of the Christian Formation Committee of CPMC.

**Remember to pray for:**

- those who cannot be here today: Nita Engbrecht.
- the communities that have been profoundly affected by Hurricane Dorian.
- the family of Arlan Ortman as they gather this afternoon to lay to rest Arlan's remains in our cemetery.
- Robin Graber as she anticipates having total knee replacement surgery on Wednesday.
- Amanda Bleichty, Conference Minister of Christian Formation and Director of Communications, as she prepares to return to the office on September 10. Amanda has been on maternity leave since the birth of her son, Henry Hoyt Bleichty, on July 15.

**Remember to thank God for:**

- our heritage that taught us to work hard, trust in God, and experience inward and outward joy.

**Coming Soon: Caring Groups**

The deacons and Pastor Corey have been reflecting on how we can increase our care for each other as a church and have decided to launch a renewed attempt at having **Caring Groups** within Salem-Zion. Several people expressed interest in being a part of a Caring Group in the most recent Time/Talents survey, so we are opening it up to the entire congregation. Pastor Corey will be focusing on Caring Groups on the last two Sundays in September and more information will be coming soon! Be praying about your participation in a Caring Group.

REMINDER: according to our schedule on the bulletin board, North Church is responsible for the **community gardens** this week. If interested in helping, talk to Gary Graber.

Thank-you again for your generous donations that were delivered to **Flandreau** on August 28<sup>th</sup>. At this time **we are putting on hold** any donations of dry goods, BUT FOOD ITEMS are still being accepted along with monetary donations. Please refer to the latest donation sheet (from July) for food items needed and/or address for monetary gifts. Questions may be directed to Gary and Gloria Graber.

Today is the last day to register for **Women's Retreat** at Swan Lake Christian Camp! Go to [myslcc.com/register](http://myslcc.com/register) or call the camp at (605) 326-

5690 to reserve your spot for a relaxing and inspiring weekend together with women from around the conference. The retreat begins Saturday, Sept. 21 at 9:30am and ends with the noon meal on Sunday, Sept. 22. See you there!

**August Offerings and Gifts:** Household Treasury - \$8,503.45; Mennonite Women - \$300.00.

**August Household Treasury Report** – Income: \$8,522.25; Expenses: \$12,499.71; Balance: -\$16,933.21.

**Salem-Zion College Students:**

Cole Graber	Rachel Miller
Dakota State University	Hesston College
Richardson Hall #209	Box 3000
820 Washington Ave.	Hesston, KS 67062
Madison, SD 57042	(319) 930-7323
(605) 951-8078	rachel.miller@hesston.edu
cole.graber@trojans.dsu.edu	

Please inform the church office of any additional contact information updates.

**Praying for the Holy Spirit:** *“Come Holy Spirit, Come. Fill the hearts of thy faithful people and kindle in us the fire of thy love.”*

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**Community Connections**

**Rural Revival** will meet on Monday, September 23 at 8:00 p.m. in the Freeman Public Library, downtown Freeman. All are welcome to attend. The education topic for this month is titled "Alley Cropping: why and how; my limited experiences". Paul Ortman describes his experience of growing two or more crops in the same field in narrow strips -- alley cropping.

**Trusting God's Peace in our Journey:**  
*“All around you, people will be tiptoeing through life, just to arrive at death safely. But dear children, do not tiptoe. Run, hop, skip, or dance, just don't tiptoe.”* - Shane Claiborne

**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

**Church Admin. Assistant:**  
Lisa Kaufman  
Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
(605) 925-7771 ~ [salemzion@gwtc.net](mailto:salemzion@gwtc.net)

