Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

"Light Dawns on a Weary World;
Bringing an End to Oppression"
February 8, 2026

GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude – *One of Eight Modal Pieces for organ* (Jean Langlais) Ken Mannes

Choral Call – *Gathered Here* (VT #3) Judy Graber, Sherilyn Ortman

Welcome and Call to Worship (from Psalm 112) Elizabeth Janssen

L: Praise the LORD! Happy are those who fear the LORD,
P: Who greatly delight in his commandments.
L: They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
P: They are gracious, merciful, and righteous.
L: They conduct their affairs with justice; they give freely to the poor.
P: The righteous will never be moved; their hearts are steady and are not afraid.
ALL: Their righteousness endures forever!

Prayer of Invocation

* Singing our Praise – *You Are Salt for the Earth* VT #297
Nathan Schrag, guitar; Sherilyn Ortman, piano

Sharing the Peace

Children's Story Sheila Epp

Lighting Peace Candle

Offering – Central Plains Mennonite Conference
Offertory – *Jesus, the very thought of thee* (arr. Emma Lou Diemer)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Hearing the Old Testament Isaiah 58:1-9

Song – *Spirit of the Living God* VT #740

* Hearing the Gospel Matthew 5:13-20

Sermon – "Salty Righteousness" Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Song – *Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring* VT #639

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

SENT OUT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS

* Sending Song – *Renew Your Church* VT #717

* Benediction

Postlude – *Improvised*

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

We continue bearing witness to Christ's Light that is dawning in a weary world. When Jesus identified his disciples as Salt and Light, he welcomes us all to join in his saving ministry, which includes bringing an end to oppression. We are blessed to worship as the community of faith and we are so glad that you have joined us!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Central Plains Mennonite Conference**.

9:30am – Sunday School
10:30am – Worship Service
2:00pm – Fuente de Vida church service

THIS WEEK

Feb. 11 (Wed) – Kids Can Club at 5:30pm; Chancel choir rehearsal from 6:30-7:30pm
Feb. 13 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – February 15

Next Sunday continues the season of Epiphany with the theme: "***Light Dawns on a Weary World***." The focus of the morning is "*Bringing Witness*." The texts are Exodus 24:12-18, Ps. 2, II Pet. 1:16-21, and Matthew 17:1-9. Lori Hofer is worship leader and Pastor Corey will be preaching.

The offering will be for the Deacon Sharing Fund.

COMING EVENTS

Feb. 18 – Kids Can Club at 5:30pm
Feb. 18 – Chancel choir rehearsal from 6:30-7:30pm
Feb. 18 – Ash Wednesday service at 7:30pm
Feb. 25 – Congregational ice cream social at 7:00pm, a free-will donation fundraiser for the Tuition Sharing Fund

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- The funeral for Sharon Wollmann happened on Saturday here at Salem-Zion Mennonite.
- Fuente de Vida Church celebrated its 4-year anniversary recently and they spent Saturday evening rejoicing in God's goodness to them. So, if some things aren't as tidy this morning, it is because of this celebration. It's all good. Grace upon all today!

Remember to praise God for:
- places in the world where systems of hatred and oppression have been replaced with love and freedom.
- the promise that Jesus' dawning Light continues to shine and shatter the darkness.
- faithful witness and work by our Minnesota Mennonite churches that are praying and acting for peace and justice in their respective contexts.

Remember to pray for:
- young adults in our congregation: Ella Waltner.
- faculty, staff, and students at Freeman Academy as they begin thinking about what is ahead for each of them.
- Jeff and Angie, Allison and David, Alex and Emily, Cade and Ainsley Wollmann as they grieve the loss of their mother and grandmother Sharon. May God's love hold them in their season of grief.

Additional Opportunities to work for justice in Minneapolis: Conference minister Susan Janzen has heard from other CPMC churches in Minnesota that are inviting us to join in ministries that seek to bring justice and peace to immigrants who are trying to live peaceably.

- *From Elisabeth Harder-Schrock, First Mennonite Church, Mountain Lake*: First Mennonite Church is accepting donations for our coordinated work to feed families -- especially ones identified by the public school -- together with the Mountain Lake food shelf (Loaves and Fishes). If folks want to donate for this specific work, they can send donations marked "Mennonite Action" to First Mennonite Church, PO Box 473, Mountain Lake, MN 56159. They could also send to FMC via Zelle if their bank supports it. Depending on how much comes in, these funds might eventually be used for rent support, etc. Folks can also donate directly to the Loaves and Fishes Food Shelf by sending checks c/o Bertha Klassen, 315 Sunset Ave, Mountain Lake, MN 56159.
- *From Caleb Yoder, Faith Mennonite Church, Minneapolis*: Some specific organizations you could consider supporting are Dios Habla Hoy (food delivery to families sheltering in place), or immigration support organizations like Monarca or MIRAC. Our church can also accept contributions with "community support" in the memo line, and we will distribute funds to local organizations and efforts as discerned by our mission and service committee. Faith Mennonite Church, 3137 38th Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55406.

- *From Tony Schrock, Emmanuel Mennonite Church, St. Paul*: Another option is Urban Ventures (https://urbanventures.org/). EMC member Mark-Peter Lundquist is a director there, and has told us about incidents near there and how they have set up buying/delivering groceries for families that are afraid to leave their homes.

To give to Salem-Zion or the missions we support through Venmo, please use the attached QR code or go through your Venmo app and search (under charity) for Salem-Zion Mennonite Church. If you want your donation to go somewhere other than the household treasury, please put that in the notes. Thank you!

Community Connections

The **Freeman Network for Justice and Peace** will meet Wednesday, February 18 (note date change) at 11:30 A.M. in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome.

Mennonite Central Committee's annual "Great Winter Warmup" is underway. MCC hopes to collect 10,000 relief comforters by the end of March, which will then be distributed to provide comfort and warmth across the US and around the world. Join the effort! **Stop in the Et Cetera Shoppe on Monday, February 16 and help us tie a comforter.** You do not need to know how to sew in order to help! Stay for as little or as long as you like – and receive a coupon for one free clothing item worth $4 or less, just for helping. Let's spread the warmth!

God seeks Justice: "The church must be reminded that it is not the mast or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority." - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Pastor Corey Miller
Office Hours:
Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon
corey.miller@gwtc.net
Cell phone: 319-930-7320

Church Admin. Assistant:
Lisa Kaufman
(605) 951-1871 ~ salemzion@gwtc.net
Office hours: Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and by appointment as requested