Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

"A Bitter Drink in the Desert"
June 28, 2026

GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude – *God, whose giving knows no ending* (Healey Willan) Ken Mannes
Welcome and Call to Worship Paul Ortman
L: The Lord has delivered us with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.
P: Yet we often find ourselves in the wilderness, thirsty and weary from the journey.
L: When life feels as bitter as the waters of Marah, we do not know where to turn.
P: We bring our thirst to God, who hears the prayers of the desperate.
L: The Lord knows the way through the desert. By God's grace, the bitter waters are made sweet.
ALL: The Lord is our strength and our song; Let us worship the Lord, our Healer.
Prayer of Invocation
* Singing our Praise – *Summoned by the God Who Made Us* VT 1
Sharing the Peace
Children's Story Laura Hofer
Peace Lamp
Offering – Student Tuition Sharing Fund
Offertory – *Sarabande* (J.S. Bach)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading Numbers 20:1-13
Song – *Come Now, O God* VT 143
* Gospel Reading John 17:14-18
Sermon – "A Bitter Drink in the Desert" Bob Engbrecht

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Song – *God Speaks to Us in Bird and Song* Judy Graber
Sharing Joys and Concerns
Congregational Prayer Mary Mannes

SENT OUT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS

* Sending Song – *For the Healing of the Nations* VT 705
* Benediction
Postlude – *Improvised*

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Our journey through the Bible narrative continues. Israel had many ups and downs as they struggled to only follow Yahweh God's voice and vision. Today, we reflect on the story when Israel had a bitter drink in the wilderness. We welcome brother Bob Engbrecht to the pulpit to share with us from God's Word. Welcome!

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

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

THIS WEEK

June 28-July 2 – 5th and 6th Grade Camp 1 at SLCC
June 30 (Tues) – Deacons meeting at 7:30pm
July 1 (Wed) – Outreach and Service meeting at 7:30pm
July 3 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – July 5

Next Sunday we will worship with the other Freeman churches in our community at the Freeman Community Center at 10:00am. The focus of the morning will be "*Christian Unity Across Differences*." Brother S. Roy Kaufman will be preaching and the offering will go toward the benevolence fund of the Freeman Ministerial Association for crisis assistance. Normally, our first offering of the month is for our Household Treasury, so you can send your money/checks to the office for our Household Treasury.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Delegates from Salem-Zion attended Central Plains Mennonite in Mt. Lake this weekend. Our delegates were: Charity Ortman, Gwen Ortman, Elizabeth Janssen, Sharon Waltner, Nancy Miller, and Polly Waltner. Moderator elect Chris Eisenbeis, Carol, and Pastor Corey also attended this great event.
- Linda Ortman was taken to the Sanford hospital last Sunday with pneumonia-like symptoms. Linda hopes to return to Tieszen Home this weekend where she will resume Physical Therapy. It has been determined that chemotherapy is not an option for Linda.

Remember to praise God for:

- the long days of summer, the fertile ground that brings forth crops, vegetation, and floral delights.
- our Central Plains Mennonite Conference and for the blessing that is for our congregation.

Remember to pray for:
- those who cannot be here today: Paul Engbrecht.
- Linda and John Ortman in their journey together. May God's comforting love hold them both.
- others who are dealing with health needs and concerns.
- families who are traveling on vacation.
- 5th and 6th grade camp at Swan Lake Christian Camp
- wisdom and discernment within our conference, especially when differences occur.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE: Last week in our worship, we recalled the story of Israel being freed from slavery. That included the book of **Exodus**. André, Sam, and Clara Beseman read through this salvation story. The story for this Sunday is found in the book of **Numbers**. Tim Eisenbeis, Nancy, Polly and Kyle read through the detailed book of **Leviticus**. Estelle, Duane and Marlys, Sharon Waltner, Roy, and Arianna Miller have signed up to read Numbers through **Deuteronomy**. Ask any of our wonderful readers what they heard, felt, and experienced in their texts as we remember this sacred journey that Israel was on with their God!

Salem-Zion **announcements will be emailed this week** as usual, but no bulletins will be printed for July 5 since we will be joining the community worship service in Freeman.

Youth Group Service Trip to Spencer, Iowa, July 5-July 11. Our youth will travel with groups from Mountain Lake and Lincoln, NE to assist those affected by the 2024 floods. Matt and Digna Miller will go along as sponsors.

Attention all Musicians! The Worship team would like to put together small-group ensembles to provide music on occasional Sunday mornings and special services. These groups will complement our larger men's and chancel choirs, which will continue to provide music seasonally. The worship team will reach out to those who have indicated interest on the times and talents sheet. In case you missed filling out the times and talents sheet or if you have questions or ideas as we explore new ways of sharing music in our worship at Salem-Zion, we invite you to contact a worship team member (Clara Beseman, Rolf Olson, Sharon Waltner, and Maria Paff).

Children, and parents, please join the summer **Shalom Readers**! Read 7 Shalom books, indicated by dots on the spine in our library. I will leave a complete list of Shalom books in the library, it can also be found at Central Plains website. Once you have read 7 books, just do 2 creative responses for any two of the books. A creative response could be a collage, a letter to a character, a journal entry, build a scene from the book, write a poem, song or prayer, or come up

with your own idea. There is a sheet to report the 7 books that were read, and then you get to request a free book! In addition to receiving the free book, anyone who completes the Shalom Readers program is also invited to have pizza after church on Sept. 20 and stay to play kickball and have root beer floats. Reading lists and creative responses will be due on August 23.

Selection ballots for assistant Sunday school superintendents and DVBS co-chairs were distributed last Sunday, and extra copies are available in the narthex. Please return completed ballots to the selection box in the narthex by July 12.

MCC Relief Sale reminders:

1. **My Coins Count** – keep saving those coins to help 400 displaced students in Kitwit, DR Congo; $97 provides one student school supplies, a uniform and covers fees for the national exam
2. There are still openings to register a theme basket – call 605-660-2714
3. **Please** consider donating items for the bake sale (breads, rolls, pies, kuchen, home-made noodles, jams/jellies, etc)

It's that time again for **making cheesepockets for the MCC Sale**! Please mark your calendars down for July 11 at 9am. Please join us for a time of fellowship and making cheesepockets! Any questions please contact Lacey Friesen.

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!

God Peace for the World: *"The crisis in the U.S. church has almost nothing to do with being liberal or conservative; it has everything to do with giving up on the faith and discipline of our Christian baptism and settling for a common, generic U.S. identity that is part patriotism, part violence, and part affluence."* – Walter Brueggemann

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