Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

"Stewarding our Resources"
September 21, 2025

GATHERING TO PRAISE

Prelude/Gathering Music — Sheila Epp
Welcome and Call to Worship — Tim Graber

L: We gather in Abundance, away from the rush and the race, to celebrate the generous spirit that sings, without fear, "may all have enough."
P: We gather to live into the work of God's call.
L: We gather in Grace, awake to the sin of despair and degradation, awake to the chance to be more and the possibilities seeded within.
P: We gather to grow: to change moment-by-moment, in grace again-and-again.
L: We gather in Hope, ready to do more than talk, ready to make change one letter, one meal, one home, one gift, and one hand at a time. Ready to live and move and be. Ready to be the Change God calls us to be.
P: We gather to give of our time and our talents, our hopes and our energy. We gather to be.

Prayer of Invocation
* Singing our Praise – *God of the Fertile Fields* — VT #750
Greeting each other
Children's Story — David Friesen
Psalm of Lament — Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Song – *If the War Goes On* — VT #794
Peace Lamp
Offering – Mennonite Church USA
Offertory

HEARING GOD'S WORD

* Hearing the Gospel Story — Luke 16:1-13
Sermon – "Faithful with Little or Much" — Pastor Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Response Song – *Who Will Speak a Word of Warning* — VT #758
Words for the Community
Call to Prayer — I Timothy 2:1-7
Congregational Prayer

SENT OUT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS

* Sending Song – *God, Whose Giving* — VT #745
* Benediction
Postlude

Church Calendar

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

TODAY

Throughout Luke 16, Jesus teaches about faithful stewardship, about not letting money become a god, and about giving to the poor. Today, we ponder what it means to be "*faithful in a very little and in much*." May our stewardship practices find renewal as we hear Jesus' words to us in our context. Welcome to our worship!

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Mennonite Church USA**. Our congregation's contributions will be distributed according to the unified giving formula. For every dollar we give, 51% goes to Mennonite Mission Network, 17% to Mennonite Education Agency, 15% to MC USA staff work (Executive Board staff), 11% to MennoMedia, and 6% to Racial/Ethnic Constituency Groups.

THIS WEEK

Sept. 24 (Wed) – Children's Choir, 6:15-6:45pm
Sept. 26 (Fri) – Fuente de Vida church service at 7:00pm

NEXT SUNDAY – September 28

Next Sunday our theme is "Generosity." The texts are Jer. 32:1-3a, 6-15, Ps. 91:1-6, 14-16, 1 Tim. 6:6-19, and Luke 16:19-31. Pastor Corey will be preaching.

The offering will be for Mennonite Education Agency.

COMING EVENTS

October 5 – World Wide Communion Sunday
November 2 – Harvest Mission Festival with Salem Mennonite at Salem-Zion. Linda Shelly is our speaker.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- Dennis Herlyn was able to come home on Monday from the cancer Prairie Center in Sioux Falls.
- It was made known to us that Vince Two Eagles from Wagner, SD passed on July 28, 2025 at his home. Vince worked to foster a relationship with the Freeman Network for Justice and Peace and his people in Wagner. He was a musician, an artist, and a man who longed for right relationships with each other, the earth, and our Creator. If you wish to read his obituary google Vince Two Eagles of Wagner, SD.

Remember to praise God for:
- the gentle rains that fell across our part of the world this week, reminding us of God's cooling, nourishing, refreshing gifts of grace upon our lives.
- people who have modeled for us faithful stewardship practices of money, time, resources, and land.

Remember to pray for:
- those who cannot be here today: Cody Schrag.
- Freeman Academy, its incoming head of school Brice Kauffman, the board members, and our constituency as we listen for God's Spirit to lead us forward.
- those who feel distraught, anxiety, and even anger at the onslaught of violence that our country is experiencing these days, both political violence and violence in all its forms.
- our sister churches in Kansas: Pleasant Valley MC in Harper and Whitestone MC in Hesston.

Summary minutes from the last Deacons' meeting have been posted in the narthex.

A **thank-you card** from the Freeman School District has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

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

Rural Revival to meet Tuesday, September 23: Starting at 7:30 p.m. there will be a presentation by Craig Wollmann on raising specialty crops at the Freeman library. The Rural Revival monthly meeting will be at 8:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

The **Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association annual banquet** will be held on October 18 at 5:00 p.m. at the Burrton City Auditorium (203 N. Burrton Ave., Burrton, KS). Details have been posted in the narthex.

Update on the Spring Creek Pen Pals: We were able to match up all the students with interested parties for the school year of 2025-2026. We appreciated the overwhelming interest, if you were not contacted it was because we had more interested parties than students.

Learning Opportunities:
AMBS: Online Short Course: Challenging Christian Nationalism: Oct. 22 – Dec. 9: Join Drew Strait, PhD, in this six-week online Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary short course to deepen your understanding of White Christian nationalism and how faith communities can mobilize to disrupt it. Drawing on biblical studies, theology and peace studies, we'll explore how nonviolent resistance in the way of Jesus can counter extremist narratives that are radicalizing Christians. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Register by Oct. 1 to save $50! ambs.edu/nationalism

God's Peace comes by Living Christ: *"*Christianity is a lifestyle – a way of being in the world that is simple, non-violent, shared, and loving. However, we have made it into an established "religion" (and all that goes with that) and avoided the lifestyle change itself. One could be warlike, greedy, racist, selfish, and vain in most of Christian history, and still believe that Jesus is one's "personal Lord and Savior"… The world has no time for such silliness anymore. The suffering on earth is too great." - Richard Rohr

Pastor Corey Miller
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