



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of Mennonite Church USA

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April 12, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude *Kindly Spring Again is Here* – arr. Markworth; Leavitt
Awake, Thou Wintry Earth – J.S. Back (arr. Whitford)

Choral Call to Worship *All Ye Saints be Joyful* – Davis

Call to Worship (from Psalm 112)

Praise the LORD! Blessed are those who fear the LORD,
who greatly delight in his commandments.

**The generation of the upright will be blessed,
and their righteousness endures forever.**

They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

**It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who share freely, and have given to the poor;
who conduct their affairs with justice.**

For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever.

Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid;
their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD;
their righteousness endures forever.

Invocation Prayer

Opening Hymn *My Soul is Filled with Joy* – STJ # 13

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Confession and Assurance (Isaiah 29)

The Lord said: Because these people draw near with their mouths
and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their
worship of me is a human rule of empty words; so I will again do amazing
things with this people, shocking and amazing. The wisdom of their wise
shall perish, and the discernment of the discerning shall be hidden.

**We confess our deeds in the dark, that we seek to hide ourselves too deep
for the LORD to see and know. We have turned things upside down.**

**Though we are clay, we have thought ourselves the potter. We would be
our own creator, and claim greater wisdom than our maker. Yet we who
have erred in spirit seek to repent and to gain true understanding. We
who have grumbled against God yield to his instruction.**

Thus says the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, “My people will be ashamed
no longer, and my children, the work of my hands, will sanctify my name.
They will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and will stand in awe of the God of
Israel. Shall I not turn things around, fields to forest and forest to fields?
The deaf shall hear the words read aloud, and out of gloom and darkness
the eyes of the blind shall see. The meek shall have fresh joy in the LORD,
and the poorest shall exult in the Holy One of Israel. Tyrants shall be no
more, nor scoffers at truth; those who corrupt courts, who threaten judges
and deny justice, will be cut off, and those who seek right will be vindicated.

Anthem *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* – Showalter/Grotenhuis

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings James 1:2-8 (NRSV); Matthew 5:1-16 (NIV)

Sermon *Kingdom Blessings*

III. RECEIVING THE SPIRIT, JOINED IN CHRIST’S BODY

Offertory Doxology with Alleluias (see insert)

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today’s Worship offering:** Church General Fund
- **Today’s Sunday school offering:** Central Plains Mennonite Conference
- **Children’s Offering:** Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

Congregational Sharing & Prayer
The Lord’s Prayer (*debts*)

IV. RETURNING TO GOD’S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn *Blest are They* – STJ # 94

Benediction STJ #188

Postlude *No. 6 (from Kleine Praeludiums)* – H. Schroeder

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Everett Waltner; **Musicians:** Debra Schmeichel (organist); Mens Choir (special music); **Greeters:** Linda Graber and Vernetta Waltner; **Coffee:** Young Adult Class

THE CHURCH AT WORK

THIS WEEK

Monday, April 13, 7:30 p.m. – Deacon Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 p.m. – Christian Formation Meeting

Wednesday, April 15, 7:00 p.m. – Ladies Ensemble

8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir

NEXT SUNDAY, April 19, 2026

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Lee Brockmueller; **Greeters:** Linda Graber and Vernetta Waltner; **Musicians:** Barb Yoder (pianist); Ladies Ensemble (special music); **Coffee:** Young Adult Class; **Scriptures:** Numbers 15:37-41; Psalm 15; James 3:1-18; Matthew 5:17-37

Worship Offering: Swan Lake Camp Scholarships

Sunday School Offering: Oyate Hope Academy

Children's Offering: Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 p.m. – Worship Planning Meeting

Thursday, April 23, 7:30 p.m. – Mission & Service Meeting

Sunday, April 26, Sunday School Hour – Conversations & Potluck Lunch

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

Freeman Academy continues to have a need for volunteers in various areas.

Building and Grounds

Front Office: phone coverage, computer and other tasks

Dorm: weekend staff coverage, meals, and transportation

For these needs, contact Brice Kauffman or Charity Ortman in the school office at (605) 925-4237.

Et Cetera Shoppe is urgently seeking volunteers for weekly positions. In particular, we are looking for at least one, if not two, people to assist with tagging children's clothing on Tuesday mornings, and tagging household items on Friday mornings. Volunteering on a weekly committee does not mean that you can never miss your shift - we all have vacations and doctors' appointments - but if you're a person who loves a dependable routine, this might be the perfect job for you! We are also seeking a volunteer to display new-tagged household items each week. Please prayerfully consider if this is the moment when you should join our team of volunteers. The need is growing more urgent!

FRHS Hospital Auxiliary is having its annual fund drive during April. The donations are used for those "little extras" that make the residents feel special and loved. Donations can be given to Dawn Stahl or sent to Marlene Herman at PO Box 364, Freeman, SD 57029

Swan Lake Christian Camp is looking for mature Christian young people, ages 18 and over, to serve on staff this summer for \$450/week, May 18-July 31 (11 weeks). That comes out to \$4950 for the total job. If interested, contact Luke Patterson at 605-305-6515.

Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30am/Sunday School – Following Worship
Vernetta Waltner, Administrative Assistant (southchurch@goldenwest.net) 925-4553
Spencer Bradford, Pastor 919-808-2024/spencerbradford42@gmail.com

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures

here below: alleluia, alleluia! Praise him a-

bove, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:

alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

alleluia, alleluia!

Thomas Ken, 1674; alt.

LASST UNS ERFREUEN L.M.al.
Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623
Tune from the *English Hymnal*, used by permission of Oxford University Press.