



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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September 13, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

Introduction to the Chorale in E – C. Franck
Finale from Violin Sonata – C. Franck

Call to Worship (Ephesians 5:18b-20)

Be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Invocation Prayer

Opening Hymn

Lift Up Your Hearts – HWB #602

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Confession of Sin

(in unison) – HWB #696

Anthem

A Melody of Love – Jim Papoulis

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings Deuteronomy 25:5-10 (ESV); Ephesians 4:17-5:20 (ESV)
Matthew 22:23-33 (ESV)

Sermon

Raised Up in Faultless Failing

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

Hymn of Response

O Lord of Life – HWB #635

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** Church General Fund
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Swan Lake Christian Camp
- **Children's Offering:** Oyate Hope Academy

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

IV. RETURNING TO GOD’S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn

O God in Heaven – STJ #53

Benediction

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Be renewed by the Spirit in your minds. Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Now in the Lord, you are light. Go forth to shine.

Postlude

Praise to the Lord, My Soul, Adore Him – arr. Manz

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Brent Mutchelknaus; **Musicians:** Deb Schmeichel (organist); Brooklyn Ries, Brittney Kempf, Angie Brockmueller, Bailey Carlson (special music); Linda Schrag (accompanist); **Greeters:** Brian and Wendy Miller; **Coffee:** Youngish Adult Class

TODAY

The mum plant in our sanctuary this morning is in memory of Karl and Murray Ries, from Emily Ries.

THE CHURCH AT WORK

NEXT SUNDAY, September 20, 2026

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Cal Graber; **Greeters:** Brian and Wendy Miller; **Musicians:** Sharla Unruh (organist); Special Music: Brennan Waltner, Gregg Waltner, Stephen Waltner, Norm Kaufman; **Coffee:** Youngish Adult Class; **Scriptures:** Leviticus 23:1-3; Nehemiah 13:15-22; Isaiah 56:1-8; Matthew 11:28-12:21

Worship Offering: Mennonite Mission Network

Sunday School Offering: Gideons

Children’s Offering: Oyate Hope Academy

THIS WEEK

Monday-Friday, September 14-18 – South Church work in Community Garden

Saturday & Sunday, September 19-20 – Women’s Retreat at SLCC

Sunday, September 20, 7:00 p.m. – MDS Annual Meeting at Bethany

Sunday, September 20, TBD – Carlsons Social and Movie

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 4, 9:30 a.m. – Communion Service in the church sanctuary
Sunday, October 4, 3:00 p.m. – Seminar on Funeral Preparation and Planning
Sunday, October 4, 4:30 p.m. – Seminar on Stewardship/Lyle Miller (Everence)
Saturday, October 10, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Open FA building tours
 4:00-6:00 p.m. Alumni & Friends Choir rehearsal
 7:00 p.m. Historical Presentation – in Pioneer Hall
Sunday, October 11, 2:00 p.m. – Special Worship Service in Pioneer Hall
 Including special speakers and Alumni & Friends Choir
 4:00 p.m. – Open FA building tours
Sunday, October 18 – Host Mission Sunday with North Church as guests
Sunday October 25 – Congregation Conversations & Lunch

SOUTH CHURCH NOTES

This week, Sept 14 - 18 is, our (South Church) turn in the Freeman community garden. We will pick produce Wednesday evening after work & again on Friday morning. If you can help, please contact Chantel.

Mark your calendars: the evening of Sunday, September 20 (time TBD), the congregation is invited to an outdoor fall gathering at Brad and Kris Carlson's farm. Bring a lawn chair, blanket, and a beverage if you like. Make a s'more around the firepit, play some lawn games, or just sit and visit! When the sun goes down, we'll be showing an outdoor movie - one of the Carlson family's all-time favorites! Brad will make plenty of popcorn. Come for all or just part of the evening, but whatever you do, please come!

Sunday, Oct. 4, South Church will offer two seminars on stewardship and end-of-life preparation. At 3:00 p.m., Nathan Walter and Pastor Spencer will speak about funeral preparation and planning. At 4:30 p.m., Lyle Miller of Everence will speak about planned giving (bequests, life insurance, trusts, and other gifts of assets) and there will be a report on South Church's Endowment Fund.

The Endowment Fund Team will accept grant applications until October 1 for projects that could benefit Salem Mennonite Church and/or a mission and outreach aspect of Salem Mennonite Church. Distributions will be made in December 2026.

Based on Endowment Fund policy and account balances, approximately \$5,500 is still available for distribution in 2026.

Application forms are available on the table in the narthex. An electronic version may also be requested from the church office.

Duane Ries, Endowment Fund Team Chairman

The financial needs for the church window project have been met. Thank you for all the generous gifts for this project. The windows have been ordered and a contractor has been hired to install them this fall. ---Trustees---

COMMUNITY NOTES

Join women from around Central Plains for our annual retreat at Swan Lake Christian Camp (near Viborg, SD) on Sept. 19-20. Our guest speaker will be Memee Yang from Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Saint Paul (MN), giving encouragement by sharing her story of spiritual transformation. The weekend features amazing meals, hotel-like accommodations in a beautiful rural environment, worship, interest sessions, fair trade shopping, visiting, games, and so much more. More information is available on the Facebook page of "Central Plains Mennonite Women". Check out the poster on the narthex bulletin board. Register today at myslcc.com/register!

You are invited to attend the SD Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) program and annual meeting on Sunday, September 20, 7 pm at the Bethany Mennonite Church in Freeman. Jeff Kohler, MDS Region 3 Interim Administrator, will share about MDS's regional and national structural changes. SD MDS updates, including the current work at Pine Ridge, will be given by local coordinator Craig Wollman.

Tuesday, September 22, 8:00 p.m. – Rural Revival at Freeman Public Library