



# Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

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**August 24, 2025**

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## **I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE**

### **Prelude**

*"The Church's One Foundation" - Denton*

### **Call to Worship** *(from Psalm 27)*

One thing I ask of the LORD and seek after:

**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.**

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

**My heart seeks your face, O Lord, for you have called.**

Hide not your face from me, nor turn your servant away in anger.

**O you who have been my help, forsake me not, O God of my salvation!**

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

**I will offer sacrifice in his tabernacle with shouts of joy;**

**I will sing and make melody to the LORD!**

### **Invocation Prayer**

### **Opening Hymn**

*"As the Hart with Eager Yearning" – HWB #500*

### **Greeting and Welcoming Each Other**

### **Prayer of Confession and Assurance** *(from Psalm 25)*

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you we trust; let us not be put to shame. Make us to know your ways, O LORD; teach us your paths. Lead us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation, and for you we wait all the day long.

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of former days or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great. My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins. Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me! Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant. They shall abide in well-being, and their offspring shall inherit the land.

## **II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD**

**Scripture Readings**

Ephesians 2:1-22 (NIV), Luke 18:9-14 (NIV)

**Sermon**

*"A House of Prayer for Sinners"*

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

**Hymn of Response**

*"House of Peace"*

(Jim Croegaert, arr. & accomp. Steve Bell)

**Announcements and Offerings**

- **Today's Worship offering:** Mennonite Disaster Service
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Salem Church Library
- **Children's Offering:** Freeman Community Garden

**Congregational Sharing & Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

## **IV. RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES**

**Closing Hymn**

*"God Loves All His Many People"* – HWB #397

**Benediction**

May the Lord guide you in his ways and lead you on a level path.

In the day of trouble, may the Lord hide you in his shelter and protect you under the cover of his tent. May God lift up your head above all adversity around you, and lift you high upon his rock, and show you all goodness in these days of life.

**Postlude**

*"Blessed Jesus, We Are Here"* – Walther

**Speaker:** Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Peggy Waltner; **Greeters:** Angie Brockmueller and Carolyn Preheim; **Musicians:** Heather Haggerty (organist); **Coffee:** Conference Room Class

## THE CHURCH AT WORK

### TODAY

**We welcome all** who are worshiping with us this morning! Coffee is available in the fellowship hall following the worship service.

**4:30 p.m.** – Summer Study Series: Praying Psalms & Scriptures

### NEXT SUNDAY, August 31, 2025

**Speaker:** John Fumana (AIMM); **Worship Leader:** Brent Mutchelknaus; **Musicians:** Sharla Unruh (organist); **Greeters:** Angie Brockmueller and Monte Waltner; **Coffee:** Conference Room Class

**Worship Offering:** Swan Lake Christian Camp

**Sunday School Offering:** Bethany Food Pantry

**Children's Offering:** Freeman Community Garden

### COMING EVENTS

**Sunday, September 14, 4:30 p.m.** – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of MDS

**Sat. & Sun., September 20-21** – Central Plains Women's Retreat at SLCC

**Sunday, September 28, 9:30 a.m.** – Worship Service at Graber's Barn

### SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

**Pray for continued healing for Cheryle Wollmann** who had surgery last week.

**Volunteers needed** – The Department of Mission & Service has been involved with the Weekend School Lunch Bag program for Elementary students through Bethany Food Pantry for the last school year. The schools decide who would benefit from lunches sent home for the weekend and we pack the requested number of bags. This fall we need to train several new volunteers. The time requirement is only once every 4-6 weeks for about 2-2 ½ hours anytime on Monday - Tuesday or Wednesday morning. Two volunteers work together. Call Marilyn Brockmueller for more details.

### COMMUNITY & BEYOND

**Our August edition of On the Level** is now available. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King reflects on the impact of Katrina, 20 years ago this month; we also celebrate this year's cohort of year-long volunteers; and you'll meet two pillars of faith in action, celebrating 14 years of MDS service.

**Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/3UFiw2x>

**Monday, August 25, 8:00 p.m.** – Rural Revival will meet at the Freeman Library.

**Call all MCC alumni in South Dakota!** Join us on Thursday, September 11 at The Barn at Graber Vineyards, Freeman, South Dakota! We'll enjoy an evening of dessert, storytelling, and fellowship from 7-8:30 p.m. Bring your family along to enjoy the evening, as well! Please RSVP by September 1 at [mcc.org/sd-alumni-gathering](https://mcc.org/sd-alumni-gathering) or email [tinascrag@mcc.org](mailto:tinascrag@mcc.org) or call our office at 316.283.2720.

**Come celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mennonite Disaster Service on Sunday, September 14,** at Fellowship Harvest Church in Freeman. The program will include the MDS annual business meeting 4:30-5:15, catered meal 5:30-6:30, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Program 6:30-8:00pm. Please contact Edie Tschetter (605-660-2714) to make reservations for the meal by September 1. Donations will be received to cover costs (meal and celebration event) and the ongoing work of MDS. More details to follow.

**Central Plains Outreach, Service, and Formation Committee** is working with Mennonite Mission Network to offer another Just Peace Pilgrimage. Thanks to a CPMC grant, the costs is reduced to \$650 plus airfare to Tucson, AZ. The trip is scheduled for November 9-16, 2025. Registration deadline is October 1, 2025. See bulletin board flier for more details.

**Ladies, join other Sisters in Christ at the Central Plains Mennonite Women's Retreat** at Swan Lake Christian Camp near Viborg, SD on September 20-21, 2025. Guest Speaker for the weekend will be Heidi K. Greenwood Doell, pastor at Pleasant Valley UMC in Wichita, KS, speaking on "Seeking Holiness." Come for worship, singing, relaxation, guest speaker, conversation, and fun, all in the beautiful setting of the Still Waters Retreat Center at Swan Lake Camp. Cost for the weekend is \$100. Retreat begins Saturday at 9:30 a.m. through Sunday lunch. Register in advance at [myslcc.com](https://myslcc.com). Look for the event poster on your church bulletin board for information and also on the Central Plains Mennonite Women FaceBook page.

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