



## Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

28103 443rd Ave  
Freeman, SD 57029-5840

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February 9, 2025

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

Prelude

Musical Call to Worship                      *"Fanfare on 'To God Be the Glory'"* – Mallory

Call to Worship    *Sing the Journey #178* (in unison)

Opening Hymn    *"Praise to God Immortal Praise"* – HWB #91

Invocation, Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Hymn of Confession                                      *"Just as I Am"* – HWB #516 (vs. 1, 3, 4, 5)

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

Anthem    *"This Little Light of Mine"* – arr. Page

Scripture Readings                                      Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Luke 12:15-21

Sermon    *"From Desire to Generosity"*

Children's Message                                      Lyle Miller

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

#### Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** MennoMedia
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Salem Church Library
- **Children's Offering:** Bethany Food Pantry

#### Congregational Sharing & Prayer

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

#### Closing Hymn

*"As Saints of Old"* – HWB #386

#### Benediction

HWB #764

#### Postlude

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**Greeters:** Brian & Wendy Miller; **Worship Leader:** Crystal Nelson; **Musicians:** Barb Yoder (pianist), Handbells (special music); **Speaker:** Lyle Miller; **Coffee:** Northeast #18

### 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.

**We want to extend a special** welcome to Lyle Miller this morning. Lyle will also be sharing about Stewardship & Generosity during the Sunday school hour.

#### THIS WEEK

**Mon. (10<sup>th</sup>), 7:00 p.m.** – Deacon Board Meeting

**Wed. (12<sup>th</sup>), 7:30 p.m.** – Men's Choir

**Thurs. (13<sup>th</sup>)** – Serving at the Yankton Banquet

#### NEXT SUNDAY, February 16

**Speaker:** Pastor Spencer; **Worship Leader:** Brent Brockmueller; **Musicians:** Sharla Unruh (organist), Men's Choir (special music); **Greeters:** Brian & Wendy Miller; **Coffee:** Class #14; **Scripture:** Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Nehemiah 13:15-22; Luke 13 10-17, 14:1-6

**Worship Offering:** Salem Sunday School

**Sunday School Offering:** Camper Scholarships

**Children's Offering:** Bethany Food Pantry

## **COMING EVENTS**

**February 13** – Serving at the Yankton Banquet

**February 16** – Fellowship Hall Reserved (afternoon)

**February 22** – Mission & Service Workday (morning)  
Kitchen Cleaning (afternoon)

**March 2** – Communion will be Celebrated

**March 5** – Ash Wednesday Service

## **SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES**

**Thanks to those who donated pieces** for the agricultural display at the front of the sanctuary: Deb Beier, Ben Carlson, Jay Graber, Amy Waltner, and Cubby Wollman. The display is intended to help us think about how the Biblical concepts of Sabbath and Jubilee might be applied to our agricultural lives in rural South Dakota in 2025!

**Meal assembly for the Freeman Academy Dorm** will be held on Tuesday, February 11 beginning at 3 pm in our church kitchen. It will take about 2 hours. Please let Vernetta know if you are able to assist.

**The Mission and Service Team invites you** to participate in a monthly conversation and intercessory prayer time with our Ecuador Two Way Mission support group, including the Ross Richers. You can join on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 PM (our time) by entering the Waterford Mennonite Church website, [waterfordchurch.org](http://waterfordchurch.org). Then click on Worship, then Online Resources, then scroll to Prayers for Two-Way Mission and click on video or dial in - or in your Zoom app put in the Meeting ID: 853 3848 4428 and Passcode: 274788.

**The Trustees are very pleased to announce** the appointment of Vernetta Waltner as our Administrative Assistant at Salem Mennonite starting March 21. She will begin training with Amy Waltner in the coming days and weeks. Please pray for her as she transitions into her new role. A very heartfelt thankyou to Amy Waltner for her many years of service as Administrative Assistant. She will be truly missed in this role. Please pray for her as well as she transitions into new roles.

**From the Mission and Service Team:** Please join us for our annual Project Workday on Saturday, February 22 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. We will be working on kit bags and relief quilts. Jobs include cutting fabric, batting and drawstrings, and knotting comforters. Please bring sewing machines if possible. Contact Shirley Ries (925-7788) or Debra Schmeichel (648-3430) with questions.

**A sign-up sheet for serving** at The Yankton Banquet on Thursday, Feb. 13 can be found on the narthex table. Monetary donations for groceries are welcome and may be given to Lee Brockmueller, earmarked for the Banquet. We appreciate your participation in this ministry! Mission and Service Team

## **COMMUNITY & BEYOND**

**Executive Conference Minister Nathan Luitjens** received word that his father, Gerhard, passed away on January 29 in his hometown of Rosthern, SK, Canada. Plans for a memorial are currently pending. We invite you to keep Kathy, Nathan's mother, and the rest of the family in your prayers as they make plans to celebrate the life of Gerhard.

**The Freeman Network for Justice and Peace** will meet Wednesday, February 12, 11:30 A.M. at the Freeman Public Library. There will be a special Zoom program on Peacemaking in Syria and Gaza. The presenters are Roy Hange, co-pastor of Charlottesville (VA) Mennonite Church and Odeliya Matter, Program Associate on Middle East Policy at the Friends Committee on National Legislation. All are welcome to the program. You can also join on Zoom – Meeting ID: 878 5016 0734, Passcode: 815988

**Is 2025 the year** you become an Et Cetera Shoppe volunteer?? We need more people willing to help with our mission! Currently we are seeking a substitute clothing steamer, more Saturday morning clerks, and more rug weavers. If any of these positions intrigue you, call the shop at 925-7098 (or stop in) to learn more!

**Prayer School with Brian Zahnd** is an opportunity to explore a deeper prayer life and more vibrant relationship with God. Bellwood Mennonite Church in Milford, Neb., has graciously extended the invitation to Central Plains congregations to join them for this experience at no cost. Information is on the bulletin board.

## **FROM EVERENCE**

**College scholarships:** Everence offers college scholarship opportunities for you or your children. Eligible students can be chosen to receive one of more than 40 scholarships of \$3,000, \$2,000 or \$1,000 for the coming academic year. Applications are accepted through Feb. 28. Visit [everence.com/college-scholarships](https://everence.com/college-scholarships) for more information and to download the application. Everence also offers student loans. Visit [Everence.com](https://Everence.com) for more information.

**Upcoming webinar from our partners at Everence:** Changing behaviors around money is never easy, but to reach your goals it's necessary. In this workshop you will learn strategies to organize your finances, set goals, and improve financial habits. Steve Bustos, Everence Stewardship Consultant, will host this webinar presented by Kim Miller of Financial Choice on Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. or 8 p.m. Sign up at [everence.com/partners](https://everence.com/partners).

## **SCHMECKFEST NOTES**

**Sign-up sheets for Schmeckfest** food and workers are in the fellowship hall.

# Prayer Seeds for February

Psalms 71: 15; 18: {Our mouths} will tell of your righteous deeds, of your saving acts all day long—though {we} know not how to relate them all. Even when [we are] old and gray, do not forsake [us], our God, so that we may declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come!

Our prayers are one way we use our mouths to remember God's righteous deeds and power.

## Thanksgiving:

- that God is faithful and loyal to us even when we are not always faithful and loyal to God.
- that Scripture is a living and breathing Word from God to us and that devotional guides help make Scripture and prayer a daily habit.
- that God's healing and repairing power has been ministering to those of us who are ill
- that the Holy Spirit is enabling volunteers to come forward to serve at the Banquet, in MDS, for Freeman Academy's fund-raising Schmeckfest, for the Et. Cetera Shoppe, to sew banners and MCC kits together.
- that ministries are happening in France and Ecuador through Kate Widmer and the Ross-Richers' activities.
- that Oyate Hope Academy is operating on Pine Ridge.

## Requests:

- for comfort and your strengthening presence for families who are grieving: Karl Lebkuchner's father's death, all the families who lost loved ones in the recent plane crash.
- for calm and strength for families whose lives are being uprooted by governmental orders.
- help us as we pray for governments—that our prayers and support not perpetuate abuse and harm for those with little power to resist what's happening.
- that those who lost homes in recent fires may be impressed by the power of communities to help them recover
- help us to recognize the idolatries of our time so that we may remain loyal and steadfast followers of Jesus
- we pray for world wide body of Christ that Christians everywhere may be strong and of good courage in their contexts

Submitted by Dennis and Shirley Ries, Pastor Spencer, and Lois Janzen Preheim

**PCRT is requesting the congregation's feedback** as we are coming to the end of Pastor Spencer's first year with us. Please give the following questions your consideration. On February 16, we will ask you to respond to one question which we will then read at our March 2 meeting. PCRT will also be doing verbal interviews with department chairs.

**The questions are:**

- ❖ Recall a time in the pastor's ministry this past year when you felt he was at his best. Describe that situation. What are you especially appreciating or finding to be particularly effective?
- ❖ In which areas of church life do you think the congregation needs more of his time or attention?
- ❖ How can our congregation strengthen the pastor's ministry and our shared mission in the community?

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

