



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

28103 443rd Ave
Freeman, SD 57029-5840

(605) 925-4553
southchurch@goldenwest.net
southchurchsd.org

April 19, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

Choral Call to Worship

A New Day – Snyder

Call to Worship (*from Psalm 15*)

LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain?

The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart; whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others; who honors the God-fearing, who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind; who lends money to the poor without interest; who does not accept a bribe to injure the innocent.

Whoever does these things will never be shaken.

Invocation Prayer

Opening Hymn

Jesus, Stand Among Us – HWB # 25

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Hymn of Confession

I am Weak and I Need Thy Strength – HWB #553

Anthem

Grace in My Hour of Need – arr. Greer/Smith

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings

Numbers 15:37-41 (NIV); James 3:1-18 (NIV)
Matthew 5:17-37 (NIV)

Sermon

A Deeper Law

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

Offertory Doxology with Alleluias (see insert)

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** Swan Lake Camp Scholarships
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Oyate Hope Academy
- **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

Strong Righteous Man of Galilee – HWB # 540

Benediction

Go to be salt for the earth, bringing the flavor of God's Kingdom.

Go to be light for the world, shining goodness in darkness around you.

Go to be blessed for the kingdom of heaven, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Postlude

No. 6 (from Kleine Preludiums) – H. Schroeder

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Lee Brockmueller; **Musicians:** Barb Yoder (pianist); Ladies Ensemble (special music); Heather Haggerty (accompanist); **Greeters:** Linda Graber and Vernetta Waltner; **Coffee:** Young Adult Class

THE CHURCH AT WORK

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, April 21, 10:30 a.m. – Final Freezer Meal Assembly for FA Dorm

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

Wednesday, April 22, 7:00 p.m. – Handbells

8:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir

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

NEXT SUNDAY, April 26, 2026

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Stewart Hofer; **Greeters:** Linda Graber and Vernetta Waltner; **Musicians:** Heather Haggerty (organist); Chancel Choir (special music); **Coffee:** Young Adult Class; **Scriptures:** Leviticus 20:22-26; Isaiah 63:7-64:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24; Matthew 5:38-48

Worship Offering: Freeman Academy

Sunday School Offering: Members in Mission

Children's Offering: Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

COMING EVENTS

Congregation Conversation & Potluck – RESCHEDULED - TBA

Wednesday, May 6, 7:00 p.m. – Community Baccalaureate Service/FA & FHS

Monday-Friday, June 1-5, 9-1:15 – Daily Vacation Bible School

This year's VBS, #KidsConnect, will take place at North Church on **June 1-5 from 9-1:15 each day.** Snacks will be provided but children should bring their own sack lunch! Paper registration is available in the Narthex and online registration can be done here: <https://forms.gle/gfZ3o9SvaWH5LepSA>. VBS Superintendents are also hoping to collect items to decorate the church that fit the puzzle theme. These may include Legos, puzzles, building blocks, or other games/toys - especially if they are in used condition or may be missing a few pieces! Let Bailey Carlson, Sonja Waltner, Lacey Friesen, or Kelsey Pidde know if you have something to provide.

Thank you for the birthday wishes for me, including a beautiful Easter basket filled with flowers and eggs, as well as all of the cards. All of it truly brightened my day!

- Renée Bradford

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

Freeman Academy will have its Spring Elementary Music Concert this coming Tuesday, April 21 in Pioneer Hall at 7:00pm.

The concert will feature choirs from grades 1-2, 3-6, and 7-8. The 5-6 and 5-8 bands will perform as well as the 5-8 percussion ensemble.

The Search Committee is actively seeking applicants for the role of Executive Director for the Freeman Academy Non-Profit. The Executive Director collaborates with the board to envision a new mission for the campus space of Freeman Academy while overseeing the final steps of the closure of school operations. Interested applicants should send their resume and letter of intent to the Search Committee in care of Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi at jzjantzi@gmail.com by May 15, 2026.

Rural Revival will meet Tuesday, April 28 at the Freeman Library. Starting at 7:30 p.m. Nate Preheim will give an update on the current buffalo project plans. The regular monthly meeting will start around 8:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

The Freeman Ministerial Assoc. invites you to the 2026 Community Baccalaureate Service for Freeman High and Freeman Academy. It will be held on Wednesday, May 6 at 7:00 pm, at the Freeman Community Center.

Join us as we celebrate this milestone in the lives of our graduates, and invite God's blessing on their future endeavors. This year's speaker is Pastor Randall Koehler, of the Hutterthal Mennonite Church.

If you are not able to join us in person, we invite you to join us online, as the event will be livestreamed.

The link will be: <https://www.youtube.com/@salemzionmennonitechurch8051>

Following the service, we extend a warm invitation for you to join us for some cookies and juice. It's a perfect opportunity to continue celebrating our graduates.

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.

Prayer Seeds for April

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. (Colossians 1: 3-6) NRSV

Thanksgivings

For Easter joy and hope, for the Kingdom of God

For the faithfulness evident in our congregation through acts of prayer, service, and care for one another

For the thoughtful sermons of Pastor Spencer, for the connections between OT and NT in our Scripture readings, for emphasizing hope in God's Kingdom

For the ministry of Suzette and Scott Schreffler in Busby, MT and for Suzette's ministry to our community during Holy Week

For a great Schmeckfest weekend, for the volunteers that gave time to this project

For the safe travel of folks to Freeman and home again last week

For Lerace Graber's years of service in our congregation and community; may your grace continue to be with her as she begins a new chapter in Nebraska

For the Freeman ministers planning baccalaureate service for graduating seniors in our community

Requests

For Brice Kauffman as he leads the ending of Freeman Academy's school year

For good weather to complete spring planting and for rains to come at good times

For Central Plains Conference leadership navigating challenging circumstances in regional congregations

For good health and healing for Derrold Waltner, Gerald Waltner

For transitions for many folks: Hutterthal in pastoral transition, for the Koehlers' move to Elkhart, for students changing schools, for Annie Carlson's move to Iowa City

For Oyate Hope Academy's building program, staff, and students

For peace negotiations concerning Iran, Lebanon, Israel, and the US

----Duane, Gregg, Lois, Spencer