



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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September 20, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring – J.S. Bach
Fantasy in C Major – J.S. Bach

Call to Worship (Isaiah 56:6-8)

"I will gather to my holy mountain strangers and foreigners
who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him,
to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,
and holds fast my covenant,
their offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

**The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,
"I will gather yet more to me than those already gathered."**

Invocation Prayer

Opening Hymn

Morning Has Broken – HWB #648

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Hymn of Confession

O God, In Restless Living – HWB #557

Anthem

Holy and Mighty – Pepper Choplin

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings

Nehemiah 13:15-22 (ESV); Hebrews 4:1-11 (ESV)
Matthew 11:28-12:21

Sermon

Burdens and Rest

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

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** Mennonite Mission Network
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Gideons
- **Children's Offering:** Oyate Hope Academy

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

IV. RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn

This Is the Day – HWB #642

Benediction (Isaiah 56:1-2, 5)

Thus says the LORD: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my righteousness be revealed. Blessed are you who do this and who hold it fast, who honor Sabbath and keeps your hand from doing evil.

The LORD will give them an everlasting name that shall not perish."

Postlude

If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee – J.S. Bach

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Cal Graber; **Musicians:** Sharla Unruh (organist); Brennan Waltner, Gregg Waltner, Stephen Waltner, Norm Kaufman (special music); Linda Schrag (accompanist); **Greeters:** Brian and Wendy Miller; **Coffee:** Youngish Adult Class

TODAY

Sunday, September 20, 12:00 p.m. – PCRT will have lunch and a meeting

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

September 20, 6:30 p.m. – Carlsons Social and Movie

THE CHURCH AT WORK

NEXT SUNDAY, September 27, 2026

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Brian and Wendy Miller; **Greeters:** Brian and Wendy Miller; **Musicians:** Heather Haggerty (organist); Special Music: Nadia Mudder; **Coffee:** Youngish Adult Class; **Scriptures:** Jonah 1:1-3:10; Hebrews 11:1-16; Matthew 14:22-36

Worship Offering: Oyate Hope Academy

Sunday School Offering: MCC

Children's Offering: Oyate Hope Academy

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, September 22, 7:00 p.m. – Worship Committee Meeting

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

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 evening, weather permitting, the congregation is invited to an outdoor fall gathering at Brad and Kris Carlson's farm (28218 448th Ave). S'mores, lawn games, and visiting begin at 6:30. Around 7:30, we'll start the outdoor movie - an all-time Carlson family favorite that is great for all ages. Brad will make plenty of popcorn, and we'll have some movie theater candy. Please bring yourself a beverage (we'll have some water bottles leftover from the fair booth, but not enough for everyone) and a lawn chair, and if you plan to stay for the movie, please bring a coat and/or a blanket. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll let everyone know via email from the church office, by 5 p.m. We hope to see all of our church family tonight!

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

COMMUNITY NOTES

South Dakota MDS successfully completed the first of three fall service trips last weekend. Five volunteers put a new metal roof on the trailer house of a single mom's home. The roof was damaged and leaking from a wind and hail storm on June 29. The family is very grateful to not have to set out pails every time it rains now. SDMDS still needs more volunteers for the October 2-3 and 16-17 service trips. Please contact state chairman Craig Wollman for more information or to volunteer (cwollman@goldenwest.net or 605-760-9657). SDMDS's annual business and informational meeting is Sunday evening, September 20, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bethany Mennonite Church. Please consider attending.

Celebrating Freeman Academy's 123-year Faith Legacy: Everyone is invited to attend and participate in a weekend of activities that celebrates FA/FJC's faith legacy at Pioneer Hall.

On Saturday, October 10, the Ad Building and Music Hall will be open for all to wander the halls and reminisce from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

All alumni and friends are invited to come to a choir rehearsal from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Pioneer Hall. Please email or contact Dan Graber (graber.dan@gmail.com) 605 370-1504 so he knows how much music to get. Tim Waltner will give a historical presentation at 7:00 p.m. in Pioneer Hall.

A special worship service will happen on Sunday afternoon October 11 at 2:00 p.m. at Pioneer Hall with special speakers Leroy Saner, Pam Tieszen, and Nathan Epp sharing reflections. A time of fellowship will follow and the Ad building and Music Hall will be open for viewing until 5:30 p.m.

All services will be livestreamed.