



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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February 8, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

Steal Away – arr. Lorenz

Choral Call to Worship *Come Bless the Lord and Sing* – Poorman & Poorman

Call to Worship

STJ #120

Invocation

Opening Hymn

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God" – HWB #165 ♥

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Confession of Sin (in unison)

Lord, we confess our fears, our fears for our security and our future, our fears for those we love, our fear of being judged and rejected by others, our fear of failure and loss. We confess that these fears hold us back from love, from faith, from hope and honesty. You see us when we are frozen in fear and when we are frantic with anxiety. Forgive us where we have failed by fear, by what we have done that we should not, and by what we should have done but did not. Grant us courage in your Spirit, to fear only letting go of your Kingdom, and nothing else. For you are the true God, and trusting in you none can be made afraid, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

Anthem

Be Strong in the Lord – Fetke

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings Numbers 13:25-14:10 (ESV); Hebrews 11:29-12:3 (ESV)
Matthew 10:16-31 (ESV)

Sermon

"Have No Fear"

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

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** Menno Media
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** South Church Library
- **Children's Offering:** Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

IV. RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" – HWB #327♥

Benediction (from Isaiah 41:8-14)

"Do not be afraid, my little people, do not fear, for I myself will help you," declares the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

"You are my servant whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend, I gathered you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I have chosen you and have not rejected you, so do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and tells you, 'Do not fear; I will help you.'"

Postlude

Ebenezer – Williams

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Lois Janzen Preheim; **Greeters:** Brian & Wendy Miller; **Musicians:** Heather Haggerty (organist); Chancel Choir (special music) **Coffee:** Classroom #10

THE CHURCH AT WORK

TODAY

Sunday, February 8, 3:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall -*A Man for All Seasons* (1966, 120 minutes). Oscar-winning movie about Thomas More, Henry VIII's Chancellor and friend, who refused to take the King's side in Henry's first divorce and his seizure of authority over the English church, and suffered removal from office, arrest, and eventual martyrdom. Attendees are welcome to bring comfy lawn seats and snacks.

Homemade Jellies have been gifted to us by Denny Wollman and are available on the table in the narthex. Please help yourself to this sweet gesture of love for his community!

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, February 10, 7:00 p.m. – Christian Formation Meeting

Wednesday, February 11, 6:30 p.m. – Handbells

7:30 p.m. – Chancel Choir

8:30 p.m. – Men's Choir

Thursday, February 12 – Serving at the Yankton Banquet

NEXT SUNDAY, February 15, 2026

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Peggy Waltner; **Greeters:** Brian & Wendy Miller; **Musicians:** Barb Yoder (pianist); Ladies Ensemble (special music);

Coffee: Classroom #10; **Scriptures:** Numbers 12:1-9, 1 Timothy 6:11-16,
Matthew 10:32-11:1

Worship Offering: Salem Sunday School

Sunday School Offering: SLCC Scholarships

Children's Offering: Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 15, 4:00 p.m. – Feb. 15: *Romero* (1989, 102 minutes, PG-13). Acclaimed movie about Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador, his engagement with the suffering of his church members under the government, and his assassination.

Monday, February 16, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. – Etc. Shoppe "Tie a Quilt"

Wednesday, February 18, 11:30 a.m. – Freeman Network for Justice & Peace
At Freeman Public Library

Wednesday, February 18, 6:30 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, February 22, 4:00 p.m. – Lenten Sunday Study Series Begins
"Caregiving for Loved Ones with Dementia"

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS AND NOTES

The Mission and Service Team invites you to look at the signup sheet on the narthex table for serving or making food at the Yankton Banquet on Thursday, February 12. Monetary donations for groceries can be given to Lee Brockmueller, earmarked "The Banquet". Thank you!

The Everence Sharing Fund provided \$1,200.00 in matching funds to support special needs in our church last year. Myles Brockmueller serves as the Everence advocate for our congregation. Please contact him for more information.

Ryan Brockmueller will cover household treasurer duties in February during Lee's absence. He will be monitoring Lee's mailbox so you may continue to put bills and donations there or give them directly to Ryan. Either way will work.

Additional help is being sought to help make coffee for our church's Sunday morning coffee time. There are currently three Sunday School classes taking turns. It takes about 10-15 minutes before church and again after church or Sunday School. It can be done by an individual or as many people as you want to help you! There are written instructions to make the coffee, but any of the current volunteers would be happy to work with you until you are comfortable. **If you would be willing to occasionally take a turn, please write your name on the signup sheet in the narthex. If you have questions, please talk to Donna Ries, Kris Carlson, or Brent Brockmueller or any member of the Conference Room Class, Class 10 or the Young Adult Class.**

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

Mennonite Central Committee's annual "Great Winter Warmup" is underway. MCC hopes to collect 10,000 relief comforters by the end of March, which will then be distributed to provide comfort and warmth across the US and around the world. Join the effort! **Stop in the Et Cetera Shoppe on Monday, February 16 and help us tie a comforter.** You do not need to know how to sew in order to help! Stay for as little or as long as you like – and receive a coupon for one free clothing item worth \$4 or less, just for helping. Let's spread the warmth!

MCC Central States annual meeting – You are invited to the MCC Central States annual meeting on Saturday, March 7 at 11 a.m. at MCC Central States, 121 E. 30th St, North Newton, KS 67117.

Schmeckfest sign-up sheets are in the fellowship hall; please sign up to bring food and also to work one or more shifts at the Schmeckfest meal on April 10 & 11, 2026. Questions? See Alison Neufeld or Jenelle Miller.

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

Prayer Seeds for February

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. (Matt. 9: 37-38)

Thank you, Lord, for

- Your sustaining love and patience when times are tough
- Devotional materials that remind us of the availability of hope
- The winter season's opportunity to slow down and to notice the birds at our feeders
- The drive to survive that you have given all your living creatures
- Music and musicians whose creativity comforts us and gives us joy in listening
- Time for Spencer to do worship planning for the Lenten season coming up

We are concerned about or are mindful of

- The Minnesota Mennonite congregations and other denominations quietly offering support to their neighbors of color by taking children to school, getting groceries for those afraid, or accompanying people to asylum hearings.
- South Dakota ministries of Swan Lake Camp and Oyate Hope Academy
- The consequences of deciding to close Freeman Academy for students, staff, and Board.
- Hutterthal's entering a time of transition as Koehlers will be moving to Elkhart in the summer
- The service at the Banquet this week
- Those having surgeries and in need of healing
- Those who have lost loved ones in recent months
- Congregations all over the world in challenging circumstances who are seeking to be faithful your Great Commission
- The health and vision of our own congregation
- The continued need to love one another more deeply in this Valentine month

----Duane, Lois, and Spencer