



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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March 1, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude *If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee* – arr. Boehm, Walther

Choral Call to Worship *Lord, Have Mercy* – Byrd, arr. Hopson

Call to Worship (Isaiah 30:18)

The LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you, for the LORD is a God of justice.

Blessed are all those who wait for him.

Invocation

Opening Hymn

To God Be the Glory - HWB #102 ♥

All: v. 1, v. 2 (a cappella), v. 3 (unison)

(from *Fanfare and Concertato on "To God Be the Glory"* arr. by Paige & Nix)

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Confession of Sin & Assurance of Grace (from *Isaiah 30*)

The Lord declares, "Ah, stubborn children, who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin; who set out to go down to Egypt, without asking for my direction, to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt! The protection of Pharaoh shall turn to your shame, and the shelter in the shadow of Egypt to your humiliation; it will bring neither help nor profit, for Egypt's help is worthless and empty.

We confess to being a rebellious people, deceitful children unwilling to listen to the Lord's instruction. We long to hear smooth things and false illusions, rather than to be shown truth or hear justice from prophets. We have turned aside from the path of the Holy One and left his way. Because we have despised his word, trusted in rebelliousness, and relied upon oppression, our iniquity causes our collapse, and our life is shattered. Yet now we will cast aside our unclean idols. Be gracious to us, O Lord, and show us your mercy.

Thus says the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: "In returning and rest

you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you, and you shall weep no more. And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. And he will give rain for the seed with which you sow the ground, and bread, the produce of the ground, which will be rich and plenteous. In that day your livestock will graze in large pastures, and the oxen and the donkeys that work the ground will eat seasoned fodder.

Anthem

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus – arr. Carter

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings Leviticus 9:1-7, 22-24 (ESV); Hebrews 4:14-5:10 (NIV)

Hymn

Take Up Your Cross – HWB #536

Scripture Reading

Matthew 16:13-28 (NIV)

Sermon

Carrying the Altar

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

Offertory Doxology – HWB 119A

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today’s Worship offering:** AMBS/EMS – our denomination seminaries
- **Today’s Sunday school offering:** South Church Sunday School
- **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

Have Thine Own Way – HWB #504

Benediction

HWB #743

Postlude

Teach me Thy truth, O mighty One – arr. Burkart

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Renee Bradford; **Musicians:** Deb Schmeichel (organist); Chancel Choir (special music), Sonja Waltner (flute), Linda Schrag (accompanist); **Coffee:** Conference Room Class

THE CHURCH AT WORK

TODAY

Lenten study session at 11:-00 a.m. "*Dementia and Faith*" in the church sanctuary. (There will be no meeting this afternoon.) Chaplain Betty Janke of the Freeman Regional Nursing Home (Oakview) will be speaking, and inviting conversation.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, March 3, 7:30 p.m. – Prayer & Fasting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85365395504>

- **Meeting ID:** 853 6539 5504 **Passcode:** prayer2020
- One tap mobile +13462487799,,85365395504# US (Houston)
- Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 **Meeting ID:** 853 6539 5504

Wednesday, March 4, 6:30 p.m. – Handbells

7:30 p.m. – Men's Choir & Ladies Ensemble

Saturday, March 7, 2026, 7:00 p.m.– *Vivaldi's The Four Seasons* arr. Emilio Colon'
At Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

NEXT SUNDAY, March 8, 2026

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Brent Brockmueller; **Greeters:** Angie Brockmueller & Cindee Mutchelknaus; **Musicians:** Heather Haggerty (organist); Handbell Choir (special music); **Coffee:** Conference Room Class; **Scriptures:** Nehemiah 9:1-37; Numbers 21:4-9; James 4:1-10; Matthew 20:17-28

Worship Offering: Church General Fund

Sunday School Offering: Gideons

Children's Offering: Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

COMING EVENTS

Lenten Study Series continues – 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

March 8 – *Being Present with the Dying*; LaVonne Brockmueller

March 15 – *Planning Your Funeral*; Nathan Walter & Pastor Spencer

March 22 – *Advance Directives on Care at the End of Life*; Lindsey Unruh

"Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." Psalm 90:12

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS AND NOTES

Phyllis Kaufman has moved to the Good Samaritan Society in Wagner, SD to be near her daughter Colleen. Her address is 515 W Hwy 46, Wagner, SD 57380 and her phone number is 605-384-4521.

The Endowment Fund Team will accept grant applications until April 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 June 2026.

Based on Endowment Fund policy and account balances, approximately \$10,000 is available for distribution in 2026. If grant funds are still available, another opportunity for grant applications will be offered in October 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

Mission Worker Letters from Lanna Waltner Lebkuchner and Peter & Delicia in Quito are on the table in the narthex. Please take a moment to read their updates.

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

Cheese pockets for the 2026 Schmeckfest Country Kitchen will be made the next two weekends, **March 6-7** and **March 13-14**, in the Pioneer Hall Dining Room. Plans are to begin making the filling and dough at 3:30 p.m. on Fridays and assembling the cheese pockets on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. Please bring a sack lunch on Saturdays. Join the volunteer crew for a great time of work and fellowship and learn how this ethnic favorite is made! Watch the Courier or Freeman Academy websites in case of inclement weather.

A service of “Grief and Love” will be held at the Freeman Arboretum visitor’s center on Freeman Academy’s campus on Sunday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m. The decision to close Freeman Academy after this school year has left many feeling loss and grief. Hosted by Salem-Zion Mennonite, this service will include scripture, singing, prayers, reflections, and lighting of candles. We hope this service will provide a safe space for people to grieve and also place our trust in Christ who is leading us all into the future. All are welcome to join us in this service.

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.

Freeman Academy has an immediate need for volunteers in various departments on campus. We are calling on alumni and friends to help in any of the departments listed below.

Building and Grounds, including preparation for Schmeckfest

Front Office: phone coverage, computer and other tasks

Dorm: weekend staff coverage, meals, and transportation

For these needs, contact Brice Kauffman or Charity Ortman in the school office at (605) 925-4237.

Swan Lake Christian Camp Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, March 8 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will probably be held in the new worship center so you can see the progress being made. A light lunch will follow. RSVP's are appreciated.

The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association's annual meeting will be held on March 8 at 2:30 p.m. at Hopefield Mennonite Church, 1823 Aztec Lane, Moundridge. Glen Ediger, a Bethel College graduate, will be our guest speaker. He will be speaking about *"Mennonites, Farming, Wheat and Threshing Stones"* The entertainment will be provided by Sam Shilts. If you did not get a chance to visit Hopefield Mennonite Church at our Schweitzer and Friends celebration in 2024, now would be a good time. The members and pastor are very welcoming. It would also be a great way to see the remodeled church. There is no need to rsvp. Of course, poppyseed rolls will be served after the meeting. We hope to see you there!

Freeman Network for Justice & Peace will meet Wednesday, March 11 at 11:30 a.m. in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome.

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

South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care is offering FREE Dementia Dialogues training through the Department of Human Services Division of Long-Term Services and Supports (DHS) supported by the Office for the Study of Aging (OSA).

7 HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS AVAILABLE:

Approved for EMS, Dental, Long-Term Care Administrators, Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Chiropractors, and CHW / CHR professionals

Dementia Dialogues® Hosted by Freeman Regional Health Services

FREE Dementia Dialogues® training is being offered to the Freeman community. The program is a 5-module, evidence-informed nationally registered training course designed to bring awareness and educate community members and caregivers for people who exhibit signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. **Dinner provided. Class size is limited!**

Location: **Dewald Street Village (Commons Area), 600 S. Dewald St., Freeman, SD 57029**

Registration Link: <https://osa.cventevents.com/02zrAZ>

Part 1 -March 23rd, 4:30pm to 7:30pm

Module 1 - The Basic Facts: An Overview of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias

Part 2 – March 24th, 4:30pm to 7:30pm

Module 2 - Keep the Dialogue Going: Strategies for Effective Communication

Module 3 - It's a Different World: Understanding the Impact of the Environment & Ways to Promote Independence

Part 3 -March 25th, 4:30pm to 7:30pm

Module 4 - It's Nothing Personal: Addressing Challenging Behaviors

Module 5 - Now What Do We Do? Creative Problem Solving

