Salem Mennonite Church
A Congregation of Mennonite Church USA

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November 1, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude *Nun freut euch* – arr. J.S. Bach
Libera me (Deliver me) from *Requiem* – G. Faure

Call to Worship STS #199

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn *For All the Saints* – HWB #636

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Confession of Sin (from Isaiah 58:1-12)
Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the judgment of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God.
Why have we fasted, and the Lord sees it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and the Lord take no notice? Behold, in the day of our fast we seek our own pleasure, and oppress our workers. Behold, we fast and we incline only to quarrel and to fight, and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like this leaves our voice mute toward God, yet we humble ourselves in worship and ceremony, and call ourselves acceptable to the Lord.
Is not this the fast that I choose: to loosen the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you, and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am'. If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your

gloom be as the noonday. And the LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong.
You shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail, and your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.

Anthems *Holy God We Praise Thy Name* - Creator
Jesus, Thou Divine Companion - Savior
Prelude in C - J. S. Bach
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - Bach
I would be true for there are those who trust me.
There is beauty all around when there's love at home.

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings Nehemiah 5:1-19 (NIV); 1 Timothy 6:17-21 (ESV)
Matthew 19:29-20:16 (NIV)

Sermon *First, Last, Caught in the Middle*

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

Litany for All Saints HWB #805

We give God thanks for God's grace in the lives of brothers and sisters in faith who passed through the Valley of the Shadow of Death in the past year. May God receive these holy ones in joy as God's own beloved children:

Ruth Preheim April 28, 20226

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** Ecuador Project
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Salem Sunday School
- **Children's Offering:** Oyate Hope Academy

Congregational Sharing & Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

IV. RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn *O Lord of Life* – HWB #635
Benediction HWB #802

Postlude *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones* – arr. Moser

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Lee Brockmueller; **Musicians:** Deb Schmeichel (organist); Rita Graber (special music); **Greeters:** Angie Brockmueller and Cindee Mutchelknaus; **Coffee:** "Young Married" Class

TODAY

1:00 p.m. – Bible Study/Inspired Scripture as Divine & Human (after lunch)

THE CHURCH AT WORK

NEXT SUNDAY, November 8, 2026

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Lee Brockmueller; **Greeters:** Angie Brockmueller and Cindee Mutchelknaus; **Musicians:** Deb Schmeichel (organist); Handbell Choir (special music); **Coffee:** "Young Married" Class

Worship Offering: General Fund
Sunday School Offering: Swan Lake Christian Camp
Children's Offering: Oyate Hope Academy

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, November 3, 7:30 p.m. – Prayers & 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, November 4, 6:30 p.m. – Handbells
7:30 p.m. – Chancel Choir
8:30 p.m. – Men's and Ladies Ensemble

COMING EVENTS

Sundays, November 8, 15, 22 – Bible Study/Interpreting Scripture Wisely and Well
Sunday, December 6 – Annual Meeting w/noon potluck

SOUTH CHURCH NOTES

South Church's Fall Bible study - Participants are welcome to bring a brown-bag lunch to eat together after Sunday School, or to return for the study. The theme is "Interpreting Scripture Wisely and Well," and will focus on the topics: "Inspired Scripture as Divine and Human," "How Scripture Interprets Scripture," "Senses Plain and Spiritual," and "Applying Scripture in Ethics."

Your help is needed to prevent more stains on the carpet in fellowship hall. If you spill please clean it up right away and soak up any liquid. Please leave a note on the janitor's room door stating where the spill happened so Libby can spend some extra time working on it. Placing a paper towel over the area to mark it would also be helpful. The Trustees

Berdon Epp passed away peacefully on Tuesday, October 27th. Thank you for your support and prayers during this time. His funeral will be held on Monday, November 2nd, in Henderson, NE. An obituary can be found at metzmortuary.com.
Also, Arlene (Epp) Pearsall sustained a fall and broke her femur on October 26th. A successful surgery to stabilize her femur was completed Tuesday morning. Please pray for her recovery. LaVonne Brockmueller & family

Thanks to those who submitted applications for SMC endowment funding by the October 1 deadline. Three applications were submitted for a total request amount of $4,100. Funds were available to approve the requested grants. This is the list of grant applications:

- New computer laptop and software for use by the audio/visual team and for Sunday School classes
- Upgrade and expansion of the church internet system
- Et Cetera Shoppe volunteer breakroom new flooring

If funds are available in accordance with the Endowment Fund Policy, we expect to solicit the next round of Endowment Fund grant applications in March 2027.

COMMUNITY NOTES

One last fall MDS service opportunity – This fall SD MDS has been helping several single mothers replace their roofs due to severe damage from summer storms at Pine Ridge. If you are able to be part of a two-day work crew on **November 6-7** to replace one more roof, please call or text SD chairman Craig Wollman at 605-760-9657.

Swan Lake Christian Camp Dinner and Worship Fundraiser, Sunday, Nov. 8
A wonderful, awesome, really excellent dinner served with classical piano music followed by a time of worship in song in our new facility. Free-will donations received from this event will go toward the completion of the worship center/dining hall. To reserve your seat: Call Judi at 605-326-5690, email campoffice@myslcc.com

MCC's 'Seek Peace' poster contest - MCC invites participants of all ages to design a poster interpreting the theme “Seek peace” through one of three scripture verses. The purpose of the contest is to motivate our communities to continue to strive for peace and to have hope in the daily actions each person can take to make their corners of the world more peaceful. MCC will print and distribute the winning poster! Visit mcc.org/seek-peace for full contest details.