



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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April 26, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

Festival Postlude – Zipoli

Choral Call to Worship

We Come Unto Thy House – Belliston

Call to Worship (*from Isaiah 63 & 64*)

The Lord leads his people, to make his name glorious!

He divided the water to lead us through the depths, to make his name an everlasting one!

Like cattle led into the valley, the Spirit of the Lord gave us rest.

Oh Lord, rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence,

Like fire alighting brushwood, make your name known to your adversaries, that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down to us, And the mountains quaked at your presence.

Since ages past, no ear has heard, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.

Invocation Prayer

Opening Hymn

God of Grace & God of Glory – HWB # 366

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Confession of Sin & Assurance (*from Isaiah 63 & 64*)

I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD and offer praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness that he has granted us according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. In all our affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved us; in his love and in his pity he redeemed us; he lifted us up and carried us all the days of old. He became our Savior, for he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.”

But we rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned and fights against us. O LORD, we wander from your ways and harden our hearts, so that we fear you not. We have become like those over whom you have never ruled, like those who are not called by your name. Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses themselves to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold and see, we are all your people still.

Look down from heaven and see, from your holy and beautiful habitation, to show your zeal and your might! Do not hold back the stirring of your compassion from us. For you are our Father, though our ancestors might not recognize us or claim us, still you, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name. You meet those who joyfully work righteousness, those who remember you in your ways.

Anthem

Zion's Walls – Copland, arr. Koponen

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings Leviticus 20:22-26 (ESV); 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22 (NIV)
Matthew 5:38-48 (NIV)

Sermon

Forbearance and Forgiveness of the Father

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

Offertory Doxology with Alleluias

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** Freeman Academy
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Members in Mission
- **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

For the Healing of the Nations – HWB # 367

Benediction (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Postlude

La Tromba -- Couperin

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Stewart Hofer; **Musicians:** Heather Haggerty (organist); Chancel Choir (special music); Sharla Unruh (accompanist); **Greeters:** Linda Graber and Vernetta Waltner; **Coffee:** Young Adult Class

THE CHURCH AT WORK

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, April 28, 7:30 p.m. – Rural Revival @Freeman Public Library

Wednesday, April 29, 7:30 p.m. – Handbells

NEXT SUNDAY, May 3, 2026

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Paul Balzer; **Greeters:** Brad & Kris Carlson; **Musicians:** Deb Schmeichel (organist); Handbell Choir (special music); **Coffee:** Class #10; **Scriptures:** Leviticus 5:14-6:7; Isaiah 59:1-21; Matthew 6:1-18

Worship Offering: Daily Vacation Bible School

Sunday School Offering: Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety

Children's Offering: Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, May 5, 7:30 p.m. – Prayer and Fasting

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

Sunday, May 24, during S.S. Hour - Congregation Conversation & Potluck

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

Thursday-Sunday, June 25-28 – Central Plains Conference/Mt. Lake, MN

Worship music scheduling underway: With choir season coming to an end, the music team will now be scheduling special music for our Sunday worship services. This is the time to offer your musical talents and share your gifts with the congregation. If you are willing to provide a solo, duet or organize a small group, either vocal or instrumental, please contact Kathy Kleinsasser or any of the music team members. Any suggestions of musicians to contact would be appreciated. We will have occasional congregational singing to fill in on Sundays as needed.

We are looking for 6 people to be Central Plains Delegates to be held in Mountain Lake from June 25th to 28th this year.

Responsibilities according to the church constitution are as follows.

- 1) To represent Salem Mennonite Church and its departments at meetings of the church conferences.
- 2) To be informed of the work of the conference and communicate this information with the congregation.

With the issue brought forth by the deacon board, we are looking for people that are willing to address this issue if placed on the agenda. We will have preparation for delegates on the issue prior to the conference.

If you are willing to represent our church in Mountain Lake, the deadline for persons to let the church or council know is May 10th. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

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.

Take note of new books on the narthex display rack that will be helpful resources in preparation for our upcoming Congregation Conversations on May 24.

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

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 jjzantzi@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.

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.

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

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 bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea - tures
here be - low: al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise him a -
bove, ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost:
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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.