



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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September 6, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

Blessed Assurance

Call to Worship (Psalm 5:1-8)

Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my sighs.

Listen to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you I pray.

O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice;

in the morning I present my case for you and wait, and watch.

For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
evil cannot dwell with you.

The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.

You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD detests bloodshed and deceit.

But through the abundance of your steadfast love, I enter your house.

I will bow down at your holy temple in reverence for you.

Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness despite my enemies;
make your way level and straight before me.

Invocation Prayer

Opening Hymn

Teach Me, O Lord – HWB #487

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Hymn of Confession

How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord – HWB #541

Anthem

Saints out of Sailors – Flannel Graph

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings

Leviticus 19:1-18, 32-37 (ESV); 1 Peter 3:8-17 (NIV)

Matthew 22:34-40 (ESV)

Sermon

The Love of Power or the Power of Love

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

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** Freeman Academy
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** South Church 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

Let There Be Light – HWB #371

Benediction (from Psalm 5:11-12)

Let all who take refuge in the LORD rejoice;

let us ever sing for joy!

Spread your protection over them, O LORD,
that those who love your name may exult in you.

Bless the righteous, O LORD, and cover them with favor as with a shield.

Postlude

When We All Get to Heaven— arr. Sharon

Wilson

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** LaVonne Brockmueller; **Musicians:** Linda Schrag (pianist); Clara Beseman (special music); **Greeters:** Brad and Kris Carlson; **Coffee:** Youngish Adult Class

THE CHURCH AT WORK

NEXT SUNDAY, September 13, 2026

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Brent Mutchelknaus; **Greeters:** Brad and Kris Carlson; **Musicians:** Deb Schmeichel (organist); Special Music: Brooklyn Ries & Brittney Kempf; **Coffee:** Youngish Adult Class; **Scriptures:** Numbers 36:1-10; 1 Timothy 5:1-10; Matthew 22:23-33

Worship Offering: Church General Fund

Sunday School Offering: Swan Lake Christian Camp

Children's Offering: Oyate Hope Academy

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, September 9, 11:30 a.m. – Freeman Network for Justice & Peace

Friday, September 11 evening – 12, 3:00 p.m. – Fellowship Hall Reserved

COMING EVENTS

Saturday & Sunday, September 19-20 – Women's Retreat at SLCC

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

Sunday, September 20, TBD – Carlsons Social and Movie

Sunday, October 4 – Communion Service in the church sanctuary

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

Mark your calendars: the evening of Sunday, September 20 (time TBD), the congregation is invited to an outdoor fall gathering at Brad and Kris Carlson's farm. Bring a lawn chair, blanket, and a beverage if you like. Make a s'more around the firepit, play some lawn games, or just sit and visit! When the sun goes down, we'll be showing an outdoor movie - one of the Carlson family's all-time favorites! Brad will make plenty of popcorn. Come for all or just part of the evening, but whatever you do, please come!

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

Join women from around Central Plains for our annual retreat at Swan Lake Christian Camp (near Viborg, SD) on Sept. 19-20. Our guest speaker will be Memee Yang from Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Saint Paul (MN), giving encouragement by sharing her story of spiritual transformation. The weekend features amazing meals, hotel-like accommodations in a beautiful rural environment, worship, interest sessions, fair trade shopping, visiting, games, and so much more. More information is available on the Facebook page of "Central Plains Mennonite Women". Check out the poster on the narthex bulletin board. Register today at myslcc.com/register!

SD Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) annual meeting and program will take place on Sunday, September 20, 7:00 p.m. at the Bethany Mennonite Church. Everyone is invited to attend. Watch for more details.

Prayer Seeds for September

The disciples devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. (Acts 2: 42)

Blessings

- Rain when it comes
- Recovery from surgeries and ongoing help with chronic conditions
- Turner County Fair booth success
- Safe travels when we go away from home
- Sunday School bonding and fellowship
- Good schools at every level and good teacher/student relationships

Things on our minds

- Academy Corporation meeting: guidance and direction to emerge
- Women's Retreat: preparations for the weekend and the occasion itself
- The start of catechism this month
- People who are moving and making changes
- People affected by floods, earthquakes, and other disasters all over the world
and families who lost loved ones
- People displaced by war: Ukraine, Gaza, Iran: we long for peace

Present: Spencer, Duane, and Lois