



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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September 14, 2025

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

*"Lobt Gott, ihr Christen, allzugleich" – Walther
"The God of Abraham Praise" – arr. Hopson*

Call to Worship

HWB #670

Invocation Prayer

Opening Hymn

"Christ is the World's True Light" – HWB #334

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

HWB #701, #702

Anthem

*"I'd Rather Have Jesus"- Lyrics/Rhea F. Miller; Music/George
Beverly Shea; Arranged/Joseph M. Martin*

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 22:1-4 (NRSV); Luke 6:28-36 (NIV)

Sermon

Anthem *"How Can I Keep from Singing"* American Folk Hymn arr. Andy Beck

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

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** General Fund
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Swan Lake Christian Camp
- **Children's Offering:** Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

Mission Minute

Kate Widmer

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

IV. RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" – STJ #56

Benediction

Prayer of St. Francis (HWB #733)

Postlude

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Gregg Waltner; **Greeters:** Brad and Kris Carlson; **Musicians:** Deb Schmeichel (organist); Mixed Octet (special music); **Coffee:** Classroom #18

THE CHURCH AT WORK

TODAY

We welcome all who are worshipping with us this morning! Coffee is available in the fellowship hall following the worship service.

Kate Widmer will be sharing more about her work in France during the Sunday school hour in our sanctuary.

Sunday, September 14, 6:30 p.m. – 75th Anniversary Celebration of MDS

The evening program will feature stories, speakers, and music. The history of the organization will be on display in the form of pictures, news releases, etc. Everyone is invited to attend.

THIS WEEK

Monday, Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m. – Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 2:00 p.m. – Assemble Freezer Meals for FA Dorm

Wednesday, September 17, 7:30 p.m. – Mission & Service Meeting

Sat. & Sun., September 20 & 21 – CPMC Women's Retreat at SLCC

NEXT SUNDAY, September 21, 2025

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Brian & Wendy Miller; **Musicians:** Heather Haggerty (organist); Lacey Friesen, Judy Graber, Kerwin Graber, LeRoy Epp (special music); **Greeters:** Brad and Kris Carlson; **Coffee:** Classroom #18

Worship Offering: Mennonite Mission Network

Sunday School Offering: Gideons

Children's Offering: Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, September 23, 8:00 p.m. – Rural Revival at the Freeman Library

Saturday, September 27, 9:00 a.m. – Work Day at South Church

Sunday, September 28, 9:30 a.m. – Worship Service at Graber's Barn

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

The Trustees are asking for help with a fall workday at our church on Saturday, September 27 starting at 9:00 a.m. Your help would be appreciated!

For our fellowship meal in David and Cindy's barn on the 28th, several members will be providing soup and baked goods - but everyone else is asked to bring one or more items for a charcuterie sharing table. **Charcuterie** refers to cold finger foods such as cold sliced meats, cheese slices, fresh cold veggies, cut fresh fruit, sliced breads with toppings, crackers, pretzels, dried fruits or nuts, and candies. Ice water will be provided, but if you wish to bring your own pop or juice, you are welcome to do so. You do not need to bring any tableware.

Lost & Found items are on a table in the Fellowship Hall. Please check to see if anything belongs to you. Unclaimed items will be taken to the Etc. Shoppe on September 21.

Volunteers needed – The Department of Mission & Service has been involved with the Weekend School Lunch Bag program for Elementary students through Bethany Food Pantry for the last school year. The time requirement is only once every 4-6 weeks for about 2-2 ½ hours anytime on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday morning. Two volunteers work together. Call Marilyn Brockmueller for more details.

The Endowment Fund Team will accept grant applications until September 28 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 2025.

Based on Endowment Fund policy, account balances, and earlier 2025 distributions, approximately \$7,300 is available for distribution yet in 2025.

Application forms may be picked up on the table in the narthex and submitted to any Endowment Fund Team member or the church office by **September 28**.

Duane Ries, Endowment Fund Team Chairman

Fall Bible Study will be a book study on "Reclaiming Rural" by Allen T. Stanton. It focuses on the unique challenges and opportunities for rural churches. Books will be available for participants. Sessions will occur on Sundays, November 2, 9, 16, and 23 at 1:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

Rural Revival will meet Tuesday, September 23 at 8:00 p.m. at the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome to attend.

Central Plains Outreach, Service, and Formation Committee is working with Mennonite Mission Network to offer another Just Peace Pilgrimage. Thanks to a CPMC grant, the costs is reduced to \$650 plus airfare to Tucson, AZ. The trip is scheduled for November 9-16, 2025. Registration deadline is October 1, 2025. See bulletin board flier for more details.

The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association annual banquet will be held on October 18 at 5:00 p.m. at the Burrton City Auditorium (203 N. Burrton Ave., Burrton, KS). Peter Buller, recent Bethel College graduate, will speak about his experience this summer at Reba Place in Chicago, connecting with bigger themes about our role as Mennonites in the world. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Schwisters. RSVP by October 11 to Dave Stucky at bigdstucky@gmail.com or text or call 620-532-4408. The cost of the banquet is \$25 and can be paid at the door or online at www.swissmennonite.org.

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