



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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September 27, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty – Wilson

Call to Worship (from Jonah 2)

I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me.

**For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas,
and the flood surrounded me.**

All your waves and waters passed over me.

**Though I am driven away from your sight,
yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.**

Deep waters surround me, the grave closes upon me.

Yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.

**When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD,
and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.**

With thanksgiving I will worship you, O God of steadfast love!

Salvation belongs to the LORD!

Invocation Prayer

Opening Hymn

Precious Lord, Take My Hand – HWB #575

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Hymn of Confession

When the Storms of Life – HWB #558

Anthem

Goodness of God – Johnson and Ingram

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Story of Jonah - Bible Skit

Scripture Readings

Hebrews 11:1-16; Matthew 14:22-36

Sermon

Faith Amid Waves

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

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** Oyate Hope Academy
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** MCC
- **Children's Offering:** Oyate Hope Academy

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

IV. RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn

Joy is Overflowing – HWB #301

Benediction (from Psalm 18:35=36)

May the Lord guide your steps on wide and even ground,
and keep your feet from slipping.

The Lord shield you with his salvation,
support you with his strong right hand,
and bless your life greatly with his gentleness.

Postlude

Processional in C – J.S. Bach

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Brian and Wendy Miller; **Musicians:** Heather Haggerty (organist); Nadia Mudder (special music) Sharla Unruh (accompanist); **Greeters:** Brian and Wendy Miller; **Coffee:** Youngish Adult Class

TODAY

September 27, 6:30 p.m. – Carlsons Social and Movie

THE CHURCH AT WORK

NEXT SUNDAY, October 4, 2026

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Spencer and Renee Bradford;
Greeters: Brad and Kris Carlson; **Musicians:** Barb Yoder (pianist); Victoria Boese, Katelyn Hurley, Laura Nettifee (special music); **Coffee:** Conference Room Class
Scriptures: Jonah 1:1-3:10; Hebrews 11:1-16; Matthew 14:22-36

Worship Offering: Central Plains Mennonite Conference

Sunday School Offering: Salem Church Sunday School

Children's Offering: Oyate Hope Academy

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 4, 9:30 a.m. – Communion Service

Sunday, October 4, 3:00 p.m. – Seminar on Funeral Preparation and Planning

Sunday, October 4, 4:30 p.m. – Seminar on Stewardship/Lyle Miller (Everence)

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, October 6, 7:30 p.m. – Prayers and Fasting

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

Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m. – Christian Formation Meeting

Sunday, October 18 – Host Mission Sunday with North Church as guests

Sunday October 25 – Congregation Conversations & Lunch

SOUTH CHURCH NOTES

Audrey Graber and Adam Oster were united in marriage yesterday, September 26. Keep them in your prayers as they start their new lives together.

This evening, weather permitting, the congregation is invited to an outdoor fall gathering at Brad and Kris Carlson's farm (28218 448th Ave). S'mores, lawn games, and visiting begin at 6:30. Around 7:30, we'll start the outdoor movie - an all-time Carlson family favorite that is great for all ages. Brad will make plenty of popcorn, and we'll have some movie theater candy. Please bring yourself a beverage. We hope to see all of our church family tonight!

Please keep Pastor Spencer, Renee, and their family in your prayers as Pastor's mother passed away last week. He will be out of the office from September 29-October 10. If needed, contact one of the deacons for pastoral care.

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 chair

Sunday, Oct. 4, South Church will offer two seminars on stewardship and end-of-life preparation. **At 3:00 p.m.**, Nathan Walter will speak about funeral preparation and planning. **At 4:30 p.m.**, Lyle Miller of Everence will speak about planned giving (bequests, life insurance, trusts, and other gifts of assets) and there will be a report on South Church's Endowment Fund.

On Sunday, Oct. 18, Jonah and Memee Yang, from the Voice of Hope mission organization in southeast Asia, will speak at the **joint Salem & Salem-Zion Mennonite Church service**, hosted by South Church. The morning worship service with the Yangs will begin at 9:30 a.m., and mission presentations by the Yangs for adults and children will follow at 11:00. All are invited to a fellowship lunch following the mission program.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Celebrating Freeman Academy's 123-year Faith Legacy: Everyone is invited to attend and participate in a weekend of activities that celebrates FA/FJC's faith legacy at Pioneer Hall.

On Saturday, October 10, the Ad Building and Music Hall will be open for all to wander the halls and reminisce from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

All alumni and friends are invited to come to a choir rehearsal from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Pioneer Hall. Please email or contact Dan Graber ([graber.dan@gmail](mailto:graber.dan@gmail.com)) 605 370-1504 so he knows how much music to get. Tim Waltner will give a historical presentation at 7:00 p.m. in Pioneer Hall.

A special worship service will happen on Sunday afternoon October 11 at 2:00 p.m. at Pioneer Hall with special speakers Leroy Saner, Pam Tieszen, and Nathan Epp sharing reflections. A time of fellowship will follow and the Ad building and Music Hall will be open for viewing until 5:30 p.m.

All services will be livestreamed.

Bethel College's 2026 Fall Fest is Oct. 14-18, with most activities taking place Saturday, Oct. 17, on campus. Features include music, food, class reunions, football (Bethel vs. Tabor), the musical *The Spitfire Grill* by James Valcq and Fred Alley, an artist and exhibit reception for Professor Emeritus of Art Bob Regier, and a 75th-anniversary celebration of the Bethel-Wuppertal student exchange.

On Sunday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m. rehearsals will begin for the Swiss Choral Society in preparation of John Rutter's *Requiem*. Rehearsals will take place at Salem-Zion Mennonite and scores will be provided. All singers are encouraged to attend!