



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

28103 443rd Ave
Freeman, SD 57029-5840

(605) 925-4553
southchurch@goldenwest.net
southchurchsd.org

August 23, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

Amazing Grace – arr. Burkhart, Hopson
Variations on Restoration – arr. Powell, Held

Call to Worship (from Psalm 18:1-3, 25-28)

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield,
and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

**I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.**

I will love you, O LORD, my strength.

with the merciful you show yourself merciful;

with the faithful you show yourself faithful;

with the purified you show yourself pure;

and with the crooked you prove to be devious.

For you save a humble people, but the haughty eyes you bring down.

For it is you who light my lamp; the LORD my God lightens my darkness.

Invocation Prayer

Opening Hymn

O Have You Not Heard – HWB #606

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Confession of Sin

HWB #701 (in unison)

Anthem

If I Believe in Miracles – Lyle Preheim

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings

Genesis 4:8-24 (ESV); 2 Corinthians 2:2-11 (ESV)
Matthew 18:21-35 (ESV)

Sermon

An End to Lamech

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

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** Mennonite Disaster Service
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Salem Church Library
- **Children's Offering:** Oyate Hope Academy

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

IV. RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee – HWB # 71

Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

The LORD bless you and keep you;

the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Postlude

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Paul Balzer; **Musicians:** Deb Schmeichel (organist); Lyle Preheim (special music); Barb Yoder (accompanist);
Greeters: Vernetta Waltner and Linda Graber; **Coffee:** Duane and Donna Ries

THE CHURCH AT WORK

NEXT SUNDAY, August 30, 2026

Speaker: Michael Snow; **Worship Leader:** Peggy Waltner; **Greeters:** Linda Graber and Vernetta Waltner; **Musicians:** Heather Haggerty (organist); **Coffee:** Brad and Kris Carlson; **Scriptures:** 1 Samuel 8; 1 Peter 1

Next Sunday, Aug. 30, our guest preacher will be Michael Snow, a fifth-generation family farmer near Vermillion. A graduate of the University of South Dakota, he served three years as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps and nine years as a seasonal employee with the National Park Service. He earned his M.Div. at the Earlham School of Religion. He came to Christian pacifism while in the U.S. Marine Corps, as described in his book, *Christian Pacifism, Fruit of the Narrow Way*. He also has authored *Love, Prayer and Forgiveness* and *O Holy Night: The Peace of 1914*.

Worship Offering: Swan Lake Christian Camp

Sunday School Offering: Bethany Food Pantry

Children's Offering: Oyate Hope Academy

THIS WEEK

Monday, August 24, 7:30 p.m. – Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, August 25, 7:00 p.m. – Christian Formation Team Meeting

Tuesday, August 25, 7:30 p.m. – Mission & Service Team Meeting

Tuesday, August 25, 8:00 p.m. – Rural Revival at Freeman Public Library

COMING EVENTS

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

Sunday, October 4 – Worship at the Graber Barn & Potluck

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

SOUTH CHURCH NOTES

The new photo church directories may be picked up following morning service 8/23 and 8/30. Cost is \$20 (if you haven't already paid).

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!

MCC SCHOOL KITS: MCC has challenged churches and individuals to donate 30,000 school kits this summer. Our church plans to participate in helping MCC meet this goal. As you are shopping in the coming weeks think about how you may contribute to this worthy cause. Following is a list of supplies for each kit: 4 spiral or perforated-page notebooks (70 sheets each), 8 new **unsharpened** pencils, 1 flat ruler (must indicate 30cm markings; inch markings optional), 12 colored pencils (in packaging), 1 large eraser, 4 new black or blue ball point pens, 1 small **all metal-no plastic parts** pencil sharpener (1 or 2 holes). Information and a list of kit items are on display in the narthex. Monetary donations can be given to Lee Brockmueller for school kits or purchase supplies at your convenience. Thank you for your support of this project!

The Trustees are asking for financial help from the congregation. Four west windows on the church were broken in a storm earlier this year. Replacement costs will be about \$8,500. If you would like to contribute to this project, please give your donation to David G, one of the trustees or earmark it windows and give it to Lee B. Thank you.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Are you a person who would enjoy doing a simple sewing task, in your own home (in the air-conditioning!), to benefit the work of Mennonite Central Committee? Et Cetera Shoppe has the perfect opportunity for you! We are seeking more volunteers to sew rug strips together, for our weavers to make into rugs. It's a very simple process that is quite similar to preparing a quilt binding. This can be done on your own time, however it fits into your own schedule - and provides the perfect opportunity to enjoy an audiobook, podcast, or movie in the background! If this sounds like something you'd be willing to try, please call the shop at 925-7098, or stop in, and talk to Kris or Anita.

The Et Cetera Shoppe will be hosting Kraft Pillow Service on Friday, September 4, beginning at 9 a.m.

This traveling service completely sanitizes the contents of used feather pillows, and places them in brand new ticking pillowcases. Several colors and grades of ticking are available, and different pillow sizes can be made upon request. Pillows can also be "plumped" with additional feathers. Cleaning for foam pillows is available as well. The process can be done in approximately an hour.

Following Kraft Pillow Service's visit, the Et Cetera Shoppe will have brand new feather pillows available for purchase for as long as supplies last. Proceeds from the cleaning of your pillows, as well as the sale of new pillows, go directly to support the relief and development work of Mennonite Central Committee in the U.S. and around the world!

For more information, please call the shop at 925-7098.

On behalf of the Freeman Academy honor committee, we invite you to attend and participate in a special weekend of events to celebrate Freeman Academy and Freeman Junior College. On **Saturday afternoon, October 10th**, Dan Graber and Amy Hofer Vetch will be leading an alumni and friends choir rehearsal in Pioneer Hall in preparation for the worship service the following day. Rehearsal will be from 4-6pm and a light supper will be provided. Please email or call Dan Graber (graber.dan@gmail.com) 605 370-1504, so the directors can have an idea of how many will be singing. Tour the school buildings on Saturday afternoon from 2-4 p.m. On Saturday evening, Tim Waltner will share a historical presentation in Pioneer Hall starting at 7:00 pm.

On **Sunday, October 11th**, a very special worship service is planned in Pioneer Hall including the alumni choir, special speakers, congregational singing, scripture and prayers. The worship will begin at 2:00 p.m. and there will be refreshments following the service. Tours of the school buildings will be available after the service. Please make plans to be part of these important events as we both celebrate Freeman Academy/Freeman Junior College's faithful ministry and reflect on its impact upon the community and all those who worked, served, and studied there. We seek to glorify God as we remember 123 years of Christ-centered education at Freeman Academy and Freeman Junior College.

If I Believe in Miracles

Lyrics and Music by Lyle Preheim

When the blood has run away
and the eagles killed his prey
and the bones are glinting grey on grey

and the grave that's freshly dug
is piled high with steaming earth
and in the night that's finally come there is no joy or mirth

how can I understand

If I believe in miracles then God give me a sign
If I believe in a day of love then God give me a sign

And when the morning light displays
the waiting guns like yesterday
then the day will end the same old way

and the land becomes a waste
of human life and love replaced
by rule of hate and lust and greed
no one will see the need

how can I understand

If I believe in miracles then God give me a sign
If I believe in a day of love then God give me a sign

