



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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September 7, 2025

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude *"O How I Love Jesus"* – Traditional Arrangement/Sharon Wilson
 "The Love of God" – Mark Hayes by Frederick M. Lehman

Call to Worship (from Psalm 32)

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Let all the faithful offer prayer to God while he may be found;
surely the rising of great waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me; you protect me from trouble;
you surround me with songs of deliverance.

Invocation Prayer

Opening Hymn

"Blest Are They" – STJ #94

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (from Psalm 32)

Be not like a mule without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and
bridle, or it will not stay near you. Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but
steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

**When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day
long. Day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried
up as by the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did
not cover my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the one against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose
spirit there is no deceit. The Lord says, "I will instruct you and teach you in
the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you."

Anthem

"How Deep the Fathers Love for Us" - Townsend

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 28:1-6 (ESV); Luke 6:20-26 (NIV)

Sermon

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

Backpack Blessings for Students and Teachers

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** Freeman Academy
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Salem Sunday School
- **Children's Offering:** Freeman Community Garden

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

IV. RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn

"Blessed Savior, we adore thee" – HWB #107

Benediction

Postlude

"Sunshine and Joy Medley" – Mark Hayes

"Sunshine" – John R. Sweeney

"I've Got the Joy" – George Willis Cooke

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Dennis Ries; **Greeters:** Brad and Kris Carlson; **Musicians:** Linda Schrag (pianist); Alison Neufeld (vocal & guitar); **Coffee:** Classroom #18

THE CHURCH AT WORK

TODAY

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

The flowers this morning are in memory of Karl Ries, who peacefully passed away at the Dougherty Hospice House on Sunday, August 31st.

There will be a tractor drive stopping at our church this afternoon for a break. We welcome our area tractor drivers.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 7:00 p.m. – Christian Formation Meeting

Wednesday, September 10, 1:30 p.m. – FNJP at Freeman Public Library

NEXT SUNDAY, September 14, 2025

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

Worship Offering: General Fund

Sunday School Offering: Swan Lake Christian Camp

Children's Offering: Freeman Community Garden

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 14, 4:30 p.m. – 75th Anniversary Celebration of MDS

Monday, September 15, 7:30 p.m. – Deacon Board

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

Sat. & Sun., September 20-21 – Central Plains Women's Retreat at SLCC

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!

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

Assembling freezer meals for the Freeman Academy Dorm will continue for this school year. It takes 1.5-2 hours once a month (day/time varies). If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Vernetta.

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

Call all MCC alumni in South Dakota! Join us on Thursday, September 11 at The Barn at Graber Vineyards, Freeman, South Dakota! We'll enjoy an evening of dessert, storytelling, and fellowship from 7-8:30 p.m. Bring your family along to enjoy the evening, as well! Please RSVP by September 1 at mcc.org/sd-alumni-gathering or email tinascrag@mcc.org or call our office at 316.283.2720.

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.

Ladies, join other Sisters in Christ at the Central Plains Mennonite Women's Retreat at Swan Lake Christian Camp near Viborg, SD on September 20-21, 2025. Guest Speaker for the weekend will be Heidi K. Greenwood Doell, pastor at Pleasant Valley UMC in Wichita, KS, speaking on "Seeking Holiness." Come for worship, singing, relaxation, guest speaker, conversation, and fun, all in the beautiful setting of the Still Waters Retreat Center at Swan Lake Camp. Cost for the weekend is \$100. Retreat begins Saturday at 9:30 a.m. through Sunday lunch. Register in advance at myslcc.com. Look for the event poster on your church bulletin board for information and also on the Central Plains Mennonite Women FaceBook page.

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.

Prayer Seeds for September 2025

We open wide our hearts to the healing light of your encircling presence. Open our eyes to the opportunities each day this month has to offer. Surprise us with small joys and pieces of beauty scattered through the hours. O Beautiful Presence, help us this day, this week, this month to taste the joy of being alive and awake.

--a morning prayer adapted from the resources Pastor Spencer gave the prayer study attendants

We feel connected to you, O God

- when we notice rainbows, interesting clouds, sunflowers
- when we hear and take notice of birds in the sky and in our yards
- when we hear news of babies born or pregnancies announced
- when we observe children playing and learning well together
- when we observe and hear news of healing
- when we hear a sermon that inspires, empowers, and transforms our thinking

We need Your consolation and healing power

- when family members, friends, fellow church members or community folks die (Karl Ries, Larry Waltner, Larry Schrag, _____(you name))
- when we fall ill

We need Your intervening power

- in international conflicts: Ukraine/Russia; Gaza/Israel;
- in policies that we suspect will harm many innocent or voiceless ones

We seek Your guidance

- in decisions made at Freeman Academy
- in support of Oyate Hope Academy
- in support of MDS and its annual meeting
- in support of Etc. Shoppe and other MCC related activities
- congregational decisions and visioning processes

We thank you, God, for your mercy, steadfast love, and reconciling power. May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

---Duane and Lois