



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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February 25, 2024 – Lent 2 Christ among Us, Showing Us Faith

I. GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

- <https://zoom.us/j/278905019>
- Or phone call-in # (312) 626-6799 and Meeting ID: 278 905 019
- One-Tab Mobile (iPhone) +16699009128,,278905019#

Prelude “A Lenten Chorale Sequence” — arr. McKinney

Choral Call to Worship “God is Here” – Wonacott

Spoken Call to Worship (based on Psalm 22:23–31)

Leader: Come, you who seek God, proclaim God’s glory!

Congregation: All you descendants of Jacob and Rachel,

Leader: come.

Congregation: All who are isolated and feel alone,

Leader: come.

Congregation: All who are hungry,

Leader: come.

Congregation: All who wander,

Leader: come.

Congregation: Come, from all ends of the earth.

All: Come, you who seek God, proclaim God’s glory, and walk in faith.

Opening Prayer

Welcome & Greeting One Another

Opening Hymn

“Lift High the Cross”—HWB #321

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Trustworthy God, we want to live with faith, yet we worry there will not be enough. We want to believe in your promises, yet we lose hope. We want to follow you, but sometimes the road is too hard.

People: We confess before you our unbelief, our worry, our hopelessness.

Leader: Shape us into a people who will live in faith. Strengthen us so we can deny ourselves, take up your cross, and follow you.

People: In your grace, Lord, give us faith to believe that you will call into existence the things that do not exist. Amen

II. HEARING GOD'S WORD

Worship Music

“Amazing Grace” – Courtney

Scripture

Genesis 17:1-10, 15-22; I Corinthians 1:18-25; Mark 8:27-38

Sermon

“Good on Wood”

Hymn of Response

“Strong, Righteous Man” – HWB #540

Children's Time

III. RESPONDING TO JESUS CHRIST

Announcements & Offerings

- Today's **Worship offering**: Swan Lake Christian Camp
- Today's **Sunday school offering**: Community Garden
- **Children's Offering**: Hope Harbor

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

IV. SENT WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Closing Hymn

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” – HWB #617

Benediction

Just as Abraham did not waver through his unbelief but was strengthened in his faith by God's promise, may we, too, give glory to God and be fully persuaded that God has the power to do what God has promised.

Postlude

“Benedicamus Domino” – Uehlein

Greeters: Bob & Cheryl Wollmann; **Worship Leader:** Cal Graber; **Musicians:** Sharla Unruh (organist); **Special Music:** Chancel Choir; **Speaker:** Pastor Spencer; **Children's Time:** Jeri Butkus; **Coffee:** Northeast #14

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.

2:00 p.m. – Come to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy some coffee and dessert while Claude Clodomir from MEDA shares MEDA's vision for a world without poverty.

THIS WEEK

Wed. (28th), 6:30 p.m. – Handbells; **7:30 p.m.** – Chancel Choir

8:30 p.m. – Ladies' Ensemble, Men's Choir

NEXT SUNDAY, March 3

Speaker: Pastor Spencer; **Worship Leader:** Brent Mutchelknaus; **Musicians:** Debra Schmeichel (organist); **Special Music:** Ladies' Ensemble; **Greeters:** Brent & Angie Brockmueller; **Coffee:** Class #10

Worship Offering: General Fund

Sunday school Offering: Salem Sunday School

Children's Offering: Hope Harbor

COMING EVENTS

March 5 – Monthly Day of Prayer & Fasting

March 7 – Church Council Meeting

March 11 – Deacon Board Meeting

March 14 – Early Bulletin Deadline

March 15 & 16 – Schmeckfest

March 17 – Fellowship Hall Reserved

March 21 – Early Bulletin Deadline

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

Dear South Church,

We thank you all for your generosity of spirit and kindness that you've shown to us before we arrived and afterwards. Thank you for all the renovations to the parsonage, the work that we can see, and the work that we cannot see. We thank you for the all of the food and all of the gift cards, and we thank those who helped us move our stuff in with SO MANY boxes. You have made us feel so welcomed and cared for! We look forward to getting to know you individually and as a church, and being part of this faith community as we move forward and grow in Christ together.

Blessings to you all, Pastor Spencer and Renée

To help Pastor Spencer & Renee put names with faces, you are asked to wear a name tag for the next two weeks. These are available by the offering plates.

Pastor Spencer will be in the office Monday through Thursday and Friday a.m. (for now). If you want to stop for a visit, please call (919-808-2024) to make sure he is in the office.

To help prevent spilling, there are small cups with lids for children to use during coffee time. Parents, please tell and/or help your child use these cups. Thank you. We want them to enjoy coffee time, too.

The funeral service for Shirley Brockmueller will be held Saturday, March 23, at 11:00 a.m. There will be a visitation on Friday, April 22, from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at Walters Funeral Home.

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

The February edition of On the Level is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Kevin King shares his insights on Jesus passion for sharing meals, learn how MDS volunteers are finding additional work along the Texas border, and find out why one woman says MDS is the light of Canada.

Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/49pNHoc>

Rural Revival will meet at 8:00 p.m., February 26 at the Freeman library. All are welcome to attend.

If anyone from Salem Mennonite Church has a project that could benefit from the Endowment Fund, the Endowment Fund Team will be accepting Grant Applications during the month of March. Application forms may be obtained by asking any Endowment Fund Team member or the church office. Please consider this opportunity to further the outreach of our church. Total 2023 Endowment Fund earnings were approximately \$29,000. We would like to retain some of the 2023 earnings to help recover 2022 Endowment Fund losses. Therefore total funds available for distribution in 2024 are anticipated to be in the \$20,000 to \$25,000 range. Janver Stucky, Endowment Fund Team Chairman

SCHMECKFEST NOTES

Kuchen making days are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, March 1-2, starting at 9:00 a.m. in the dining hall. Monetary donations would be appreciated to cover grocery costs. You can give your donation to Elizabeth Anderson. We ask that you bring a sack lunch and join us for all or part of the day. Thank you!

Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30am/ Sunday School – Following Worship
Office Hours – Wednesday - Friday 9:30-12:30; bulletin deadline – 9:30 a.m. Friday
Amy Waltner, Administrative Assistant (southchurch@goldenwest.net) 925-4553
Spencer Bradford, Pastor 919-808-2024/spencerbradford42@gmail.com
Bob Engbrecht, Pastor 648-3017/659-4331