



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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March 10, 2024 – Lent 4 Christ among Us, the Way of Mercy

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

“O Worship the King” — arr. Tornquist
Cross Medley – arr. Kaiser

Choral Call to Worship

“I Will Serve Thee” – Gaither

Call to Worship (Psalm 107)

Leader: Let all thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to humankind!

People: **Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!**

Leader: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble, whom he has gathered in from all lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

People: **Let us thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to humankind!**

Opening Prayer

Welcome & Greeting One Another

Opening Hymn

“To God be the Glory”—HWB #102

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Grace (from Ephesians 2 & Psalm 107)

Leader: We were dead in our transgressions and sins, in which we lived following the path of this world, and of the ruling spirit at work in those who are disobedient. We have lived as such before, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts, like all those who by nature are children of wrath.

People: We have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, captive to misery and downcast in heart when we have rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High.

Leader: We cry to the LORD in our trouble, and he delivers us from distress. God brings us out of darkness and the shadow of death, with broken shackles.

People: We have been fools in our sinful ways, and afflicted because of our iniquities, drawing near the gates of death.

Leader: We cry to the LORD in our trouble, and he delivers us from distress. God sends his healing word, and delivers us from destruction.

People: Let us thank the LORD for his steadfast love, and offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!

Leader: God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one may boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand for us to walk in them.

II. HEARING GOD’S WORD

Anthem

“Written in Red” – Jensen/Linn

Children’s Time

Scripture

Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:13-21

Sermon

“We Did That, but God Does More”

Hymn of Response

“For God so Loved us” – HWB #167

III. RESPONDING TO JESUS CHRIST

Announcements & Offerings

- Today’s **Worship offering**: AMBS/EMS
- Today’s **Sunday school offering**: Camper Scholarships
- **Children’s Offering**: Hope Harbor

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

IV. SENT WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Closing Hymn

“House of Peace” – insert

Benediction (from Ephesians 2)

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us so greatly as to give his Son, and to make us alive together with Christ, raising us up with him to sit us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace, in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. Go with the blessing of God’s grace and kindness!

Postlude

Greeters: Brent & Angie Brockmueller; **Worship Leader:** Cheryle Gering; **Musicians:** Barb Yoder & Brad Anderson (pianists); **Special Music:** Men’s Choir; **Speaker:** Pastor Spencer; **Children’s Time:** Jeri Butkus; **Coffee:** Class #10

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. There are small cups with lids for children to use during coffee time. Parents, please tell and/or help your child use these cups.

THIS WEEK

Mon. (11th), 7:30 p.m. – Deacon Board Meeting

Wed. (13th), 6:30 p.m. – Handbells

Thurs. (14th), 9:30 a.m. – Early Bulletin Deadline

Fri. & Sat. (15th & 16th) – Schmeckfest

Sun. (17th), afternoon/evening – Fellowship Hall Reserved

NEXT SUNDAY, March 17

Speaker: Pastor Spencer; **Worship Leader:** Lois Preheim; **Musicians:** Debra Schmeichel (organist); **Special Music:** Handbells; **Greeters:** Brent & Angie Brockmueller; **Coffee:** Class #10

Worship Offering: Mennonite Mission Network

Sunday school Offering: Members in Mission

Children’s Offering: Heifer International

COMING EVENTS

March 21 – Early Bulletin Deadline

March 24-27 – Holy Week Services at Hutterthal

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

If you would like to donate an Easter lily in honor or in memory of someone, please contact Cheryle at Fensel's. 605-925-4204

It has come to our attention that the sanctuary has evidence of mice! The evidence seems to fall where food is most likely consumed on Sunday morning. Please be conscious about cleaning up after church and taking all food and food packaging with you. Thank you. Trustees

Swiss-Volhynian 150th Anniversary - The anniversary committee is seeking contributions to cover expenses for this celebration. We are channeling our finances through the South Church General Fund. Checks should be made to Salem Mennonite Church earmarked for the 150th Anniversary. Gifts may be given to any committee member (Corey Miller, Gwen Ortman, Marnette Hofer, Polly Waltner, Everett Waltner or Rudy Brockmueller).

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.

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

Donations sought for Schmeckfest Country Kitchen: The Schmeckfest Food Committee is asking for donations of food items for March 15 and 16. Poppysed rolls, fruit pockets, kuchen, pumpkin rolls, caramel rolls, jams, horseradish and summer savory sell especially well. Donated food items for the Country Kitchen may be brought to Sterling Hall and should be labeled. Thank you!

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

Hope Harbor is a non-profit ministry founded in 2005 by three women of prayer. It offers family-style care for teens as they heal from a variety of issues that are unfortunately commonplace for youth today. These include past abuse, trauma, anger, substance use, mental health challenges, exploitation, self-harm, suicidal ideation, anxiety, attachment issues, and more. They work with ordinary kids who are healing from extraordinary things; each one a child of God, loved by the Savior.

The Parker location is in need of volunteers and is requesting that the local churches come alongside them in this venture. If there are any questions, you can call the facility at (605) 297-2611. To fill out an application, you can go to hopeharbormn.org/volunteer. Thank you!

The Freeman Network for Justice and Peace will meet on Wednesday, March 13 at 11:30 A.M. in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome.

Mark your calendars for the SD MCC Relief Sale to be held on Saturday, July 20, 2024 in Freeman, SD.

Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30am/ Sunday School – Following Worship

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

From Mom's Stash

The best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

Having just one person say to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.

Having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

Being kind is more important than being right.

You should never say no to a gift from a child.

You can always pray for someone when you don't have the strength to help them in some other way.

No matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

HOUSE OF PEACE

Jim Croegaert

You have brought us so very far, in so short a time,
In spite of our weaknesses, in spite of all our crying.

You are worthy of everything, every word of praise,
Every song we will ever sing, fountain of all grace:
Our High Priest,
Make us a house of peace.

Like the sun on a mountain top, a city on a hill,
Like a river that never stops, let our love reveal,

That You are worthy of everything, every word of praise,
Every song we will ever sing, fountain of all grace:
Our High Priest,
Make us a house of peace.

In the cold of the winter's night, in the summer's day,
In the changes we often fight, let us learn to say,

That You are worthy of everything, every word of praise,
Every song we will ever sing, fountain of all grace:
Our High Priest,
Make us a house of peace.