



# Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

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May 3, 2026

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## I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

*Vater unser im Himmelreich* – arr. Mendelssohn

**Call to Worship** (*Psalms 5:1-3, 11*)

Give ear to my words, O LORD, and consider my groaning.

**Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray.**

O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.

**Let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you.**

Invocation Prayer

Opening Hymn

*Forgive Us Lord as We Forgive* – HWB # 137

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Anthem

*Thaxted* – Holst, arr. Meyer

**Confession of Sin & Assurance** (from Isaiah 59)

Justice is driven off away from us, and righteousness stands at a far distance; for truth stumbles down in the public squares, and honesty is barred from even entering.

Integrity has disappeared, and the one who avoids doing evil is robbed.

**The LORD sees, and it displeased him that there was no justice.**

**God sees when none speak up,**

**and is appalled when none intervene for right.**

So he takes up deliverance with his own arm, and upholds righteousness himself.

The LORD puts on justice as his armor, salvation as a helmet for his head;

**God clothes himself in garments of judgment,**

**and wraps himself with destruction as a cloak.**

**The LORD repays according to deeds, dispensing wrath to his enemies, to the ends of the earth.**

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not too short to save, nor his ear too deaf to hear,

but your iniquities have made a barrier between you and your God. Your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear your prayers when your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity.

**Our lips have spoken lies; our tongues mutter malicious words.**

**No one truly pursues justice, no one enters courtrooms honestly.**

**We rely on false words and deceitful speech, we conceive trouble and give birth to iniquity.**

Those who work iniquity hatch eggs of vipers, eggs poisonous to eat; they weave the spider's webs, and by their works none are clothed, for violence fills their hands.

Those whose feet run to evil are swift to shed innocent blood; their schemes are criminal, and leave a trail of havoc and ruin.

They are strangers to the way of peace, and ignorant of walking with justice. they have made the roads we share crooked, so none who walk them know peace.

**Therefore justice is far from us, and righteousness is out of reach.**

**We hope for light, but see only darkness; we seek a bright dawn, but walk in deep shadows.**

**We feel our way along the wall in blindness; we grope like those who have no eyes.**

**We stumble at noon as in the darkening twilight; in a land of strength, we are like the dead.**

**We all growl like bears, we moan like mourning doves.**

**We wait for justice, but there is none; we look for deliverance, but it is far from us.**

**For our transgressions against you are multiplied, and our sins testify against us;**

**our offenses are present before our eyes, and we know our iniquities:**

**We have rebelled and broken faith with the LORD,**

**turning back from following our God; we stir up oppression and tumult, we spread deceitful words concocted in lying hearts.**

Yet the name of the LORD shall be revered from the farthest west, and his glory shall shine from the east's rising sun.

for the LORD will come like a rushing stream, moving like a driving wind.

"A Redeemer will come to Zion, to those who repent of their rebellion," declares the LORD.

"And this is my covenant promise I make with them," says the LORD: "My Spirit that rests upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your children, or of your children's children, from this time forth and forevermore." This is the word of the LORD.

## **II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD**

**Scripture Readings**

**Matthew 6:1-18 (NIV)**

Anthem

*The Lord's Prayer* – Malotte, arr. Dobrinski

Sermon

*Sincere Spirituality, Sincere Mercy*

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

**Offertory Doxology with Alleluias**

**Announcements and Offerings**

- **Today's Worship offering:** Daily Vacation Bible School
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Salem Sunday School
- **Children's Offering:** Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

**Congregational Sharing & Prayer**

### **IV. RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES**

**Closing Hymn**

*The Lord's Prayer* – STS #42

**Benediction**

HWB #728

**Postlude**

*Postlude* – arr. Bach

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**Speaker:** Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Paul Balzer; **Musicians:** Deb Schmeichel (organist); Handbells (special music); **Greeters:** Kris and Brad Carlson; **Coffee:** Class #10

### **THE CHURCH AT WORK**

#### **THIS WEEK**

**Tuesday, May 5, 7:30 p.m.** – Prayer and Fasting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85365395504>

- **Meeting ID:** 853 6539 5504    **Passcode:** prayer2020
- One tap mobile +13462487799,,85365395504# US (Houston)
- Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799    **Meeting ID:** 853 6539 5504

**Wednesday, May 6, 7:00 p.m.** – Community Baccalaureate Service/FA & FHS

#### **NEXT SUNDAY, May 10, 2026**

**Speaker:** Brent Brockmueller; **Worship Leader:** LaVonne Brockmueller; **Greeters:** Brad & Kris Carlson; **Musicians:** Sharla Unruh (organist); Sunday School Children (special music); **Coffee:** Class #10; **Scriptures:** Ecclesiastes 5:10-6:6; James 1:9-18; 4:13-16; Matthew 7:1-14

**Worship Offering:** General Fund

**Sunday School Offering:** Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety

**Children's Offering:** Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

## **COMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, May 24, during S.S. Hour** - Congregation Conversation & Potluck

**Monday-Friday, June 1-5, 9-1:15** – Daily Vacation Bible School

**Thursday-Sunday, June 25-28** – Central Plains Conference/Mt. Lake, MN

## **SOUTH CHURCH NOTES**

**Pastor Spencer and Renee will be traveling May 4-13.**

**Worship music scheduling underway:** With choir season coming to an end, the music team will now be scheduling special music for our Sunday worship services. This is the time to offer your musical talents and share your gifts with the congregation. If you are willing to provide a solo, duet or organize a small group, either vocal or instrumental, please contact Kathy Kleinsasser or any of the music team members. Any suggestions of musicians to contact would be appreciated. We will have occasional congregational singing to fill in on Sundays as needed.

**It is time to renew our group subscription to Anabaptist World.** The publication will update the group recipient list on June 1<sup>st</sup>. If you would like to continue receiving Anabaptist World or would like to be added to the list please contact Lee Brockmueller in the next several weeks. Also, let him know of any address changes. The cost is \$54 per subscription. Our group subscription is \$10 cheaper than subscribing independently.

**This year's VBS, #KidsConnect,** will take place at North Church on **June 1-5 from 9-1:15 each day.** Snacks will be provided but children should bring their own sack lunch! Paper registration is available in the Narthex and online registration can be done here: <https://forms.gle/gfZ3o9SvaWH5LepSA>. VBS Superintendents are also hoping to collect items to decorate the church that fit the puzzle theme. These may include Legos, puzzles, building blocks, or other games/toys - especially if they are in used condition or may be missing a few pieces! Let Bailey Carlson, Sonja Waltner, Lacey Friesen, or Kelsey Pidde know if you have something to provide.

**Take note of new books** on the narthex display rack that will be helpful resources in preparation for our upcoming Congregation Conversations on May 24.

**We are looking for 6 people to be Central Plains Delegates to be held in Mountain Lake from June 25th to 28th this year.**

Responsibilities according to the church constitution are as follows.

1) To represent Salem Mennonite Church and its departments at meetings of the church conferences.

2) To be informed of the work of the conference and communicate this information with the congregation.

With the issue brought forth by the deacon board, we are looking for people that are willing to address this issue if placed on the agenda. We will have preparation for delegates on the issue prior to the conference.

If you are willing to represent our church in Mountain Lake, the deadline for persons to let the church or council know is May 10th. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

**Thanks to those who submitted applications for SMC endowment funding** by the April 1 deadline. Three applications were submitted for a total request amount of \$11,500. There were not enough funds available to fulfill all of the grant fund requests. In addition, the Endowment Team decided to retain some funds for another round of grant applications in September 2026. The grant awards totaled \$5,250. This is the list of grant applications:

SMC parsonage and garage door trim painting

Et Cetera Shoppe volunteer breakroom new flooring

Oyate Hope Academy building fund

We expect to solicit the next round of Endowment Fund grant applications in September 2026. From the Endowment Team

## **COMMUNITY & BEYOND**

**2026 Peace Mug Nominations** – Please think about people in your congregations who have demonstrated Jesus’s way of love and peacemaking. The Peace and Justice Task Group is seeking nominations for the annual Peace Mug Award. This can be anyone you have seen doing small acts of kindness or someone who has spoken out in the face of injustice. Who do you see as a peacemaker in your congregation and your community? Send names and a brief description of why you are nominating them to Luke Hertzler ([luke.hertzler43@gmail.com](mailto:luke.hertzler43@gmail.com)). We need them by Monday, May 11.

**The Search Committee is actively seeking applicants for the role of Executive Director for the Freeman Academy Non-Profit.** The Executive Director collaborates with the board to envision a new mission for the campus space of Freeman Academy while overseeing the final steps of the closure of school operations. Interested applicants should send their resume and letter of intent to the Search Committee in care of Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi at [jjantzi@gmail.com](mailto:jjantzi@gmail.com) by May 15, 2026.

**A sincere Thank You** from the Freeman Regional Hospital Auxiliary for the donations received. Your generosity is so appreciated. Dawn Stahl

**Freeman Network for Justice & Peace** will meet Wednesday, May 13 at 11:30 a.m. in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome.

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Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30am/Sunday School – Following Worship  
Vernetta Waltner, Administrative Assistant (southchurch@goldenwest.net) 925-4553  
Spencer Bradford, Pastor 919-808-2024/spencerbradford42@gmail.com